

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2015



Media Contact:

Allison Thrash, Health Information Officer
Santa Clara County Public Health Department
Office: 408-792-5155; Mobile: 669-225-0050
Allison.Thrash@phd.sccgov.org

WEDNESDAY IS INTERNATIONAL WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY – STUDENTS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY TO “WALK AND ROLL”

Santa Clara County, CA. Wednesday, October 7th is International Walk and Bike to School Day. Elementary, middle, and high school students from across Santa Clara County are joining in a weeklong celebration promoting active transportation October 5-9, 2015. More than 30 elementary, middle and high schools across Santa Clara County will be participating in events throughout this week, along with parents, teachers and community leaders.

A special, kickoff event is scheduled at Las Animas Elementary School in Gilroy on Wednesday October 7, 2015. Students and school officials will be joined by Supervisor Mike Wasserman, School Board Members, Gilroy police officers, and SHARKIE (San Jose Shark’s mascot) to encourage students to “Walk & Roll to School” that day.

The goal of the event is to raise awareness of the need to create safer routes for walking and bicycling for all Santa Clara County communities, and to emphasize the importance of increasing physical activity among children, improving pedestrian and bicycle safety, and reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. In addition, the events build connections between families, schools and the broader community

Event Details:

Where:

Las Animas Elementary School, 6550 Cimino St, Gilroy, CA 95020

When:

Students Walk & Roll to School: 7:30am-8:10am

Assembly: 8:20am-8:55am

Who:

District 1 Supervisor Mike Wasserman; Mayor Don Gage; School Superintendent Dr. Deborah Flores; School board members; Gilroy police officers; County Emergency Medical Services; Sharkie (San Jose Shark’s mascot); and students, teachers and parents of Las Animas Elementary

About International Walk to School Day

- In Santa Clara County, Walk and Bike to School Day is supported by the Public Health Department and the Traffic Safe Communities Network.
- Walk to School Day was established in the United States in 1997 by the Partnership for a Walkable America. Canada and Great Britain already had walk to school programs in place. In 2000, these three countries joined together to create International Walk to School Day.
- In May 2006, the National Center for Safe Routes to School was established to assist communities in enabling and encouraging children to safely walk and bike to school.
- Walk to School Day began as a simple idea – children and parents, school and local officials walking to school together on a designated day. It is an energizing event, reminding everyone of the simple joy of walking to school.
- Organizations supporting International Walk to School Day in the United States include America Walks, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the National Center for Bicycling and Walking, the National Center for Safe Routes to School, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Safe Kids Worldwide, and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership.

For more information, please visit:

- Santa Clara County Public Health: www.sccphd.org/traffic
- National Center for Safe Routes to School: www.saferoutesinfo.org
- International Walk to School Day: www.iwalktoschool.org

###