



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



## **Kentfield School District Office**

### **Task Force Meeting Notes**

**August 7, 2013**

#### **Present (12)**

Wendi Kallins – Program Director for Safe Routes to Schools; Laura Kelly – Volunteer Liaison for Safe Routes to Schools; Carey Lando – Senior Transportation Planner, County of Marin; Nancy Vernon – Aide to Supervisor Katie Rice; Paul Miller – Facilities Manager for Kentfield Schools; Sally Peck – Principal at Bacich Elementary School; Jeff Kubiak – Assistant Principal at Bacich Elementary; Jenny Walsh – Vice Principal at Kentfield Middle School; Marnie Ganong – Kentfield School parent volunteer; Heather McPhail – Bacich School parent volunteer; Glenn Newcomber – California Highway Patrol; Brian Miller – California Highway Patrol.

#### **Announcements for August 2013:**

Safe Routes to School National Conference  
August 13-15, 2013 • Sacramento, California

We need Marin County support at the State Capitol on Thursday afternoon, August 15<sup>th</sup> by coming to the [Safe Routes to School Advocacy Day](#) in Sacramento. We need your voice on to remind elected officials that Safe Routes to School is needed in communities across California. An Active Transportation Program has been proposed and is very likely to significantly change funding for walking and bicycling in California. The Advocacy Day is part of the last day of the Safe Routes to School National Conference. The Safe Routes to Schools Marin County staff will be present and welcome your presence in joining us.

#### **Neighborhood Captains Meeting**

At a recent meeting of neighborhood captains led by Heather, the group reflected on last year to review what worked, and what did not. Heather shared that there are now 17 neighborhood captains in place, and all 17 will be returning to lead their neighborhoods in traveling green this upcoming school year. Eight of the 17 captains are located in Greenbrae. The student population at Bacich is now at 700 students.

### *Scanners*

Moving forward, it was agreed upon that the scanner system would be used only on Wednesday mornings for the upcoming 2013-14 school year. The scanners were an intensely time-consuming task for volunteer parents the past year. It was decided that the scanning system would be relinquished to the school's Green Team of 40 students to administer in the quad area. Parents will no longer be involved.

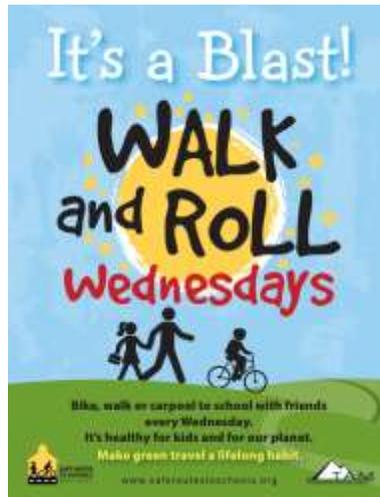
The Green Team is comprised of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who enjoy the process of counting walkers and bikers. Wendi suggested having the Green Team count all of the bicycles at the bike racks every Wednesday as a way to record all bikers, in case a biker bypassed the scanner area at the school quad. Wendi also shared that funding for the scanner data fee this school year would need to come from the Bacich PTA budget. She estimated the fee to be under \$200. Safe Routes to Schools paid for the data fee last year, and provided the scanners to Bacich. Wendi said there is a new phone app that can be used for scanning. She will also be investigating the costs of a new phone scanner app at the upcoming National Safe Routes to Schools National Conference in mid-August.

### *Incentives for students*

The neighborhood captains discussed ideas for student incentives to increase the numbers of walkers and bikers this upcoming school year. The group brainstormed on new ways to recognize the efforts of students who are making green travel a habit. One suggestion was to purchase and distribute wristbands to acknowledge students that regularly walk, bike or carpool. Another idea was to present students with an award certificate to kids that are walking or biking on a consistent basis.

Laura shared that more incentives have been ordered by SR2S for the upcoming fall for all schools. Schools will be supplied with colorful magnets in September, iWalk and iBike buttons for October, and green Walk and Roll pencils for November. Safe Routes to Schools is branding more and launching a countywide "Walk and Roll Wednesdays" campaign on September 11, 2013 for all continuing schools. The later date is to accommodate for the Larkspur school district, which starts school after Labor Day.

New "Walk and Roll Wednesdays" table banners have been designed for all schools to set-up the first Wednesday of every month. New "Walk and Roll" T-shirts will be supplied to all volunteer parents that staff their school's Walk and Roll Wednesday tables the first Wednesday of every month. A new volunteer guide will be distributed at the upcoming volunteer parent luncheon on August 27, at 11:30 am at the San Rafael Community Center. The new guide outlines ways to promote every Wednesday as a green travel day at all Marin County schools.



