



City of Tigard Press Release

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Tigard Celebrates International Walk and Bike to School Day on Oct. 5

Schools in Tigard will join schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day on Oct. 5. Approximately 500 students from Tigard city schools will be walking and rolling to Tigard schools, along with parents, teachers and community leaders.

The event, organized by the city's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program and the Tigard-Tualatin School District, will begin before the school day with kids, parents and community leaders walking to school. Organizers will offer prizes, and the Golden Sneaker Award will be given to the school that records the higher number of walkers, bikers and rollers.

“Our vision is for Tigard to become the most walkable community in the Pacific Northwest where people of all ages and abilities enjoy healthy and interconnected lives,” said Kenny Asher, Community Development director. “Walk to school day events raise awareness for creating safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance boosting physical activity among children. They also highlight issues of pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and the environment. They build connections among families, schools and the broader community.”

Walkers and bicyclists will arrive at the schools between 7:45 and 8:15 a.m. Some schools are setting meeting places for walking school buses or bike trains. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their child's school for more information.

Last year, every Tigard school participated in at least one walk and bike to school event held in October and May. More than 1,800 parents and students took part, showing strong community support for active transportation options.

Fewer children walk or bicycle to school than did so a generation ago: In 1969, 48 percent of students between the ages of 5 and 14 walked or bicycled to or from school. In 2009, 13 percent of students between the ages of 5 and 14 walked or bicycled to or from school. In Tigard, it is less than 10 percent.

When children walk or bike to school they engage each other and neighbors in their neighborhood, increasing the sense of community and social support. For more information on Walk and Bike to School Day activities at your child's school or to get involved with the SRTS program, contact Anna Dragovich, SRTS coordinator, at **503-718-2708** and annad@tigard-or.gov. Also visit: www.tigard-or.gov/srts.

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