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This newsletter is distributed bi-monthly to Safer Routes to School (SR2S) volunteers, parents, teachers, and interested parties. Manage your subscription or forward to a friend using the links at the bottom of this email.



Fall 2007 Newsletter



Be Safe. Have Fun. Grow Healthy. Get There.

www.saferoutesportland.org

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Thank You Letters

Andy McKerrow's teaching of the 10-hour Bicycle Education Class was appreciated by the entire classroom at Atkinson Elementary School. Click [here](#) to see a PDF of all the things the students learned and enjoyed.



Did You Know?

20% - 25% of morning traffic is parents driving children to school (*NHTSA 2003, US Dept. of Environment*)

If one in four people commuted just 5 miles a week on a bicycle, the air would be spared of 6.7 million tons of carbon dioxide (*Bicycling, April 91*)

The U.S. burns 10,000 gallons of gasoline a second (*Publisher's Weekly 2/07*)

'STUDENTS ARE CROSSING'

Buckman students remind motorists that 'Students are Crossing'
Buckman School students have literally taken traffic safety into their own hands.

Inspired by other safety campaigns in Portland, students have held several awareness actions at the intersection of SE 16th and Burnside. Carrying signs with their creative "Students are Crossing" slogan, the third and fourth-graders hoped to draw attention to the crossing of Burnside Avenue.



The four-lane, high-speed thoroughfare is just blocks from Buckman and only has a painted crosswalk (although the City has planned crossing safety improvements to be built after the Bureau of Environmental Services finishes their Burnside construction project).

School coordinator Stephanie Noll helped lead the effort. "We let the students come up with slogans and they voted for this one. It's been a great project."

After a recent sign-holding session, Noll led students and parents into local business and encouraged them to place the "Students are Crossing" signs in their storefront windows.

How did business owners respond to these young activists?

Every effort to reduce motor vehicle emissions helps, whether it is carried out by the government, corporations, or individual motorists. (*National Safety Council*)

Using a bicycle to commute four days a week for four miles (one-way) saves 54 gallons of gas annually. (*American Lung Association, Oregon Traffic Commission, Association of Commuter Transportation, American Automobile Association, and City of Eugene*)

If every commuter car in the U.S. carried just one more person, we'd save eight billion gallons of gas a year. (*30 Simple Energy Things You Can Do to Save the Earth. Los Angeles: South California Edison, 1990, p. 11.*)

Students who live within 1 mile of school that walk or bike: 1969 = 87%; 2001 = 63% (*CDC, 2005*)

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), driving a car is the single most polluting thing that most of us do. Motor vehicles emit millions of tons of pollutants into the air each year. In many urban areas, motor vehicles are the single largest contributor to ground-level ozone, a major component of smog. Cars also emit several pollutants classified as toxics, which cause as many as 1,500 cases of cancer in the country each year. Auto emissions also contribute to the environmental problems of acid rain and global warming. Pollutants that cars emit include: hydrocarbons, nitrous oxides, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide (which has potential to trap the Earth's heat and cause global warming).

Engineering Highlight



Speed Tables on N. Fremont installed in June 2007 to slow traffic passing Boise Eliot School

"Every business we visited obliged and thanked the Buckman students for their work to make the neighborhood safer."

BIKE ESSAYS

Bike safety essays show that riding is about more than just staying healthy



Humboldt Elementary in North Portland is a new addition to the Safer Routes to School program and the students, parents and teachers have wasted no time embracing a range of program activities.

For a group of fourth and fifth graders, a recent graduation ride that capped a two-week bike safety program inspired fun and touching essays.

The essays, which have been posted in the hallway outside Cheryl James' classroom, show that the students love riding their bikes and that they appreciate their bike safety instructors.

Here are a few excerpts from the essays:

"When you go bike riding there are special people that ride with you and they are special because they protect you and teach you."

"When it was the last day of bike safety, we were all sad."

"I felt the air in my face and the puddles splashing everywhere."

"I want to go riding again because when I grow up I want to remember when I was 10 years-old and learning about bike safety."

