Use Your Street “SMARTS”

Sidewalks: If there is a sidewalk, walk on it! Stay on the inside edge, and stand back from the curb when waiting to cross the street - the farther you are from moving vehicles the better. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic so that you can see oncoming vehicles.

Music? If you are listening to music, remove an ear piece before crossing the street or walking in less populated areas.

Attention: Watch out for moving vehicles at driveways, back lanes, and in parking lots.

Road Crossing: Always cross at a road intersection or crosswalk. To cross safely at an intersection without lights, make eye contact with the drivers - in all lanes - to make sure they are stopped. Be bold, extend your arm to indicate you want to cross!

Team-Up: It is safer and more fun to walk to school with family or friends.

 Stranger-aware: On no account ever go off with a stranger. If your family uses a password, practice and remember that special word. With your family, identify safe places at which to ask for help.

“SUPER” Road Cycle Safety

Signs: Use your hand-signals when turning, slowing down or stopping. Follow all posted traffic signs and obey all traffic laws.

Urban Awareness: See and be seen! Be aware of your surroundings and always leave one door length of space when riding next to parked cars. Wear light or bright coloured clothing, and use your lights and reflectors in low-light and at night.

Protection: Wear your helmet when riding – it’s a law to protect your brain.

Eye Contact: Communication is key! Making eye contact with other road users such as drivers and pedestrians will increase safety for everyone.

Right hand side: Ride single file and as far to the right hand side of the road as practicable.

Park and Walk

Families who are unable to walk all the way can still contribute to improved traffic safety and healthy schools. Park at your school’s designated area or, park legally on a street away from the school. Do not use the 123a and 123 St cul-de-sacs (see below).

WALK the last few blocks with your children, allow them to enjoy a little extra active time outdoors.

DRIVER AWARE

DRIVE LAWFULLY, SAFELY AND WITHOUT DISTRACTION. Your driving behaviour is a key model for your children.

U-TURNS are illegal in a school zone. They are dangerous; creating many blind spots in an area of numerous young walkers and cyclists.

DON’T IDLE YOUR VEHICLE during pick up and drop off times. Idling contributes to poor air quality in the school zone, which negatively impacts student health.

Extra Safety Tips

IN CUL-DE-SACS:

DRIVERS. The cul-de-sac locations at 123a St and 123 St are not safe places to drop off your children. In a cul-de-sac there is no safe place to park and no safe intersection for children to cross the road amongst the unpredictable traffic.

STUDENTS. Do pay close attention to vehicles that may back up or turn unexpectedly, and do not attempt to cross the middle of the cul-de-sac.

Why Walk or Bike to School?

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

BEING ACTIVE builds healthy bodies and minds. Taking an active journey makes a student feel good about themselves and studies show they perform better in their classroom studies.

FAMILY AND FRIEND TIME

TIME SPENT WALKING TOGETHER gives families and friends an occasion to connect without stressful distractions. Parents and caregivers get an opportunity to model good pedestrian behaviour and affirm the benefits of regular physical activity.

COMMUNITY LIVABILITY

IMPROVED SAFETY FOR EVERYONE; pedestrians, cyclists and people in cars, is the result when more people walk and bike on the streets. Children, youth and families active and comfortable outdoors is a key indicator of a safe and healthy neighbourhood.

CARE FOR OUR EARTH

VEHICLE EMISSIONS ARE THE LARGEST CAUSE OF POOR AIR QUALITY IN BC and are individual Canadians’ greatest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Every vehicle trip replaced by walking reduces our contribution to climate change.

Find more information about safe, active trips - www.hastebc.org www.saferoutestoschool.ca additional cycling education and advocacy www.bikehub.ca

www.surrey.ca/city-services/12493.aspx

Strawberry Hill Elementary

All hand-drawn characters are provided by talented Surrey students at Bonaccord, Strawberry Hill, Fraser Wood, and KB Woodward Elementary schools.