



Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools

Healthy Kids, Safer Streets, Strong Communities

December 2018

Dear School Leaders and Safe Routes to Schools Champions,

The year-end brings holiday celebrations and a well-deserved break from the hustle and bustle of the school year. It's also an opportunity to take stock of what we've accomplished this year for the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program, thank the people who helped make it happen, and get ready for an active spring.

First, I want to thank all who celebrated International Walk and Roll to School Day on October 10. This newsletter includes highlights from the day, with inspirational photos and quotes to keep up the good work. Second, plan to include SR2S on your 2019 'must do' list. Here are two ideas:

- Host a walk and roll event, based on our monthly themes. The theme for January is "Make a Change." See the Calendar for themes through May 2019.
- If friendly competition is up your alley, participate in the Golden Sneaker Contest, a classroom vs. classroom competition for grades K-12. Read more about the contest in this newsletter.

Last, on behalf of our entire Safe Routes to Schools team, I extend best wishes for a warm holiday and an active and healthy new year.

Leslie Lara-Enriquez
Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program Manager

Golden Sneaker Contest

Register now for the Golden Sneaker Contest held between February 25 through March 8, 2019. This classroom vs. classroom contest is one of our most fun and popular events because it encourages both teamwork and cooperation.

Here's how it works. During the two-week contest period, classrooms track the number of students who walk, bike, skateboard, carpool, or ride public transit (like the bus or BART) to school. The classroom at each school with the highest percentage of students using active or shared modes will receive the Golden Sneaker Trophy and a classroom prize.

The Alameda SR2S program provides all the necessary contest materials free of charge to each school registering by January 11, 2019. Site Coordinators distribute these materials at the task force meetings. Site Coordinators also go over the toolkit (especially calculating the winner) and encourage schools to exchange tips or best practices with each other.

Learn more about the contest on the SR2S program [website](#). Once you've gathered the following information listed below, click [this link](#) to register:

- The name and contact information for the contest coordinator (hint: this could be you)
- An estimate of the number of participating classrooms
- The trophy from past years (if your school participated in past years, we'll ask you to use the Golden Sneaker Trophy from a past year for this year's award)



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Spotlight



Champion Spotlight

Elsie Lee, a parent at Redwood Heights Elementary (Oakland), leads a daily Walking School Bus (WSB) for K-5th grade students, and has been doing so nine years. What's remarkable is that her own daughter graduated three years ago! Elsie was initially inspired by a former principal's call to "be the change you want to see in the world." So she decided to help all kids experience the joy of walking and see nature first hand (including the worms, birds, and other animals), to talk with each other, to sing, to learn self-confidence, and to just BE. Thank you, Elsie, for being such a great inspiration!

We want to spotlight your school or school SR2S champion! Contact your site coordinator for more information.



Announcements and Resources

Monthly Walk & Roll Themes Now Available

The SR2S program now offers themes for monthly Walk and Roll to School Days through May 2019. So, whether you take inspiration from Elsie Lee, the success of this year's International Walk and Roll to School Day event, or are motivated in other ways, consider using each month's theme to plan, promote, and hold at least one Walk and Roll to School Day each month. See the calendar or contact your [Site Coordinator](#).

We also provide downloadable resources to support [monthly walk and roll days](#) for elementary and middle schools and offer tips and tricks for organizing [walking school buses and bicycle trains](#) for elementary schools. Safety is always front-of-mind, so read the next announcement to learn how to get students singing about safe walking and bicycling habits.

Walk and Roll Assembly Musicals

Looking for a fun and engaging way to help students learn about safe walking and bicycling? Consider a musical performed by the Bay Area Children's Theater. The theater offers the *Rock the Block: Walk and Roll Musical* for elementary school students and *Step Up Crew: A Street Smart Concert* for middle school students. More information is available at [this link](#), or by contacting your [Site Coordinator](#).

Funding Available to Replace School Buses

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is offering over \$60 million in grants for clean air projects through the [Community Health Protection Grant Program](#) and the [Carl Moyer Program](#).

Visit the Air District website to [apply online](#) and for more information about available funds and equipment eligible for funding, including funding for [school buses](#).

Contact Michael Neward at the Air District with any questions you might have. He can be reached at (415) 749-4703 or mneward@baaqmd.gov.

Call for Applications Now Open: School Community Grants

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is accepting applications for its School Community Grant program through 5 PM Thursday, January 31, 2019. The \$2,500 awards are aimed at increasing knowledge about various aspects of air quality, public health, and climate change. Eligible projects include hosting an air quality science fair and S.T.E.M Club activities related to air quality. More information and application guidelines are available at [this link](#).



