



CITYWIDE SAFE ROUTES to SCHOOL

An Active Transportation Community * City of Rialto is an e3p3 Model City



City helps six RUSD elementary schools to celebrate Walking School Bus Day

Rialto, CA (Oct. 13, 2017) – The City of Rialto, in partnership with the Rialto Unified School District, and its six selected elementary schools, will be participating in *Walking School Bus Day* on Tuesday, October 17, 2017.

On the morning of Oct. 17, principals, teachers, support and district staff, city staff and community volunteers will be assisting RUSD students, who will be participating in *Walking School Bus Day*.

“A Walking School Bus is a group of students walking to school with one or more adults,” said Rialto City **Mayor Robertson**. “It’s a great way to get students excited about walking to school because they get to spend the morning trip into school with family and friends.”

Six RUSD elementary schools: **Dunn, Highbanks, Kelley, Morgan, Preston, and Myers** will be participating in the Walking School Bus event. The event will begin at 7:10 am with students, parents, and community leaders gathering at designated Walking School Bus “Bus Stops.” Each Walking School Bus will begin the walk into school at 7:20 a.m., and will arrive at school by 7:30 a.m. The elementary school’s instruction time begins at 8:00 a.m.

“Walking School Bus activity is not only a healthier alternative, but it also assists in reducing traffic congestion in some of our schools,” RUSD **Superintendent Dr. Cuauhtémoc Avila**, stated. “Walking, in general, is always a healthier choice for all of us. However, our parents/guardians, who live within walking distance from their child’s school, can definitely take advantage of this program, which, in turn, promotes a healthier lifestyle.”

Rialto City Administrator, **Mike Story** added, “We know that children who get regular physical activity, such as walking, are more alert and ready to learn.”

Walking School Bus Day is an activity of Rialto’s Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. Safe Routes to School aims to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasizes the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children and safety.

Rialto Chief of Educational Safety and Security, **Gordon Leary**, attended many SRTS meetings prior to this program. Chief Leary said, “Encouraging schools, students, and community to participate in the Walking School Bus activity will help to create safer neighborhoods for all of our children.”

Rialto Police Lieutenant, **Robert Smith**, South Area Commander of Operations, replied, “In collaboration with the Rialto Unified School District, and the City of Rialto’s Public Works Department, we hope through education, engineering, and enforcement, we can all do our part to make the streets of Rialto safer for everyone.”

For additional information, please contact **Katie Nickel** at (909) 820-2602 or the Rialto Educational Safety Department at (909) 421-7609.

For additional information, please visit Rialto Safe Routes to School: <http://yourrialto.com/srts/> or the National Center for Safe Routes to School www.saferoutesinfo.org

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