



POLICE DEPARTMENT

275 Forest Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301
650.329.2406

August 2017

Dear Parents of Elementary School Students,

The Palo Alto Police Department is proud to support the City's Safe Routes to School Partnership with the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) and Palo Alto Council of PTAs. We invite you to join this partnership to help reduce traffic congestion and provide a safer school commute for your child and all students in our community.

About half of all PAUSD students are now getting to and from school by foot, on bikes or in buses and carpools. Your role in modeling and reinforcing the traffic safety skills taught in school is vital. **Please review our Safe Routes to School tips for people riding bicycles, walking or driving cars with your student.**

Your school's Walk and Roll Suggested Routes to School map can also assist you in planning a good walking or biking route. Find it on your school's web site or on the City's Safe Routes to School page: www.cityofpaloalto.org/saferoutes

If walking, biking or taking the bus is not feasible for your student, consider carpooling with a neighbor, especially on rainy days. If you must drive, be sure to share the road safely by putting away your cell phone, using extra caution and keeping the guidelines for driving safely on school commutes in mind.

The Palo Alto Police Department funds 29 adult crossing guards to help students cross busy intersections safely. We will continue to prioritize enforcement on school commute routes, especially during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times. Officers will cite safety violations, including wrong way bike riding, not wearing a helmet, disobeying stop signs or U-turn prohibitions, driving in bike lanes, and parking in a red zone.

Find out more about local Safe Routes to School educational, encouragement, enforcement and engineering efforts from your school PTA and principal, or by contacting saferoutes@cityofpaloalto.org. Traffic enforcement concerns can be directed to the Police Department's non-emergency line at 650-329-2413.

Let's all work together for a safe school commute in Palo Alto in 2017-18!

Sincerely,

Ron Watson
Interim Police Chief



CityOfPaloAlto.org