

# Seattle Safe Routes to School Newsletter

Sharing ways to make it safer and easier to walk and bike to school.

## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER

International Walk to School Month!

“Peace Steps” every Wednesday at Dearborn Park

Basics of Bicycling at Dearborn Park

“Hike and Bike” the Hawthorne Hill every Friday

### NOVEMBER

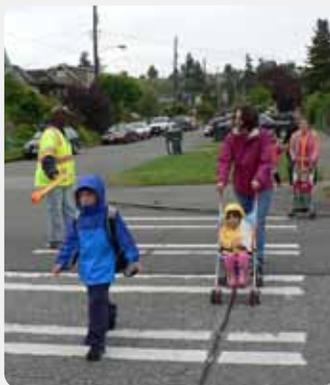
8th: Walking Audit at Roxhill

14th: Peace Parade at Dearborn Park

Date TBA: Community meeting for engineering at Hawthorne

### DECEMBER

Dates TBA: Observations of student drop-off and pick-up procedures at Roxhill and Olympic Hills



Youngsters follow their siblings in a Walking School Bus at Hawthorne, May 2012



## GREETINGS FROM THE TEAM

Greetings Dearborn Park, Hawthorne, Olympic Hills, and Roxhill:

This is the fall 2012 issue of your Safe Routes to School (SRTS) newsletter, published for the four Seattle Schools currently receiving SRTS grants from the Washington State Department of Transportation. Of the four schools, Dearborn Park and Hawthorne began their 18-month SRTS programs in the spring of 2012, while Olympic Hills and Roxhill began their programs with this school year.

SRTS grants strive to make it safer and easier for students to walk or bike to school. We take the comprehensive “5-E” approach, incorporating services for Engineering, Enforcement, Education, Encouragement and Evaluation.

October is International Walk to School Month. For the schools that have already begun, this has supported the encouragement of SRTS.

Encouragement campaigns can take many forms, ranging from one-day events to month-long events. A successful campaign generally includes incentives both tangible (i.e. punch cards, calendars) and intangible (i.e. the pure joy of walking to school with friends). Because the interests, landscapes, and concerns vary so much across neighborhoods, we work to develop encouragement campaigns specifically designed to fit each school community.

SRTS programs are most successful when there is wide and vigorous engagement from the community. Please note our names and information below, and feel free to contact any of us with your program thoughts.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Callaghan – SRTS Event Coordinator, Feet First ([Caitlin@feetfirst.org](mailto:Caitlin@feetfirst.org))

Jen Cole – SRTS Program Director, Feet First ([Jen@feetfirst.org](mailto:Jen@feetfirst.org))

Julie Salathe – Education Director, CBC ([julies@cascadecyclingclub.org](mailto:julies@cascadecyclingclub.org))

Jenny Almgren – Education Programs Assistant, CBC ([jenny.almgren@cascadecyclingclub.org](mailto:jenny.almgren@cascadecyclingclub.org))

Brian Dougherty – SRTS Coordinator, SDOT ([Brian.Dougherty@seattle.gov](mailto:Brian.Dougherty@seattle.gov))

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# Get your Walk on: School Updates

## DEARBORN PARK

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) completed a new sidewalk along South Orcas Street this summer. The new sidewalk is almost a quarter-mile in length and includes new curbs, on-street parking, and a planting strip with trees (coming soon!) to help buffer pedestrians from car traffic. The school will celebrate the new sidewalk with a school-wide “Imagine Peace” parade in November. To align the SRTS grant with this important school initiative, “Walk and Roll Wednesdays” has changed its name to “Peace Steps,” and will continue every Wednesday morning throughout the school year.



S. Orcas Street received engineering improvements near Dearborn Park Elementary as part of their SRTS grant

## HAWTHORNE

The original project plan for engineering treatments on 42nd Ave South is being re-evaluated in response to community input, including input from last spring’s walking audit. School and community members are invited to discuss engineering options at an open house in mid-November. The event will be at the school and arranged by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). Please contact Brian Dougherty of SDOT ([brian.dougherty@seattle.gov](mailto:brian.dougherty@seattle.gov)) to be sure you are on the notification list. Hawthorne’s “Hike and Bike” encouragement campaign is on again throughout October, with two meeting locations for walking school buses and bike groups. We are currently reaching out to school and community members who are interested in helping improve student safety at arrival and departure times. If this is a particular concern for you, please contact Jen Cole of Feet First ([jen@feetfirst.org](mailto:jen@feetfirst.org)).

## OLYMPIC HILLS

Grant activity will begin at Olympic Hills this fall with an observation of the student arrival and departure procedures. Family volunteers will help observe student drop-off and pick-up areas to identify and count any safety issues that may exist. Olympic Hills will also conduct a walking audit in the fall to assess walkability issues in the area. Stay tuned for dates, or contact [jen@feetfirst.org](mailto:jen@feetfirst.org) for more information or to volunteer.

## ROXHILL

Initial grant coordination meetings were held at Roxhill in September. In addition to our core team of partners (listed on page 1), this school will enjoy the involvement of the White Center Community Development Association (CDA), a neighborhood non-profit dedicated to connecting people and place to build community. The CDA will strive to build parent connections, particularly for walking school buses here. This school will begin with a Walking Audit on Thursday, November 8th from 3:45 to 5:45 pm.

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB

The Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation’s “Group Health Basics of Bicycling” is a PE curriculum for third to fifth-grade students. The goal of the program is to teach safety skills that will continue into adulthood – skills that are components of a healthy, active and environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

Cascade trains PE teachers to provide the three-week program using Cascade’s fleets of bikes and helmets. The curriculum includes two classroom and five on-bike lessons. Students learn basic traffic concepts such as stopping at stop signs and how to avoid the most common accident types, such as riding out of a driveway without looking.

CBC’s Education Program Assistant, Jenny Almgren, coordinates this and other bicycle components of the grant. You can reach Jenny at: [jenny.almgren@cascadebicycleclub.org](mailto:jenny.almgren@cascadebicycleclub.org)



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