

August 22, 2013

Back to school with an eye to safety

With more than 5,000 children going back to 19 Campbell River schools in September, the City is reminding drivers about school zone safety.

School zone speeds are in effect during school hours, and drivers should expect traffic congestion as well as more pedestrians, cyclists and busses en route to schools.

“Remember to watch for children going to, from and around schools,” says Drew Hadfield, the City’s transportation manager. “With all the construction underway in the community right now, drivers should also aim to leave a bit early, and allow extra time to get to where they’re going.”

In the interest of keeping everybody safe, here are some highlights of the rules of the road:

- 30km/hr school zones are in effect where indicated by signs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., school days
- Always wear seat belts
- No talking or texting on cell phones while driving
- Yield to pedestrians at crosswalks
- Watch for flashing amber lights at crosswalks, which indicate that a pedestrian may be waiting to cross the road
- Parking regulations apply at all times. Park only where permitted.
- No parking zones include:
 - within six metres of a stop sign
 - within five metres of a fire hydrant
 - where signs prohibit parking
 - where there is a yellow curb
 - where there is a red curb

“With warm summer weather extending into fall, this is a good time to try other modes of transportation to school as well,” Hadfield adds. “Walking, bicycling and taking transit are healthy, environmentally-friendly and lower-cost alternatives to driving to school.”

Pedestrians can take advantage of new sidewalks installed on Goodwin Road, Penfield Road, Juniper Road, Pinecrest Road, and 3rd Avenue. The City has also painted new bicycle lanes along Highway 19A between 1st Avenue and 5th Avenue.

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