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Resource Center News: Back to School Safety

The excitement is palpable as students, families, and teachers gear up for the start of the 2012-2013 school year. As schools establish their arrival and dismissal protocols, this is a great time to review parking lot safety.

Looking for materials? The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s new child pedestrian safety curriculum includes a lesson on Parking Lot Safety, along with a tip sheet to share with parents. Click here for the lesson, broken down by grade level: K-1, 2-3, and 4-5.

You can also visit their website, where the entire curriculum is available for free.

Another good resource comes from the SC Department of Public Safety (SCDPS). SCDPS

From our State Coordinator

As you all gear up for the new school year, I understand that your top priority is to provide an excellent education for your students. But, I also want to remind you all about the importance of safety.

Safety behaviors are a learned skill-set and can be taught along with other subjects. Interactive, hands-on lessons and continuous reinforcement help to establish automatic safe behaviors.

I encourage you to make safety education a goal for the 2012-2013 school year. Meet with your School Outreach Coordinator to discuss options
requests that schools in each district plan activities for a *School Zone Safety Week*. The beginning of the school year is a great time to instill good safety habits early.

For additional resources, here is the SCDPS [Back to School Safety Packet Info](#).

Our friends at Safe Kids provide the following reminders for drivers and passengers in time for the start of the new school year:

- Slow down and be especially alert in the residential neighborhoods and school zones
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don’t talk or text while driving

For Students:

- Cross the street with an adult until you are at least 10 years old
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars
- Make sure to always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see you.

Best wishes to all South Carolina schools for a fantastic and safe year!

**Upcoming Webinar: Child Pedestrian Safety Education**

*Wednesday, September 12th*

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[REGISTER NOW](#)

to implement safety education. Take advantage of the resources and ideas mentioned throughout this newsletter:

- Talk about "Parking Lot Safety" and how it relates to your Parent Pick-Up/Drop-Off area during student orientation
- Pair pedestrian safety lesson plans with your [International Walk to School Day](#) event
- Register to attend our [Webinar](#) to learn about the Child Pedestrian Safety Curriculum
- Send home materials produced by Safe Kids SC for their "On the Safe Side" Series.

Elements of safety education are implemented throughout our [Partnership Program](#). [Enroll](#) now to start implementing these components at your school.

**Grant Opportunity: Henkel Helps Kids Get Fit**

Henkel Helps, in partnership with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation is offering $25,000 grants to schools to help improve youth fitness. Teachers, parents and community members are invited to submit their nominations to let Henkel know what their school does to get kids fit, why they need help to do more, and how they would use the grant money to improve youth fitness.
Learn about this NEW educational resource! This elementary curriculum meets many South Carolina performance standards for Physical Education and Health Education and provides an active and engaging environment for students to learn about pedestrian safety. We'll cover why child pedestrian safety education is important, how the curriculum was developed and how the curriculum is structured.

We'll walk through a sample lesson outline from the five lessons, and we'll discuss the key messages within each lesson:

1. Walking safely near traffic
2. Crossing streets safely
3. Crossing intersections safely
4. Parking lot safety
5. Bus safety

Finally, we'll recommend opportunities to implement the curriculum across a variety of settings. The goal of the curriculum is to provide cross-curricula, hands-on activities to develop automatic, life-long safe pedestrian behavior. You will understand how the Child Pedestrian Safety Curriculum fits within the SC SRTS Partnership Program, and we'll review the resources available to you through the SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center.

This webinar is hosted in partnership with Eat Smart, Move More SC. For more information, please contact the SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center.

Space is limited. Register Now!

**Upcoming Event: Student Tally Month**

This September is Student Travel Tally Month with the Resource Center. The Student Travel Tally is a quick, in-class survey that provides valuable information on student travel patterns and will help assess your school’s Safe Routes to School program.

Download the student tally form [here](#). Provide each homeroom teacher with a form during the same week in September. Have teachers ask their students how they arrived at school two days during that week.

Henkel's goal is to help schools make their campuses into healthy environments where physical activity and healthier foods are available to students before, during, and after school.

Henkel Corporation is the company behind brands such as Dial, Purex, Soft Scrub, Right Guard, and göt2b®, and their mission is to support communities nationwide. Here is the [link](#) for more information.

**Like us on Facebook**

Keep up with the Resource Center this school year by liking us on [Facebook](#)!

Learn about new International Walk to School Day event registrations occurring across the state! We'll be posting about schools as they register, so "Like" us to stay updated on participating schools and their events near you!

