



*"Together We Learn"*

School District No. 23  
(Central Okanagan)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RCMP**

**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
September 21, 2007

**RCMP and School District No. 23 Team up to Teach Student Traffic Patrollers**

In an effort to reduce the number of traffic-related student accidents, the RCMP and School District No. 23 are planning a School Safety Patroller training event at Bankhead Elementary School on Monday, September 24, 2007 at 8:30am. So far this year, there have been three accidents at schools; fortunately, these have involved only minor injuries.

Street-level demonstrations, classroom instruction, and a video are part of the strategy to train Grade 5 students who volunteer to serve as School Safety Patrollers. Students will learn the proper techniques to employ equipment such as high-visibility safety vests, hand-held stop signs, and traffic cones to ensure safe street crossings for their peers.

Dave Gibson, Traffic Safety Officer for School District No. 23, and RCMP School Liaison Officer Steve Holmes will conduct training sessions at schools throughout the district in September and October. The BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation provides course curriculum.

Volunteer traffic safety patrollers perform an increasingly important role. "The growing population in the Kelowna area means that highways and roads are considerably more taxed than a few years ago," says Gibson. "There are more vehicles on the road and likewise, a greater potential for accidents. With this program, we are educating safety patrollers in exactly the same way. We want to be consistent so that drivers can come to expect patrollers and student pedestrians to follow the same protocol."

"The School Safety Patrollers have the very important job of ensuring the safety of other students and pedestrians within their zones," says Constable Holmes. "It just as important that the motoring public be mindful of the role of these Patrollers and respond accordingly in terms of their driving behaviors."

Drivers are reminded that the speed limit within school zones from 8am to 5pm is 30km per hour. Please watch for Patrollers who provide traffic and pedestrian instruction from one step off the curb rather than in the middle of the street.

---

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:**

Moyra Baxter, Chairperson, Board of School Trustees, 767-6153  
Mike Roberts, Superintendent of Schools, 470-3256  
Steve Holmes, RCMP Constable  
Dave Gibson, School District No. 23 Traffic Safety Officer, 470-3283  
Lisa Harrison, Communications Officer, [lharriso@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:lharriso@sd23.bc.ca), 470-3284