



Walk to School Week is a fun, educational event involving children, parents, schools, businesses and community leaders.



Dear Principal _____:

International Walk to School Week is October 3 – 7, 2005. We are requesting that you put this event on the school calendar.

Why?

1. The 2nd leading cause of death for 5-12 year olds is being hit by a car.
2. Children's academic abilities are improved by physical activity, like walking and biking.
3. This event will benefit all students – whether they arrive by foot, bus, bike or car.

Walk to School Week raises awareness about the need to:

- ✓ Reinforce children's good traffic safety skills.
- ✓ Remind adults to drive safely in school zones.
- ✓ Create and maintain safe places for children to walk within their neighborhood, such as on trips to and from school.
- ✓ Identify specific steps people can take to make our community more pedestrian friendly.
- ✓ Promote the fact that children need regular physical activity to stay strong and healthy.
- ✓ Encourage families to have fun and spend time together simply by walking – the easiest way to stay healthy.

Walk to School Week happens all around the world, but will be organized locally with resources from the state Department of Health Services. October 3rd – 7th, 2005 is the Week chosen by an international steering committee. During that week, we would benefit from national and state media attention. Last year, over 800 schools in California held events during this week. However, any week early in the fall semester that's mutually acceptable is fine. What's important is having an event that promotes safe streets for children and that helps children be safe pedestrians.

We have ideas that could make Walk to School Week a big success at your school. Please use the contact information below to discuss this opportunity. If you want to learn more by visiting a website, log onto www.cawalktoschool.com.

We hope you will join us to work together to make streets near school a safer place for children.

Sincerely,