**Grant Opportunity:**

**Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarding $5,000 for School Improvement Projects**

The Lowe's Toolbox for Education program provides grant awards of up to $5,000 to support school improvement projects at public schools.
week. Once the tally sheets are completed, contact your local SOC and they will help get your school's forms to the SRTS National Center for processing!

Completing these student tallies will result in a full report of your student's travel patterns as well as help your school move up to a Silver Level Partner with the Resource Center!

Another great way to evaluate your school's Safe Routes to School program is to complete the Parent Survey! Put this survey in your Back to School packets or hand out at the first PTA meeting. The parent survey can also be completed online and emailed to the parents at your school. Please contact your SOC for more information.

**Upcoming Event: International Walk to School Day**

Register NOW for International Walk to School Day on October 3, 2012. Last year SC was ranked 4th in the nation for the greatest number of schools to participate in International Walk to School Day! So far this year, South Carolina is leading the nation with over 70 schools registered! Let's keep the #1 title and have the most schools holding events across the US!

There are many ways for your school to participate and include every student. Your school may encourage students to:

- **Walk TO school from their home**
- **Walk TO school from a meeting location** (such as a grocery store, park or church parking lot)
- **Walk AT school** (school-wide walk around the campus in the morning, designated class time for grade-level walks during the school day or a group walk after lunch)
- **Walk FROM school** (to their homes, to a designated pick-up location or to an after-school care provider)

For the 2012-13 school year, the Foundation prefers applications that will have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement (both indoor and outdoor), as well as landscaping/cleanup projects. Projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit are encouraged.

This could be a chance to fund projects that provide opportunities for healthy and active living, such as creating physical fitness areas, adding bicycle racks, constructing school nature trails, or building playgrounds.

Any public school or nonprofit parent group associated with a public school is eligible to apply.

Grant requests must be between $2,000 and $5,000 per school. Lowe's will donate $5 million to schools and school parent/teacher groups at more than one thousand schools during the school year.

The deadline for submitting applications for the fall 2012 grant cycle is October 12, 2012, but don't delay because the application window closes when Lowe's hits fifteen hundred applications.

Here's the [link](#) for more information, including program guidelines, application materials, and sample project ideas.
Click [here](http://www.constantcontact.com/render?llr=lrfpslab&v=001QCSesYgsyMVqFk5RN4qfYZTExSqv...) to see who's already registered!

Contact your local [SOC](http://www.constantcontact.com/render?llr=lrfpslab&v=001QCSesYgsyMVqFk5RN4qfYZTExSqv...) for assistance on planning a safe and fun event based on your school's needs.

*Incentives will be provided to partner schools with registered events on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Please register early to guarantee incentives for your students!*

### Spotlight on a Friend: Safe Kids SC “On the Safe Side” Series

Studies show that unintentional injuries are the leading cause of all deaths for children ages 1 to 14, and that 90% of unintentional injuries can be prevented. Safe Kids South Carolina is attempting to diminish the risks that face our children by implementing their 2012-2013 "On the Safe Side" Series.

Every month has a theme and Safe Kids SC will provide reminders, tips and lessons on simple ways to keep kids safe relating to that risk. This Series targets elementary school teachers and the following resources are available through the Safe Kids SC website:

- **Posters**: Posters feature student artwork, tips and activities to help children learn the importance of being safe. Print these posters and use them in your classroom to initiate discussion with your students.
- **Lesson Plans**: Each month's risk area will have coordinating lesson plans that utilize state standards designed for a classroom setting. However, these lesson plans can be used in any group setting and provide step-by-step instructions.
- **Tip Sheets**: Tip sheets feature tips for each risk area and can be sent home to parents. This added reinforcement at home can help to create life-long safety behavior.
- **Safety Challenge**: This online, interactive quiz can test elementary students' knowledge on injury prevention before and after the safety lessons are administered.

August is "Pedestrian Safety Month" with the "On the Safe Side" Series. Use their posters, lesson plans and tip sheets to help spread the message of child pedestrian safety to your students and their parents. To learn more about other ways to address the topic of Child Pedestrian Safety click [here](http://www.constantcontact.com/render?llr=lrfpslab&v=001QCSesYgsyMVqFk5RN4qfYZTExSqv...) to read a guest blog entry posted by the SC SRTS Resource Center, and make sure to subscribe to the Safe Kids blog while you're there!
For more information on the "On the Safe Side" Series, or to request copies of the Posters, please contact Heidi Vaughn at hvaughn@scchildren.org.

The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center is a program of the South Carolina DOT