

# *News and Information*

October 1, 2013

## **Grand Opening: Safe Routes to School** **École Glenmore Elementary School**

**Kelowna, B.C. –**

École Glenmore Elementary School is hosting a grand opening of the Safe Routes to School Project. The project introduced infrastructure changes around the school to improve the walkability and safety for students and the community. The celebration also kicks off International Walk to School Week.

When: Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 9:30 to 10:15 am  
Where: École Glenmore Elementary School  
960 Glenmore Road  
Kelowna, BC

Over the last eight years, the École Glenmore Parent Advisory Council, its Cool Ways to School sub-committee, school administration, the School District and the City of Kelowna worked together on the "Safe Routes to School" project. The final infrastructure changes in the Glenmore neighbourhood were completed for the start of the school year. During the initial phase of the project, the Cool Ways to School committee also implemented several school based programs aimed at encouraging and facilitating active transportation among students and their families travelling to and from École Glenmore some of which continue today.

The changes have made a positive impact on Glenmore's school zone. "It is terrific to achieve these changes to see morning and afternoon drop offs proceed in a less hectic and more civil manner," says École Glenmore Elementary Principal Des Sjoquist.

In addition to safety, the Safe Routes to School initiative promotes healthier lifestyles. "More kids and parents are walking a little bit further to the school," says Sjoquist. Children who walk and ride to school receive more exercise and it teaches them important life skills.

Families are embracing the changes, including kindergarten student Connor Cleveland who recently told his mom "it's so much more comfortable to walk to school because I don't have to worry about getting hit".

On Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, the community is invited to participate in the opening walk, which will include a "walking the talk" parade around the school highlighting some of our new safe routes.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Inspired by the 'Making Cities Liveable for Children' conference in Kelowna in 2007, the École Glenmore Elementary School Parent Advisory Council took the initiative and created the "Cool Ways to School" Committee. Over the last eight years, the Committee has worked with UBCO departments of nursing and engineering and the City of Kelowna

to create a plan to improve the walkability to Glenmore. The “ground up” design for the infrastructure changes came from how children and adults were using the space and sought to make improvements to safe and continuous passage. The project endeavored to create a multi-modal design that encourages safe walking and biking while acknowledging the needs of vehicle traffic.

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For comments, please contact:

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