*Posters for classrooms*

*Colorful refrigerator magnets to be distributed in September:*



### *Communications between neighborhood groups*

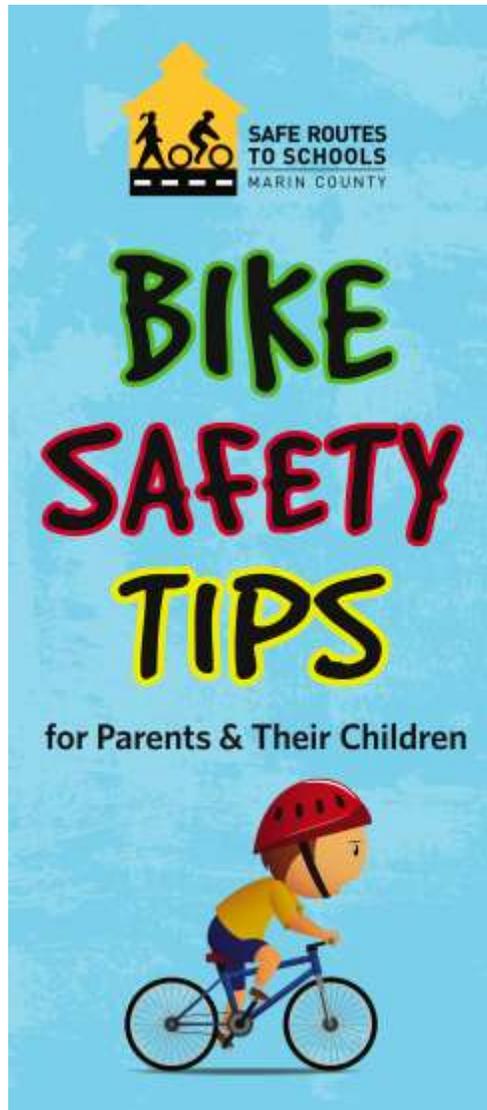
Bacich Elementary is currently using email to communicate with neighborhood captains. Kentfield Middle School now had Blackboard Connect as a communications tool for mass notifications. Blackboard Connect is fast and user-friendly, and has real-time message delivery, which includes texting.

### *Promoting Safe Riding*

Heather said that promoting safe bike riding is a priority for all neighborhood captains. She described their "pie in the sky" is to receive training from the CHP to mentor the neighborhood captains to be safety advocates. Wendi shared that a new Bike Safety Tips pamphlet was developed by Safe Routes to Schools this summer for parents and their children. All neighborhood captains will be provided the new pamphlets this month to give to the students in their neighborhoods that bike to school.

Safe Routes to Schools will schedule 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade safety classes taught by SR2S instructors this September at Bacich Elementary. Classes will also be taught afterschool at Kentfield Middle School.

*New Bike Safety Pamphlet Cover:*



### **Infrastructure Updates**

Carey said that the County is meeting quarterly with CHP to address safety issues, and bring to the forefront the most important ones. The plans for limited parking times in front of Bacich School are underway. The end goal is to have two-hour restricted parking at Bacich to allow for easier drop off flow of students, with less congestion. The County is in communications with the CHP Seal team to work out the details. Plans are moving forward, but not approved yet.

Nancy mentioned that we will need to watch for Marin Catholic students parking in the spots. College of Marin Students park at the end of the Kentfield driveway. Nancy said she is working with one parent concerned about the congestion at the other end of McCallister near Stadium Way. Can there be restricted parking? The first step is getting neighbors to okay.

Heather asked if there are any plans for improvements for McCallister this year? Carey said no. Carey said they have a long repaving list that is prioritized. There is a rating system used for pavement management. Wendi said the County has been extremely busy. The County is backlogged from other projects with unincorporated areas.

### **CHP Update**

Working on Bacich restricted parking, McCallister and Stadium. Looking forward to starting the school year fresh. Need to obtain the minimum days schedule.

McCallister on the backside of Bacich – inside the school is the pick up for the younger students. There is only room for six cars. It appears there might be room for another 6-8 cars. That would alleviate the 6-8 cars that cause back up on McCallister. It's one-way traffic to draw a new line. CHP to meet with Principal and setup a meeting to discuss with Paul Miller and Sally Peck.

**Our next Kentfield Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**