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**CORRESPONDENCE**

**as of 12-17-2021**

**From:** [Safe Routes to School San Mateo County Office of Education Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)  
**To:** [Safe Routes to School San Mateo County Office of Education Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)  
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## San Mateo County **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

Healthy Kids • Green Communities • Safe Journeys

### **Holiday Edition 2021**



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### **Winter Safety Tips**

Seasons Greetings! 'Tis the season to sip on hot cocoa and nibble on peppermint treats. SMCOE SRTS encourages you and your family to stay safe and active during the holidays.

Walking and biking are great ways to spend time with the family and sight-see holiday

decor in your community. **Click the image below for a downloadable version of our Winter Safety Flyer in English and Spanish.**



## Winter Safety Tips

### Pedestrian and Bike Safety

- ❄️ Look and listen for traffic in all directions. Keep looking while crossing the street.
- ❄️ Be cautious when crossing driveways and alley entrances
- ❄️ Always cross at crosswalks, not between parked cars
- ❄️ Make sure you are seen by:
  - Making eye contact with drivers when crossing streets
  - Wearing bright/reflective clothes
  - Carrying a flashlight when walking in the dark

### Travel Comfortably

**1st Layer:** A Light shirt, preferably made of synthetic material

**2nd layer:** Insulation - a fleece, flannel, sweatshirt, or jacket to keep body heat in.

**3rd Layer:** Wind and rain protection with a light waterproof or water resistant jacket.

**4th Layer:** Hats and gloves will protect your ears and hands from crisp winter mornings.

**Logos:** SAN MATEO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION, San Mateo County SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL, C/CAG, and OTS TRAFFIC SAFETY.

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## AAA Grant Opportunity



In honor of Ruby Bridges, AAA is sponsoring a Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Grant Program. Apply today and receive up to \$1,000 to **kickstart your school's 2022 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day!** The grant application form is open until the end of the school year. [Click here to apply.](#)

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## **RBWTSD Recap**

**On 11/17/2021, Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day was celebrated to honor the Civil Rights Movement**

61 years ago on November 14th, Ruby Bridges integrated an all-white elementary school in New Orleans, Louisiana. Students in San Mateo County and across the nation participated in Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (RBWTSD) celebrating Ruby's courageous act of showing up for school each day, in spite of the vitriol she faced.

This year, 60 San Mateo County schools participated in RBWTSD. SMCOE received over 250+ entries for the RBWTSD poster contest! RBWTSD reminds us of the importance of the Civil Rights Movement, the power of education, and the greatness of diversity in our community.



Students at Martin Elementary in South San Francisco walk for Ruby. This is the school where it all started!



Families and students unite at Brittan Acres in San Carlos and celebrate RBWTSD.



Students cheer for Ruby with posters at Redwood Shores Elementary!

Want to learn more about Ruby Bridges? [Try the SRTS Online Game Ruby Bridges: A Virtual Walk Through](#)

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## Winterproof Your Ride!



### Winter's Here, Time to Check Our Gears!

Ride and cycle safely this holiday season with these maintenance tips:

1. Check your bike lights! Make sure your bike lights are working and bright enough to see through the fog, rain, and gloomy weather. **SMCOE SRTS recommends having two lights, one on the front of the bike and one on the back.**
2. Test your brakes. Make sure your brakes work properly. The roads are wetter and can make braking more difficult.

3. Clean and grease your bike chain, cables, and other bike parts. Due to colder weather, bike parts are more likely to corrode. A thorough cleaning with a hard bristle brush and soap can prevent build-up of dirt particles and rust. Lubricate bike parts to prevent breakage.
4. Adjust tire pressure and check traction. **SMCOE SRTS recommends checking your tire pressure before every ride because colder temperatures reduce air pressure more quickly.**
5. Invest in a Mudguard. Mudguards are a must in the winter time and prevent spray and grunge getting kicked up while you ride. Mudguards not only help protect your tires but prevent water and grunge spraying onto other riders.

***And don't forget your helmet. Need a helmet? Contact [srts@smcoe.org](mailto:srts@smcoe.org) for a free helmet and fitting. We have youth and adult sizes available!***

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## **SRTS Parent/Caregiver Survey 2021-22**

### **Annual surveys will be going LIVE in January 2022!**

Thanks to the input of parents and caregivers, SMCOE SRTS knows where to focus time and energy when we work with students, schools, and the community. A BIG THANK YOU to all who have participated in the past years! All of your comments and participation make a difference and help us create a more meaningful impact.

#### **We've gathered data from past surveys, look what we found!**

- In 2020-21, over 50% of students live less than 1-2 miles away from school.
- 80% of students who bike to/from school ALWAYS wear their helmet.
- Over 430+ students walked or roll to school during hybrid learning in 2020-2021.
- 70% of students in San Carlos biked to school in 2019-2020!
- In 2019-2020, 41% of parents/caregivers felt MOST concerned about speeding traffic. In 2020-2021, this concern was reduced to 30%.
- Comments from 2020-2021 Survey:

*"It is great that Safe Routes to School is informing the public about how to improve the health of the children."*

*"Thanks for all you do! The more we can get kids walking, biking, ride sharing or using mass transit to school, the better for them, families, and our environment!"*

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## Help Baby Yoda Escape Before the New Year!



Spend your holiday break with Baby Yoda and join us by playing the Baby Yoda's Safe Journey: A Star Wars Safe Routes to School Virtual Escape Room. As a continuation of the Star Wars saga, you will encounter familiar characters such as Finn and Rey, C-3PO, Chewbacca, BB-8, and even Darth Vader! To help Baby Yoda, participants will learn more about walking, biking, and taking COVID-19 safety precautions all while solving curious puzzles and becoming Safe Routes Jedi Knights.

The virtual escape room can be played in a group or (Han) solo and may take about twenty to thirty minutes to complete. It can also be completed multiple times. When you are ready to play, just click the link below!

[Click Here to Embark on Your Safe Journey!](#)

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