Resource Center News: Earth Day

Earth Day falls on Sunday, April 22nd and offers another great opportunity to introduce your students to Safe Routes to School. By pairing SRTS efforts with an Earth Day event, you can present your students with another reason for, and benefit of, walking and biking - helping the environment.

We encourage you to incorporate a walking or biking event into your Earth Day celebration - get creative and put your own spin on it!

- Plan another "Walk to School Day" that week, highlighting walking and biking as environmentally friendly transportation methods
- Use Earth Day to launch an "Anti-Idling" campaign for parents, and encourage walking and biking as alternate methods of transportation
- Use Earth Day to launch a "School Flag" program indicating air quality conditions. Set a school goal to always wave a green flag, and encourage students to help achieve this goal by walking and biking to school
- Implement classroom activities on air quality and transportation choices. Click here for lesson plans and classroom ideas

From our State Coordinator

As the school year nears its end, I want to encourage all our partner schools to keep up the momentum with their Safe Routes to School programs. Use the mentioned upcoming events, like Earth Day and Bike to School Day, to finish out this school year strong and continue to provide students with opportunities to walk, roll and bike.

I also encourage our partners to set SRTS partnership level goals. Set a goal to achieve the Silver Partner level this school year or meet with your School Outreach Coordinator to develop a plan to reach the Gold Partner level in the 2012-2013 school year.

Take advantage of the FREE SRTS upcoming webinar about funding sources on April 24, 2012. This resource may also help to spark some ideas while planning for your next school
Upcoming Event: National Bike to School Day

The first-ever National Bike to School Day will take place on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, as part of National Bike Month. Participating in this event will be a great addition to your school’s SRTS program and creates an opportunity to teach children about the importance of wearing a helmet and bicycle safety.

Visit www.walktoschool.org to register for your event and find out more information. Registration will be available in early April. Check out the new event planning resources and the new GIS powered walking and bicycling route mapping tool. There will also be a contest for a school to win a new bike rack!

Get creative with planning your event! Include students who live too far or where it is too unsafe by:

- Creating a neighborhood bike train
- Hosting a bicycle skills assembly
- Inviting local law enforcement to speak to students about bicycle safety tips
- Showing videos on helmet safety

Please contact your local School Outreach Coordinator for additional assistance planning your event.

Funding Opportunity: Roadmaps to Health Community Grants

The 2012 Roadmaps to Health Community Grants call for proposals is now available.

The Roadmaps to Health Community Grants program (Community Grants) will support communities to implement policy or system changes to address one of the social or economic factors that, as defined by the County Health Rankings, most strongly influence health outcomes in their community.

The grants, which will support two-year state and local efforts among policymakers, business, education, health care, public health and community organizations, will be managed by Community Catalyst, a national non-profit health advocacy organization. The Community Grants are part of the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI). Community Catalyst will also be holding a webinar to help potential applicants learn more about the Roadmaps to Health Community Grants on April 10. The deadline for the proposal is May 2, 2012.

To apply online and find more information click here.

Spotlight on a Partner: Doby’s Mill Elementary, Lugoff

Doby’s Mill Elementary, of Kershaw County School District, works diligently to offer their students opportunities for physical activity. In addition to participating in both SC Walk to School Day and International Walk to School Day, they have also planned amazing events such as these:

- March 27th - "Light It Up Blue" Autism Awareness Walk from 5pm-7pm.
- April 17th - Family Bike Night
- September 29th - 8th Annual "Race to Read" 8K and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk

However, Doby’s Mill Elementary also recognizes that healthy behaviors need to be reinforced more often than during these one-time events. And unfortunately, due to their location, it is impractical to promote walking and biking to school. As a solution, Doby’s Mill Elementary has come up with some on-campus activities to offer students. To help promote healthy lifestyles, they have successfully implemented the following programs:

- Monthly Family Walk and Bike Nights were established with a policy implemented that states that these are "No Homework" nights for students.
- The Campus Nature and Fitness Trail is open every day from dusk till dawn for students and their families to use.
- You Go Girls running club, for 4th and 5th grade girls, meets every Thursday from 2pm to
Spotlight on a Friend: Safe Kids Trident

The 5th Annual Bike Rodeo & Safety Fair with Safe Kids Trident will take place Saturday, May 25th at the North Charleston & American LaFrance Fire Museum. Event hours will be from 12:00PM until 4:00PM. Come with your child and enjoy activities for kids, a safety town and bike rodeo. Fun for parents and kids! For more information contact Maudra Rogers at rogem@musc.edu or 843.792.5327.

Learning Opportunity: "Finding Funding for Your SRTS Program" Webinar

Whether it's for small incentives, healthy snacks for students on walk or bike to school days, flyers and advertisements for events or eventually hiring a staff member, finding funding for SRTS is usually a challenge.

The National Center for Safe Routes to School is presenting a FREE 60-minute webinar on tips and tricks for fundraising. Presenters include:

- America Walks Executive Director Scott Bricker will share advice on fundraising issues
- PedNet Coalition Executive Director Ian Thomas will discuss potential sources of funds and tips for fundraising.
- Partners for Health Foundation program officer Kathy Smith will provide a foundation's perspective on grant applicants and provide tips on how to look ready for funding.

Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2012
Time: 1pm-2pm
Register Now!

This webinar is part of the Safe Routes to School webinar Series, developed by the National Center for Safe Routes to School and America Walks. To view archived webinars, visit www.saferoutesinfo.org/events-and-training/SRTS-webinars.
The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center is a program of the South Carolina DOT

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