



# Sound Steps

Education Engineering Enforcement for Montgomery County Communities

Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/walk](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/walk)

## Safe Routes to School News

November 2017

### Another Successful Walk to School Day!

*Over fifty Montgomery County schools participated in the 2017 International Walk to School Day!*

Students, parents and school staff across Montgomery County walked and biked to school on October 4<sup>th</sup> for Walk to School Day. Elected officials joined students and parents as they walked and greeted students at Ronald McNair Elementary School. Following the walk to school, County Executive Leggett and MCPS Superintendent Dr. Smith participated in the morning announcements where they spoke about the importance of physical activity and being safe when walking to/from school. Many schools had impressive turn-outs and creative celebrations. Congratulations to all those who participated! Also, congratulations to the students who won prizes as part of our Walk to School Day Contest. The winners included students from Burtonsville ES, Bradley Hills ES, Maryvale ES and Westbrook ES.



Walk to School Day 2017 at Ronald McNair Elementary School



A Walk to School Day contest entry from William Gibbs Elementary School!

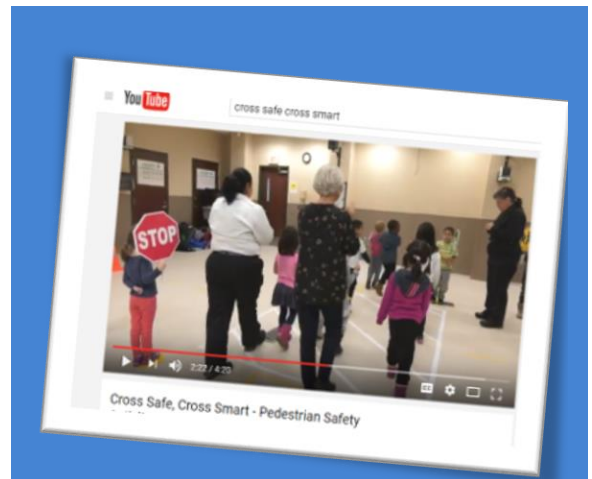
More inside!

## Reminders

It's that time of the year again, when the sun rises a little earlier and the night approaches a little sooner. As children are walking, biking and in transit during the early morning dusk or evenings, Safe Routes to School strongly encourages families to think about how to travel safely in the dark. Here are some tips on how you can be safe and be seen.

- » Be visible by carrying a flashlight or flashing pedestrian safety light, apply reflective stickers to your rain coat and backpack, and/or sew-on retro-reflective tape on your jacket and coat.
- » Be alert by taking out your ear buds and putting away your phone or other distractions while you cross the street.
- » Cross busy streets at a signal or marked mid-block crossing - drivers anticipate pedestrians at these locations more than unmarked crossings.
- » Look in all directions before crossing the street and cross after all the cars have stopped or passed.
- » Make eye contact with drivers before you cross to help communicate that drivers see you.
- » Stop and look to make sure cars have stopped for you before crossing the next lane of traffic.

*Thanks for doing your part to Be Safe and Be Seen!*



### Cross Safe, Cross Smart Training Video

In partnership with the City of Takoma Park SRTS program and Montgomery County Safe Kids, MCDOT developed a Crosswalk Activity Training Video called Cross Safe, Cross Smart. This video provides training for teachers, parents, and other interested parties on how to conduct a crosswalk simulation activity. This activity is geared for students in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and is designed to teach them the best practices for staying safe while crossing the street. Once you review the video, there are crosswalk kits available for use.

If you have any questions or want to borrow a crosswalk kit, please contact Nadji Kirby at [nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov) or by phone at 240-777-7169.



This newsletter will contain information regarding the Safe Routes to School program, pedestrian and bicycle safety topics, engineering highlights, enforcement, etc. This newsletter will be sent to school administrators, teachers, parents, volunteers, and other interested parties. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you feel would be interested or email me their address and I can add them to the list, [nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Nadji Kirby, Editor  
MCDOT Division of Traffic Engineering & Operations

## Sidewalk Network Helps Forest Knolls Students

MCDOT Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations received a complaint from the Northwood Forest residents regarding incomplete sidewalk and crosswalk networks within the neighborhood. There was an unfinished portion of sidewalk which forced pedestrians to cross over Edgewood Avenue to continue walking along the sidewalk. The lack of sidewalk also caused students and parents to cross the road a second time before arriving to Forest Knolls. The new sidewalk connection now allows pedestrians to have an uninterrupted path along the Hannes St. – Edgewood Ave. corridor. This improvement along with the new crosswalks installed at the Edgewood Ave. – Kerwin Rd. intersection has greatly enhanced the overall safety of the neighborhood roadways.

If you have any questions about this project please contact Nadji Kirby, SRTS Coordinator at 240-777-7169 or [nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov).



## Don't Be Distracted Contest Coming Soon!

A Safe Kids study showed that 1 in 4 high school students and 1 in 6 middle school students walk distracted. These distractions were most often texting or wearing headphones. MCDOT will once again hold its annual Don't Be Distracted Creative Contest! The contest is open to all Montgomery County students in the K-12<sup>th</sup> grades. To enter the contest, individuals or groups must create a 30-60 second public service announcement (PSA) video or piece of artwork about why you shouldn't walk, or drive distracted. More details and ways to enter coming soon! If you have any questions please contact Nadji Kirby, SRTS Coordinator at 240-777-7169.



**REMEMBER:** Most pedestrian signals will not automatically change to provide pedestrian crossings at locations with push buttons; the button must be pushed to activate the signals.

# Safe Routes to School in Montgomery County Targeted Education and Outreach Programs

Montgomery County's Safe Routes to School program provides education for safe and active walking and bicycling to and from school. It provides an opportunity to make walking and bicycling safer and more accessible for children, including those with disabilities, as well as to increase the number of children who chose to walk and bike. On a broader level Safe Routes to School can enhance children's health and well-being, ease traffic congestion near schools, improve air quality, and improve community member's overall quality of life.

*Montgomery County's Safe Routes to School program is led by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and is supported by the Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service, the Maryland Highway Safety Office, and other County and State agencies working to improve student safety. We work collaboratively with schools to develop creative solutions for school related traffic problems.*



## Montgomery County Department of Transportation – Safe Routes to School

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# MCDOT

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