



GEORGIA AVENUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

625 Georgia Avenue, Nanaimo, BC V9R 3W3

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January 8, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the last couple of days, we have held safety talks with our Grades 4-7 classes. I have facilitated these talks along with our school Liaison Officer, Constable Sam Caram. I wanted to inform you of the key points we discussed in hopes that you could continue to reinforce traffic safety with your child at home. These talks were prompted by several complaints/concerns that parents and the public have brought forward due to observations of unsafe and concerning youth behaviour witnessed recently.

Key Points:

- **Be visible:**
 - Avoid all dark clothing, consider reflectors
 - At crosswalks make eye contact with drivers before crossing (consider even giving a wave)

- **Be predictable:**
 - Walk your scooter, bike, or skateboards across crosswalks.
 - Drivers are not expecting pedestrians or bikes, scooters etc... to be behind them in a parking lot
 - Drivers are not expecting scooters, skateboards or bikes being ridden across sidewalks.
 - Don't go out onto the road to pass pedestrians on the sidewalk

- **Be courteous and responsible:**
 - Pedestrians have the right of way on sidewalks, get off your scooter/skateboard to walk past (staying on the sidewalk).
 - Don't ride in areas that are congested with pedestrians (including on school property before and after school)

- Don't block areas where cars have the right of way (including parking lot)
 - Be patient – sometimes we choose an unsafe route or do unsafe things because we are in a hurry – safety needs to come first
 - Report unsafe behaviour – bringing this to our attention could prevent injuries
- **Be aware of your surroundings and don't make assumptions about drivers:**
- Look both ways before crossing the crosswalk. Make sure cars are coming to a stop before stepping into the crosswalk.
 - Don't assume that drivers see you.
 - Don't assume that all drivers are following proper driver safety. Distracted driving and speeding are very common.
 - Don't allow friends walking with you or your technology (cell phone) to distract you from observing your surroundings. Keep your head and eyes up.
 - If your parents drop you off at school use only the drop off zone, where you get out of the car and step onto a sidewalk (not the middle of the parking lot or on the left side of the drop off lane where you would have to walk through traffic).
 - If your parents drop you off, be ready to quickly get out of the vehicle so that others don't have to wait for a spot to drop off.

Thank you for your support with this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Frey'.

Lisa Frey,
Principal