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# SOUTH CAROLINA

## Resource Center Newsletter



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## Partner Highlight: Crossing Guard Appreciation Events

November 17-21, 2014, was the first annual SC Crossing Guard Appreciation Week! Schools and communities across the state used this event to thank their crossing guards for their dedication to student safety. See below for a sample list of events and click [here](#) to see event photos on our Facebook page!

Ford Elementary School, in Laurens, celebrated SC Crossing Guard Appreciation Week by highlighting Scott Patterson, their crossing guard in the school's newsletter, sending him thank you notes created by the students, and providing him with breakfast!

Killian Elementary School, in Columbia, acknowledged their Outstanding Crossing Guard,



**Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT**

### From our State Coordinator:

A new study published in the Journal of the American Planning Association confirms that Safe Routes to School programming effectively increases the number of students who walk and bike to and from school. More than 800 schools from Washington DC, Florida, Oregon, and Texas collected data between 2007 and 2012 and found that the **schools**

Mr. Harvey Jackson during their November's Faculty and Staff meeting. Students made "Thank You" cards which were presented to him during the meeting along with a gift card for his commitment to Killian Elementary. WACH Fox news was also present during the meeting to interview Mr. Jackson!

Burns Elementary School loves their crossing guard, Ms. Nellie. Not only does she wave at all passersby, she also takes extra care and uses caution to keep the students of Burns Elementary safe. The school celebrated Ms. Nellie by having students make sure to thank her for her hard work. She was also celebrated by the staff and administration. Her dedication is a source of pride for Burns Elementary School.

## Resource Center News: Walking in a Winter Wonderland

**The days are shorter, but this is still a perfect time for walking and biking to school! The darker afternoons are a great opportunity to remind students of these safety tips. Be sure to review these tips before walking to school, a park, or anywhere else.**

- **Be safe and be seen.** Follow basic safety rules. Look both ways before you cross a street, cross at marked crosswalks, watch for traffic, and pay attention to cyclists. Assume drivers can't see you and proceed with caution, especially when days are short and weather conditions are unfavorable.
- **Share the way.** Be mindful of cyclists, runners, and other trail users. Walk on the right, and listen for bells and audible warnings.
- **Walk with friends** or in places where there are other walkers, especially in the early morning and evening hours.
- Suppress the cold-weather hibernation

**that implemented SRTS education and encouragement initiatives saw a 5% increase in walking and biking rates each year!**

[Click here to read more about this study.](#) Contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance with education and encouragement strategies at your school!

**Learning Opportunity: SC Safe Routes to School Forum June 18, 2015!**

Mark your calendars! The SRTS Resource Center will be holding the Statewide Safe Routes to School Forum on June 18, 2015 at Spring Valley High School in Columbia. Participants will spend the day learning how to support and improve their SRTS program. The day-long event will include topics such as pedestrian and bicycle safety training, funding resources, and starting new or improving one's SRTS programs. This will be an excellent opportunity to share ideas with and learn from school champions, school district administrators, SCDOT officials, bicycle and pedestrian and Safe Routes experts, and public safety personnel. Join us, to learn

instinct by thinking "**brisk**" and "**invigorating**" **for your walks. Dress in layers to stay warm.** Don't forget your mittens or gloves and hat - you lose 35 percent of your body heat through your head! Watch for icy spots along routes!

- **Pay extra attention to your feet.** Wear warm socks with room for toe wiggling. Lace up walking shoes with plenty of traction for those occasional icy patches.
- **Wear bright or reflective clothing, and carry a flashlight to stay visible.** With fewer daylight hours and cloudy conditions, it's important to wear a high-visibility outer layer.

## Spotlight on a Friend: Partners for Active Living

[Partners for Active Living](#) (PAL) coordinates an award and recognition program for iWalk events in Spartanburg County. The Golden Shoe Awards are sponsored by Chartwells School Dining Services, Safe Kids of Spartanburg, and PAL.

Thirteen schools submitted applications for the Chartwells Golden Shoe award, and the competition was fierce. Evaluation criteria included parent, school and community involvement, school activities incorporated into the events, and ability to use the event as a catalyst to establish sustainable physical activity programs in the school. Click below to read about the Golden Shoe recipients in Spartanburg County!

1<sup>st</sup> Place: [Mary H. Wright Elementary, Spartanburg](#)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: [Boiling Springs Intermediate School, Boiling Springs](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: [Lone Oak Elementary, Spartanburg](#)

Breakthrough Award: [Spartanburg School District 4](#)

**If you would like to nominate a community**

and network with other schools and groups that are all committed to creating safe, healthy environments for students!

## Upcoming Event: SC Walk to School Day

**[South Carolina Walk to School Day](#) registration will open in January!** The official event is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 4<sup>th</sup>**, but schools will be celebrating throughout March. There are many ways to participate. Schools can plan various walk-and-roll *to* school, park-and-walk, walk *at* school or walk-and-roll *from* school events. No matter the activity, the goal is to emphasize how walking and biking are healthy and fun activities.

Please contact your **[School Outreach Coordinator](#)** with any questions or to receive assistance with planning your school's SC Walk to School Day!

## Not a Silver Level Partner Yet?

Due to the success of so many schools participating in Walk to School Day events in South Carolina each year, the Resource Center will only be able to provide unique

organization for our "Outstanding Friend" designation, please complete our [online nomination form](#). We're accepting nominations on a rolling basis and will announce the next round of "Outstanding Community Friends" in January 2015!

## Grant Opportunity: Dr. Scholl Foundation Grant

The Dr. Scholl Foundation annually accepts grants for projects that positively impact the environment ; selected projects typically receive between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

Think about how SRTS programming can have a positive outcome on air quality by preventing or reducing vehicle emissions around your school! Funds could be used toward establishing walking school buses, bike trains, or making safety improvements for walkers and bike riders.

**Applications are due March 1<sup>st</sup>.** [Click here for more information.](#)

Like us on 

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"[Like](#)" us to stay updated on interesting news articles, upcoming events and different funding and learning opportunities!

incentives such as the very popular glow in the dark silicone bracelets to [Silver and Gold Level Partners](#). As of last year, Bronze Level schools no longer receive these types of incentives, but they will receive other incentives for participating in Walk and Bike to School Day events.

Click [here](#) to see the requirements to become at least a Silver Level Partner! There is still plenty of time to achieve Silver status before the end of the school year. Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance.



*The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center is a program of the South Carolina DOT*

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