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Riverside County students to participate in International Walk to School Day

Thousands of Riverside County students will hit the streets as part of International Walk to School Day Wednesday, October 3.

The event will showcase the health benefits of walking or biking to school and highlight the need for communities to become more pedestrian-friendly. It reinforces traffic safety skills and reminds adults to be careful of youngsters as motorists drive through neighborhoods. It also kicks off a year-long effort at schools to create sustainable walking programs and reduce childhood obesity.

As in past years, thousands of students and hundreds of parent and community-based volunteers will form "walking school buses" or groups of children, parents and volunteers walking together.

The Riverside Unified School District schools participating include Alcott, Harrison, Highland, Tomas Rivera, Liberty, Magnolia, and Woodcrest elementary schools. Councilmember and Mayoral Candidate Rusty Bailey plans to walk with his daughter and other children to school on one of the designated routes to Alcott Elementary. Councilman Chris MacArthur is also expected to walk with the children from Arlington Library to Liberty Elementary.

The Alvard Unified School District schools participating include Arlanza, Orrenmaa, Rosemary Kennedy, McAuliffe, Stokoe, Terrace and Twinhill elementary schools, and Arizona Middle School (M.S.).

Sky Country Elementary in Jurupa Valley and Ysabel Barnett Elementary in Temecula will also be taking part for the first time.

The Palm Springs Unified School District schools participating include Bubbling Wells, Cielo Vista, Katherine Finchy, Two Bunch Palms, Edward L. Wenzlaff, Landau, and Cathedral City elementary schools.

The Moreno Valley Unified School District schools participating include Mountain View M.S., Cloverdale Elementary, Palm M.S., Armada Elementary, Honey Hollow Elementary, Hendrick Ranch Elementary, Sunnymead M.S., Badger Springs M.S., Chaparral Hills Elementary, and Bear Valley Elementary.

Many sites have planned fun and exciting activities, such as visits from local elected officials, community leaders, police officers, firefighters, and safety mascots like IEHP's "Rad Rider" and Riverside Police Department's "Buckle Bear". Walking safety cones, watermelon slices, orange slices, broccoli, red apples and grapes also have confirmed their attendance.

The event is coordinated by the County of Riverside Department of Public Health and is sponsored by a combination of public agencies, police departments, city governments and community organizations.

More information on International Walk to School Day is available online at www.rivcoips.org or www.walktoschool.org