GIVE THEM COATS

When the barrier is warmth; give them coats

Getting students to walk and bike to school is all about removing barriers. Usually, the largest barriers dealt with are traffic and neighborhood safety issues. But for some children and their parents, it comes down to just staying warm.



Enter the Clarendon Coat Drive. The initiative was born in response to parents telling Safer Routes to Schools staff that they didn't have appropriate clothing to walk and bike to school.

Olivia Quiroz with the Multnomah County Health Center is working on the program. She says, "As the weather has gotten colder, there was concern from parents that they were in need of warm clothing. We want to promote physical activity even when the weather is bad and this really supports our goals."

Quiroz adds that the weeklong coat drive has gotten "a lot of support" and that there is about a 50-50 mix of old and new coats. There are multiple drop-off sites that include three churches and the Northeast Precinct office of the Portland Police Bureau.

The coats will be distributed to families at James John and Clarendon Elementary Schools. With their new coats, more families will be able to take part in the monthly walking school buses and other Safer Routes activities at the schools.

FAREWELL

Invaluable instructors bid farewell

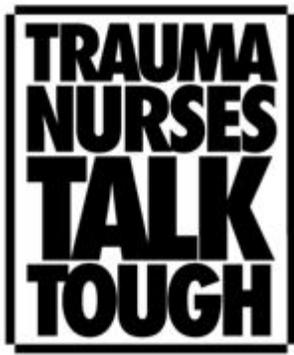
The Safer Routes to Schools program is fortunate to have such amazing instructors. But being such talented folks, they sometimes move on to pursue other rewarding and exciting adventures.

Three bike and pedestrian safety instructors have recently taught their final classes:

- Jaye Morolla (off to China)
- Andy McKerrow (moving to Lake Tahoe)
- Elicia Cardenas (in photo, also moving to Lake Tahoe)

Their energy and invaluable contributions to the Safer Routes to Schools program will be greatly missed both by students and friends on the SR2S Team.





BikePortland.org



David Douglas School District



BIKE & WALK DAY TO NEW HEIGHTS

Forest Park takes Walk and Bike Day to new heights

Nestled in hills west of Portland, the families of Forest Park Elementary have really taken to their monthly Walk and Bike to School Days.



In November, over 200 students braved early morning fog to walk and bike; that's almost half the entire school.

Site Organizer LeeAnne Ferguson reported that one parent left home with three children and picked up three more on the way to school.

LeeAnne also said parent volunteers have been key to the school's success. At the December Walk and Bike event, parent champion Katherine Burns passed out Safer Routes to School t-shirts, pencils, stickers, and red blinkie-lights.

To keep track of the total miles walked school-wide, LeeAnne had students mark how far they walked on a big map. She also provided that essential ingredient for parent involvement: fresh, hot coffee.

A WINNING COMBINATION

SmartTrips & Safer Routes to School: A Winning Combination

The City of Portland is pleased to announce a new pilot program at Rieke Elementary school combining the award-winning [SmartTrips](#) program with SR2S activities.



SmartTrips is an individualized marketing program providing information and incentives

to those Portland residents interested in bicycling, walking, riding the bus, carpooling and car sharing. For Rieke, this will mean that SR2S in-school bike and pedestrian safety training and encouragement will be supplemented by opportunities for interested parents and their children to learn more about bicycling, walking, carpooling, riding the bus, and carsharing. SmartTrips programs have been found to shift 9% to 13% of drive-alone trips to more environmentally-friendly

trips by bus, bicycle and on foot.

SmartTrips activities will kick off in January, 2008, led by the Portland Office of Transportation's Taylor Sutton. Taylor is an Americorps member and comes to us from the Northwest Service Academy. For more information, contact Taylor at 503-823-5291

Taylor.Sutton@trans.ci.portland.or.us or

Linda Ginenthal, SmartTrips Manager, at 503-823-5266,

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Portland SR2S is a coalition-led program managed by the City of Portland with services provided by Alta Planning + Design, Bicycle Transportation Alliance, Willamette Pedestrian Coalition, Alliance for Community Traffic Safety in Oregon, the Community Cycling Center, Trauma Nurses Talk Tough, Multnomah County Health Department Healthy Eating Active Living, and Northwest Service Academy/Americorp.