



Safe Routes to Schools Alameda County

Healthy Kids, Safer Streets, Strong Communities

Students Fight Pollution with Golden Sneakers

The highlight of our spring has to be this year's Pollution Solution Golden Sneaker Contest. Over 15,000 students in 40 schools across Alameda County walked, biked, scooted, and carpooled for two weeks to compete for the Golden Sneaker trophy. The contest kicked off on March 12 and encouraged families to get active and reduce pollution.

Families that live too far away to walk or bike joined in by carpooling or parking several blocks away and walking to school together. The winning classroom at each school received the coveted trophy and everyone was invited to a party celebrating the benefits of using active or shared transportation to get to school.



Safe Routes to Schools painted dozens of sneakers to create Golden Sneaker Trophies.

Innovative BikeMobile Makes its Debut!

The "BikeMobile" is a traveling bike repair crew that hosts Fix-a-thons at schools, community centers, parks, and local events across Alameda County. At these Fix-a-thons, the crew makes bike repairs, teaches mechanics and safety, and provides accessories and bike decoration supplies.

Up to 50% of students do not ride their bikes because they are not functional, often due to minor problems such as flat tires and worn out brakes. Since many students don't have access to professional



The BikeMobile is ready for the road!

bike repair services, we are bringing the bike repair to them!

By partnering with Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools, and with funding from the Alameda County Transportation Commission, the BikeMobile is able to offer this resource free to schools, focusing on underprivileged communities that may not have access to such services.

To book the BikeMobile at your school, visit their website www.bike-mobile.org and fill out their request form.

More Schools Celebrating Monthly Walking and Rolling

One of our goals with International Walk and Roll to School Day in October is to inspire schools to hold monthly, and eventually weekly Walk & Roll to School Days. Congratulations to our schools that are now celebrating Walk & Roll to School Day on a monthly basis!

Inspired by how much fun students had on International Walk & Roll to School Day, Eden Gardens and Southgate Elementary Schools in Hayward held

Monthly Walk & Roll to School Days in January, February and March.

Dayton Elementary School, in San Leandro, launched their Monthly Walk & Roll to School Day with a visit from the Station 13 firefighters. The rig was parked in front of the school, letting students take an up-close look, inside and out. Firefighters also lent a hand to the crossing guard, helping families cross safely in the crosswalk.

One might call the monthly event at Haight Elementary in Alameda "Walk & Roll & Boogie to School." Once students arrive either walking or rolling to school, they are invited to the blacktop for an assembly where they get their day going with some special dance moves led by parents and members of the student council. A little extra exercise and music gets the day off to a great start!

Become Our Friend!

As our program continues to grow, we are often asked by community members and local businesses how they can help.

Here's your chance! We have many opportunities for you to participate in our activities and events.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a "Friend of Safe Routes to School" please contact us at staff@alamedacountysr2s.org.



Rosie joins the team from Michigan.

Welcome Aboard Rosie!

We welcome Rosie Mesterhazy, our newest Safe Routes to School Site Coordinator. Rosie comes to us from Michigan's Safe Routes to School State Program, where she developed trainings and provided technical assistance to hundreds of schools across Michigan.

Rosie believes that walking and biking to work almost always constitutes the best part of her day.



High School Students Get Involved

Students from Logan High supported Union City's Safe Routes infrastructure grant proposal by creating a short film that documents unsafe conditions on Meyers Drive. The film highlights the need for a sidewalk on Meyers to replace the unpaved walkway.

In partnership with the City of Pleasanton, Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, and the Earth Club, students at Foothill High organized school-wide events including Ride Free Wednesday, which allows students to ride the bus for free each Wednesday in April, and Bike to School Day.

Students from the Public Health Academy at Oakland High School linked their commute to health challenges in their community. They completed a walk audit and encouraged their peers to walk, bike, take transit or carpool to school.

Students from the San Lorenzo High Green Academy's Urban Design class conducted a school walk audit and shared their results with Alameda County Public Works. They also organized a successful Walk & Roll to School Day, encouraging 303 students to walk and bike to school!

We've received some excellent entries to the This is How We Roll Video Contest.

You're invited to the video screening and awards ceremony on June 7.

