

Safety Bear and Constable Janelle would like to remind everyone that the beginning of the school year is a time when children are at increased risk of transportation related injuries from pedestrian, bicycle, school bus, and motor vehicle crashes. Many more children are on the road each morning and afternoon and it demands that all drivers' change their driving patterns and be vigilant.

Tips for students:

- Use designated crossing points and follow the crossing signals where available
- Remove headphones from Ipods and MP3 Players when crossing the roadways
- Dress to be seen - daylight hours are decreasing so wear brighter colors or reflective material whenever possible
- Walk on the sidewalk, or if unavailable walk on the side of the road facing the traffic
- Always be aware of your surroundings



Tips for Drivers: The posted speed limit in school zones is 30 km/h from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. when students are in class. The posted speed limit in playground zones is 30 km/h from dawn to dusk, every day of the year.

- Plan ahead and be alert of children near or around crosswalks and intersections
- Always yield to pedestrians
- When dropping children off in a school zone, stop and allow them to exit the vehicle onto the sidewalk
- Do not block buses or use designated bus only areas for dropping off or picking up your children.

Did you know?

- Until children are about eight years of age, it is difficult for them to assess whether a vehicle is moving or not.
- When children see an approaching car, they first notice the colour - not how fast the vehicle is traveling.
- Children assume cars stop instantly, and do not have the ability to estimate whether there is enough time to cross the road without being struck.
- A child's field of vision is one-third narrower than an adult's.
- Children have difficulty determining where sounds are coming from.
- Most pedestrian traffic injuries happen to five- to nine-year-olds in mid-block crossings, and to 10- to 14-year-olds at intersections.
- It takes a vehicle 13 metres to come to a complete stop when driving 30 km/h, but 27 metres - more than double that distance - when driving 50 km/h.