



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Vallejo Schools Celebrate International Walk to School Day

SUISUN CITY, CA –Schools in Vallejo will welcome fall by participating in International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 3rd, 2012. Students, families and teachers from Pennycook Elementary School will be joining with community leaders to celebrate walking and rolling to school.

Held on the first Wednesday of every October, Walk to School Day is an internationally recognized day to celebrate the benefits of active transportation by encouraging school children to walk and bicycle to school. Cities and local health departments join in the celebration by urging schools across the world to take part in Walk or Roll to School Day. “The goal of the Solano Safe Routes to School Program is to get students to walk most days of the week. International Walk to school day is the perfect opportunity to encourage students to walk or bike to school” said Vice Mayor Erin Hannigan.

Walk to School activities provide opportunities for communities to address safety concerns around schools. Reducing the risk of injury includes teaching children age-appropriate walking and bicycling skills, reminding drivers to be extra vigilant in watching for young walkers and bicyclists, and identifying and eliminating hazardous conditions along routes to school that need to be fixed. Walk to School activities can also help children reach the minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity on most days of the week as recommended by the U.S. Surgeon General.

“Getting students back on foot is a major step towards improving their health in several ways. They become more physically fit along with family members who choose to walk with them as Walking School Bus leaders. With fewer cars, there is less traffic congestion which also improves air quality and decreases asthma triggers,” said Robin Cox, Solano County Public Health, Community Wellness Bureau Manager.

Pennycook Elementary School will start walking or bicycling to school at 8:00 a.m., with walking school buses and bicycle trains arriving at school by 8:15 a.m. Once at school, students will be greeted by City of Vallejo community leaders.

Solano Safe Routes to School (SR2S) is a program of the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) in partnership with Solano County Public Health Department, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to encourage children to walk or bike to school for the benefit of health, safety and the environment. For more information about the SR2S program contact Danelle Carey, STA’s SR2S Assistant Program Manager at dcarey@sta-snci.com or 707-399-3219, or go to the website: www.SolanoSR2S.ca.gov. For more information about Walk to School Day, contact Tracy Nachand at tnachand@solanocounty.com or 707-553-5543.

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