Visit www.alamedacountysr2s.org for more information.



Students at Oakland High learn mapping skills from Brett Hondorp of Alta Planning and Design.

Drop-Off Zone Improvements at Malcolm X

Malcolm X Elementary in Berkeley welcomed families back from Spring Break with a new Valet Drop-Off Zone and new signage indicating where and when to park during drop-off hours.

Run by parent and student volunteers, the Valet Drop and Roll allows families to deliver kids to school safely to coned drop-off zones on both King and Ellis streets, bringing order to a formerly chaotic and dangerous morning drop-off situation.



Third grader Finley Room helps get the new Valet Drop and Roll Program off the ground with other volunteers.

This project was many months in the making and involved Principal Hunt's participation at a Safe Routes to School Drop-Off Zone forum, early morning car counts, long discussions at the Traffic and Safety Committee meetings, coordination with city traffic engineers, community communications and meetings, and dedicated parent volunteers.

This process and outcome is a true testament to what can happen when we have a collaborative approach to making routes safer for students.

Safe Routes to Schools Spring Profile: Meet Raphie Breines

Raphie Breines is the Safe Routes to School Parent Champion at Peralta Elementary in Oakland.

How long have you been walking to school?

I always walked or biked to school in elementary, high school and college. My kids now walk to school and my wife or I have been accompanying them since kindergarten, four years ago.

Why did you start?

Walking to school was an obvious choice since my kids attend the neighborhood school. This is an advantage of going to a local school where we can walk with neighbors.

What are some things you like about walking/biking to school?

There are many advantages to walking/biking to school in addition to the obvious ones of saving money and helping

the environment. Most important for my family is the opportunity to spend time together while getting exercise.

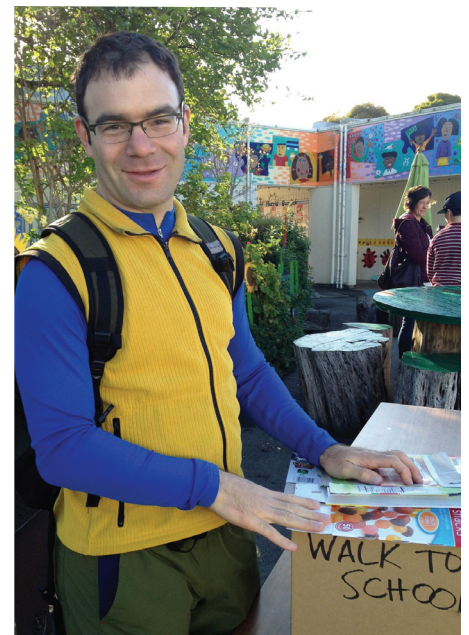
Walking and biking to school also provides an opportunity for my children to learn about street safety and how to navigate traffic as a pedestrian. Walking and biking to school is an important step in the pedestrian revolution to take back our neighborhoods for people on foot and bike.

How does walking/biking to school affect your ability to get to work?

Very positively, as I continue on and bike to work.

What advice would you give to other parents interested in walking or biking to school?

Just do it. Plan ahead, leave a little extra time and prepare to have fun, getting to know your kids and neighbors a little better.



Raphie Breines is the Safe Routes Parent Champion at Peralta Elementary School in Oakland.

Bike to School Day 2012 a Huge Success!



Father and son team, Michael and Evan Fitzhugh commute to Malcolm X Elementary on their Yuba Mundo bike.

With the first ever national Bike to School Day this year, we decided to make an all-out effort and registered a record 40 schools throughout the county - elementary through high school - to participate.

The numbers are still rolling in at press time, but with just over half of the schools reporting we have seen a more than 300% increase over normal ridership, with over 1,200 students riding and enjoying the joys of pedaling to school.

We are especially excited to see big numbers in some areas not usually known for cycling, such as Cesar Chavez Middle School in Union City: 45 bicyclists; Junction Avenue K-8 School in Livermore: 50 bicyclists; Roosevelt Elementary, San Leandro: 116 bicyclists; and Foothill High School, Pleasanton: 59 bicyclists. Special mention to Edison Elementary in Alameda for the most bicyclists at 136, and to Rosa Parks Elementary, Berkeley, with 94 bicyclists.