



FCPS Safe Routes to School

<http://www.fcps.edu/saferoutes>

Winter 2016/17

Outstanding Crossing Guard Nominations Open

Fairfax County

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Follow FCPS Safe Routes to School on [Twitter](#).

Check out our new FCPS Safe Routes to School Public Service Announcement:

[Be Safe, Be Seen](#)

Thank you to 8th graders Shelby and Genaro, theatre students at Herndon Middle School, and to the FCPS News and Information team of Jim Lepp, Matt Kady, and Donny Haller

Crossing Guard Appreciation Day (CGAD) is a statewide event devoted to saying thank you to those who help students cross the street safely on their way to and from school.

Fairfax County has 174 crossings handled by 80 crossing guards.

Virginia Safe Routes to School program designated February 8, 2017 as Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. Schools and communities can plan their own CGAD on any day that works for them to recognize the valuable role crossing guards play in making safe routes to school a reality.



Schools may also want to nominate their crossing guard for Outstanding Crossing Guard. Nominations are submitted online to [VDOT](#). Each nomination should include a picture and a paragraph about your crossing guard and why he/she should be considered for the award. Nominations are due by January 27, 2017.

A certificate of appreciation is available for download from the FCPS Safe Routes to School website. Contact the SRTS office if you would like a Starbucks refillable cup for your crossing guard. Cups can be filled with coupons or treats for your crossing guard. Other ideas for celebrating your crossing guard are on the [VDOT](#)

Bike Lessons this Fall

Thank you to the fourteen schools participating in bicycling lessons during the Fall. Four schools have their own bikes for lessons and enjoyed riding new bikes in their physical education classes.

The Safe Routes to School team supported lessons at 11 schools including one middle school and two alternative schools.

Two thousand eight hundred students rode, worked on skills, and participated in safe riding activities while 300 students learned to ride a bike.

Best quote from a new rider at Hollin Meadows, "Riding a bike makes me feel free!"



Students at Rose Hill ES



Students at Hollin Meadows

Fire Up Your Feet Award Winners

Congratulations to Terraset Elementary and Wolftrap Elementary for the Fire Up Your Feet Fall Challenge. Terraset Elementary was awarded \$1200 for their efforts in tracking all student physical activity during October. Terraset will use the funds to sponsor scholarships for their after-school programs and for recess equipment.

Wolftrap Elementary earned \$500 for the Champions award. Principal Teresa Khuluki nominated parent Jeff Anderson for his efforts to increase the number of students walking and biking to Wolftrap. Here is what Ms. Khuluki wrote about Mr. Anderson:

"I can think of no one more deserving of the School Champion Award than Mr. Jeff Anderson, parent at Wolftrap Elementary

School. Mr. Anderson began his efforts in 2009 to create safe opportunities for families to bike and walk to school and has been the driving force behind multiple initiatives that have become widely popular at our school and have spread to nearby elementary schools. Not only does he lead efforts to participate in International Walk to School Day annually in October, but he coordinates monthly Walking Wednesdays, monthly Bike Trains, competitions with nearby schools called Bike/Walk Challenge Week, and grade-level competitions at the local school level. His Bike Train was featured on Nickelodeon in 2012 and our students were also featured in a public safety video created by the Fairfax County Police Department. Mr. Anderson has become a spokesperson for student safety and has educated our community by providing resources and by speaking at public parent

meetings. Most recently he formed a committee to discuss how to work with the Virginia DOT and Fairfax County DOT to improve safety conditions on Beulah Road, the road on which Wolftrap Elementary is located. His efforts have also decreased the amount of cars in our kiss-and-ride lane, and I often hear him congratulating the students who bike or walk for helping the environment by lessening carbon emissions in Vienna. Mr. Anderson truly is the champion of helping our school reach success in Safe Routes to School!"



Baby It's Cold Outside! Winter Walking Tips

Just because the temperatures have dropped doesn't mean you should hibernate and drive your student to school. Students should dress to be out in the elements both walking to and from school or the bus stop. Students who walk to school are usually dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. It is best to dress in layers, include a hat and gloves or mittens and warm socks.

Don't forget to Be Safe and Be Seen. Dress in bright colors and stay visible. With fewer daylight hours and cloudy conditions, it's important to put on a high-visibility outer layer.



ZingerBug.com



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Safe Routes to School programs get kids physically active and take cars off the road. In the last 40 years we have seen student walking and bicycling to school decline from 48% (1969) to 13% (2009). During this same time period, the percentage of parents using Kiss and Ride has increased. The increase in Kiss and Ride users has exacerbated traffic conditions around many schools and has made it more difficult for student walkers and bicyclists to get to school.

Mini Grants
\$1000 Mini Grant Applications can be used to support Safe Routes to School activities and health and wellness. Apply early.
http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/srsm_quick_start_mini-grant_program.asp
February 2, 2017
March 2, 2017
April 6, 2017
**Note: These grants are federally funded and require recording in FOCUS if awarded to schools. This does not apply to grants awarded directly to PTAs.*

Looking Forward to Student Bike Lessons at:

- January:**
Hunters Woods ES
- February:**
King's Glen ES
- March:**
North Springfield ES
Timber Lane ES
- April:**
Canterbury Woods ES
Poe Middle School ES
Poplar Tree ES
Cub Run ES

- May:**
Twain Middle School
Chesterbrook ES
Lane ES
- June:**
Washington Mill ES
Stone Middle School

Now taking Bike Lessons requests for 2017-18 school year. Priority given to schools that have not had the bikes.

