Press Release

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Thousands of Students to Walk & Roll in Their Neighborhoods on October 19-23

Over 120 Alameda County schools have signed up to participate in International Walk and Roll Week from Monday, October 19 to Friday, October 23, 2020 while distance learning throughout the county

ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif. – Although it may look a bit different than in years past, thousands of Alameda County school students will enjoy the health benefits of walking, riding, rolling, and/or scooting around their neighborhoods during International Walk and Roll Week. In response to schools continuing to implement distanced learning, the annual event, which has traditionally been International Walk and Roll to School Day, will be a week-long celebration. Throughout the week, students, their families, and teachers will participate in an array of activities. Students who track their participation will be eligible to win prizes.

International Walk and Roll Week is organized by <u>Alameda County's Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program</u>, which works in schools across Alameda County to encourage walking and biking to and from school and teaches walking and biking safety.

Organized around daily themes, the week's activities will be aimed at encouraging physical activity and healthy habits through safe biking, rolling, and walking behavior. It will also be a chance for students to celebrate their school and community spirit from their own neighborhood.

Participating students and families will be able to use an International Walk and Roll Week passport for students to track their walking and rolling throughout the week; for convenience, both hard copy and online versions of the passport are available. Students and families submit the passport, students and families will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win prizes.

Below are the themes for each day of International Walk and Roll Week:

- Monday: Explore your neighborhood
- Tuesday: Show off colorful and kooky socks on your walk or roll!
- Wednesday: Dress up as your favorite character from a book!

- Thursday: Put on your silliest hat and take it for a spin!
- Friday: Be kind to the environment identify three trees on your street.

Participants are encouraged to take photos and videos from the event and post them on their school's website and/or on social media using the hashtags #WalkandRollWeek and #WalktoSchoolDay. Since schools will not be physically hosting events this year and there will not be opportunities for in-person media coverage, media is invited to follow participation on social media using these hashtags. Media can also reach out to relevant school contacts for site-specific information. To learn more, please visit the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program International Walk & Roll Week webpage.

Beyond the week itself, the Safe Routes to Schools program provides <u>resources for continuing this spirit</u> <u>throughout the year</u> by celebrating a Walk and Roll day once a month, every week, or even each school day.

About the Alameda County Transportation Commission

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) coordinates countywide transportation planning and delivers essential, voter-supported transportation improvements in every city throughout Alameda County. Alameda CTC administers the county's Safe Routes to Schools Program and provides most of its funding through the voter approved transportation sales tax Measures B and BB, which were approved by 81.5 percent of county voters in 2000, and more than 70 percent of voters in 2014, respectively. Visit Alameda CTC's website to learn more, and follow Alameda CTC on Facebook and Twitter.

About Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools

Safe Routes to Schools is a comprehensive and effective approach to getting more kids biking, rolling, and walking safely to school. It provides kids and their parents with skills, encouragement, and inspiration through a range of activities, events, and lessons, while also addressing local pedestrian, bicycle and personal safety concerns. Operating since 2006, the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is funded in part by Alameda CTC with Alameda County's local Measure B and Measure BB sales taxes, and regional, state, and federal funds, serving more than 140 schools throughout the county. Visit the <u>Safe Routes to School website</u> to learn more.