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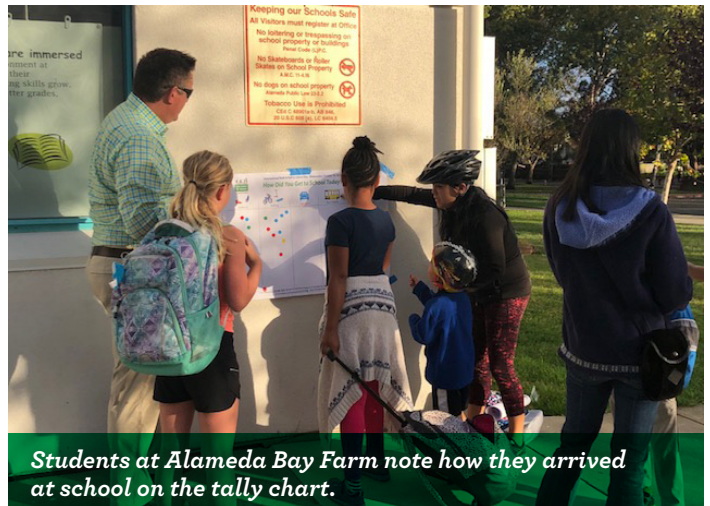
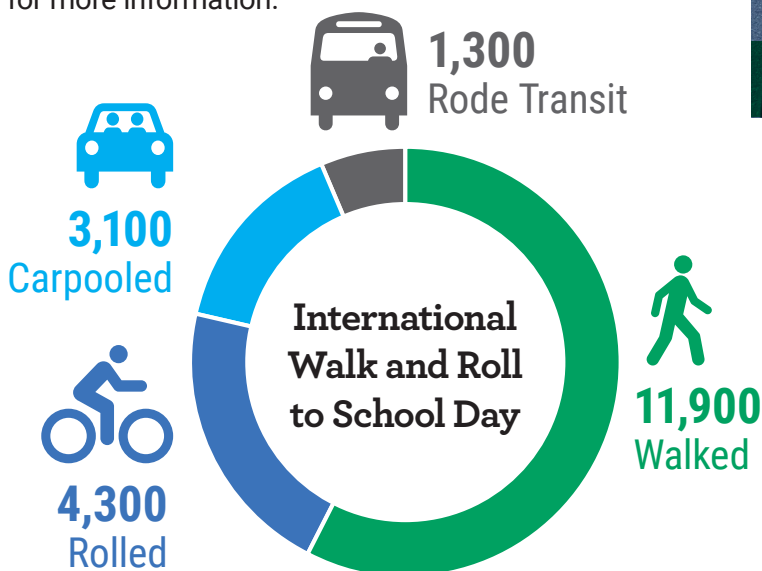


It's a Wrap for This Year's International Walk and Roll to School Day

This year, 141 schools and over 20,000 students in Alameda County participated in the October 10th International Walk and Roll to School Day. This popular event encourages students, teachers, and staff to walk, roll, carpool, or take public transit to school, to be active, to practice safe behaviors while traveling to and from school, and to help protect the environment. Emily Zanolli, school champion at Think College Now Elementary (Oakland), noted "we had so many students out dancing and celebrating safe routes to school. Half our staff attended, and so many parents and families came. It was really fun!"

Based on tally charts used to log how students arrived at school, the most popular way to get to school that day was walking, with rolling next, as shown in the chart below. Because of strong participation rates, many schools saw far fewer motor vehicles during arrival that morning. As Maryanne Kohler, our parent champion at Joseph Azeveda Elementary (Fremont), told us, "we definitely had less traffic today, and it was great. We love to see the walkers and bikers."

Thank you to all who participated. We encourage you to keep the momentum going by hosting monthly walk and roll events. See Announcements and Resources for more information.



Cocoa for Carpools Now Underway

High school students across Alameda County are hosting Cocoa for Carpool events between now and the end of February. This student-led event encourages carpooling as a way to reduce traffic and harmful pollution around schools by offering a cup of hot cocoa to students and staff who carpool to school. Visit the [Alameda County SR2S Program Resource Center](#) for more information, then contact your [Site Coordinator](#) to get started.



Calendar

December

December 11:
Registration for the Golden Sneaker Contest and Bike to School Day opens

December 21:
Winter Break begins

Walk & Roll to School Theme:
Be Safe, Be Seen

January

January 4:
Back to School

January 11:
Last day to register for Golden Sneaker Contest and to receive contest materials

Walk & Roll to School Theme:
Make a Change

February

February 4-15:
Task Force Meetings to receive Golden Sneaker Contest materials

February 25:
Golden Sneaker Contest begins

February 28: Cocoa for Carpools ends

Walk & Roll to School Theme:
Healthy Hearts

March

March 8:
Golden Sneaker Contest ends

Walk & Roll to School Theme:
March into Spring

April

April 22: Earth Day

April 8-26:
Parent Surveys and Hand Tallies

Walk & Roll to School Theme:
Save the Earth

May

May 9:
Bike to School Day

Walk & Roll to School Theme:
Bike to School Month



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