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MILPITAS POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Milpitas Police Department will Join Sinnott Elementary School for National Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 5th 2016

Milpitas, CA— John Sinnott Elementary will join schools from around the country to celebrate National Walk to School Day on October 5, 2016 in partnership with the Milpitas Police Department to send unified traffic safety messages to our community.

Students from John Sinnott Elementary will be walking and biking to school along with parents, teachers and community leaders. Members of the Milpitas Police Department will be deploying traffic/patrol officers to the neighborhoods near schools to enforcement traffic laws, reminding everyone the importance of pedestrian and bicycle safety this day and every day.

Walkers and bicyclists will arrive at the school at 07:50 am. Other special activities associated with the walk include a giveaway for the first 100 walkers that arrive to school before 7:50 am.

Walk to School Day events raise awareness of the need to create safer routes for walking and bicycling. It also emphasizes the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and concern for the environment. The events build connections between law enforcement, families, schools and the broader community.

The event is being organized by the Sinnott Elementary School PTA in partnership with the Milpitas Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit.

As part of the Clean and Safe Program, the City of Milpitas cares about the safety of our school children in and around the schools related to both traffic and stranger awareness. The Suggested Routes to School Program aims to educate our young students about traffic safety, increase awareness and improve choices that children make as they travel to and from school. Traffic safety education will assist in preventing traffic related injuries to our young students. As part of the program, Suggested Routes to School Maps are available for the nine Milpitas Unified School District elementary schools. To see the route to your school, go to the City of Milpitas website at (<http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/suggested-route-school/>)

For additional local information, please contact Laurie Armino at 408-635-2674 the Principal at Sinnott Elementary School, or Sergeant Sean Heneghan 408-586-2435

Important Safety Reminders

For Pedestrians:

- Walk on a sidewalk or path when one is available.
- If no sidewalk or path is available, walk on the shoulder, facing traffic.
- Stay alert; don't be distracted by electronic devices, including smart phones, MP3 players, and other devices that take your eyes (and ears) off the road.
- Be cautious night and day when sharing the road with vehicles. Never assume a driver sees you (he or she could be distracted, under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, or just not see you). Make eye contact with drivers as they approach.
- Be predictable. Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections when possible. This is where drivers expect pedestrians.
- If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a well-lit area, wait for a gap in traffic that allows you enough time to cross safely, and continue to watch for traffic as you cross.
- Be visible. Wear bright clothing during the day, and wear reflective materials or use a flash light at night.

For Drivers:

- Look for pedestrians everywhere. Pedestrians may not be walking where they should be or may be hard to see—especially in poor lit conditions, including dusk/dawn/night and poor weather.
- Always stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk or where pedestrian crosswalk signs are posted.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. They may be stopped to allow pedestrians to cross the street.
- Slowdown and look for pedestrians. Be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Follow the speed limit; slow down around pedestrians.
- Stay focused and slow down where children may be present, like school zones and neighborhoods.

For additional information, please visit these websites:

Walk to School Day in the USA - www.walkbiketoschool.org

National Center for Safe Routes to School - www.saferoutesinfo.org