HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY



Mary Ann Lee Managing Director

830 Scenic Drive, P.O. Box 3271, Modesto, CA 95353 Fax: (209)558-8320 www.hsahealth.org

NUMBER: 06-FOR RELEASE: IM

06-27 IMMEDIATE DATE: October 3, 2006 CONTACT: Phoebe Leung PHONE: (209) 558-7116

Stanislaus County Schools to celebrate International Walk to School Day throughout the month of October

Photo Opportunity

Stanislaus County – Throughout the month of October, schools in Stanislaus County will be joining schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day.

Approximately 1,500 students from Wakefield, Tuolumne, Orville Wright, Robertson Road, Marshall, Brown, Cloverland, Denair, Franklin and Shackelford Elementary Schools will be walking to school this October along with parents, teachers and community leaders. The Stanislaus County Safe Communities Coalition, Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, law enforcement personnel, City of Modesto Mayor along with the County Public Health Officer and other Health Services Agency staff will be walking with the children to show their support of this program.

Each event will begin before school with kids, parents and community leaders walking from various locations around each school site (listed below). Other special activities associated with the walk include promotional assemblies where students learn about pedestrian and bicycle safety. Students will also complete "walkability" checklists, to help the Safe Communities Coalition identify areas of concern for pedestrian safety in our neighborhoods.

Walk to School events work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling by raising community awareness and teaching kids how to be safe pedestrians. The events emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment, and building connections between families, schools and the broader community.

Local Walk to School Day activities are coordinated by the Stanislaus County Safe Communities Coalition, whose goal is to raise awareness of pedestrian and bicycle safety throughout Stanislaus County. "Walk to School Day is a very important community event for our local schools as it brings awareness to the safety concerns students face on a daily basis while walking to school," said Gity Miller, the Safe Communities Coalition chair. Members of the Coalition include County and City departments, law enforcement agencies, community based organizations, local businesses and grocers, schools, and community members.

- continued -

In the United States, International Walk to School Day is expected to include 5,000 schools from all 50 states. Walkers from the U.S. will join children and adults in 40 countries around the world.

Photo opportunities will be available at the following locations:

October 4, Wakefield Elementary 400 South Ave., Turlock

Walkers are leaving at 7:45 am from the following locations: Corner of Laurel St. and High St. Corner of South Ave. and West Ave. Corner of Butte Way and Jordan Ave. 8:00 a.m. children should be arriving on campus

October 5, Tuolumne Elementary 707 Herndon Rd., Modesto

Walkers are leaving at 7:45 am from the following locations: Corner of Lombardo Ave. and Perfidia St. Corner of Vito Ave.and Herndon Rd. Corner of Cadillac Dr. and Lucchesi Ln. 8:00 a.m. children should be arriving on campus

October 6, Orville Wright Elementary School 1602 Monterey St., Modesto

Walkers are leaving at 7:45 a.m. from the following locations:
Corner of Benson Ave. and Oregon Dr.
Corner of Oregon Dr. and Empire Ave.
Corner of Kerr Ave. and Tenaya Dr.
8:00 a.m. children should be arriving on campus

October 11, Robertson Road School

Walkers are leaving at 8:00 am from the following locations: Corner of Robertson Rd. and Sutter Corner of Robertson Rd. and Marlow Corner of Hammond and Cynthia Ln. 8:15 a.m. children should be arriving on campus

October 12, James Marshall School

515 Sutter Ave., Modesto

1821 Robertson Road, Modesto

Walkers are leaving at 7:45 am from the following locations: Corner of Western Way and Yosemite Ave. Corner of Colorado Ave. and Rouse Ave. Corner of Rouse Ave. and Josilane 8:00 a.m. children should be arriving on campus

October 13, Brown Elementary School 1400 Georgetown Ave., Turlock

Walkers are leaving at 7:45 a.m. from the following locations: Corner of Georgetown Ave. and N. Walnut Rd. Corner of Tuloumne Rd. and Crowell Rd. Corner of Georgetown Ave. and Dels Ln. 8:00 a.m. children should be arriving on campus

- continued -

October 17, Cloverland Elementary School 201 E. Johnson St., Oakdale

Walkers are leaving at 7:45 a.m. from the following locations: Southwest corner of 6th and E St. South side of Valley View and C St. Southwest corner of 6th and D St. 8:00 a.m. children should be arriving on campus

October 20, Denair Elementary School

3460 Lester Rd., Denair

Walkers are leaving at 7:45 a.m. from the following locations: Corner of Main St. and Gratton Rd., Denair Community Center Denair High School Football Field, Monte Vista 8:00 a.m. children should be arriving on campus

October 25, Franklin Elementary School 120 S. Emerald Ave., Modesto

Walkers are leaving at 8:45 a.m. from the following locations: Corner of California Ave. and Emerald Ave. Corner of Mathia Dr. and Emerald Ave. Corner of Maze Blvd. and Spencer 9:00 a.m. children should be arriving on campus

October 31, Shackelford Elementary School 100 School Ave., Modesto

Walkers are leaving at 7:45 a.m. from the following locations:
Corner of Crows Landing and Pueblo Ave.
Corner of Crows Landing and Hatch Rd.
Corner of Boulder Ave. and Broadway Ave.
8:00 a.m. children should be arriving on campus

###