



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
Department of Public Works  
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**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**From:** Rosalie Wessels, Administrative Assistant  
Kathy Brown, Public Works Director  
**Date:** September 21, 2015  
**Subject:** WALK YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WEEK PROCLAMATION

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Mayor proclaim October 5-9, 2015, as Walk Your Child to School Week in Kirkland.

**BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

The City of Kirkland continues to be active in partnering with the Lake Washington School District to develop safe routes to school. A portion of the Streets Levy funding is dedicated to pedestrian safety, benefitting students walking or biking to school. Since 2013, twenty-six Rapid Flashing Beacons (RFB's) have been installed in the City, including street junctions along the Cross Kirkland Corridor interim trail. Seven of the RFB's were installed on Safe Routes to School. These crossings will benefit students walking to schools, and will also increase overall pedestrian safety in Kirkland. In addition, a Safe Routes to School map was adopted by the City Council in early 2014.

The 7<sup>th</sup> of October is International Walk to School Day. The City Council supports school safety and healthy, active lifestyles by declaring the Walk Your Child to School Week each year with a proclamation, and it is time again to declare October 5-9 the annual Walk Your Child to School Week in Kirkland.

School events are planned and carried out primarily by PTA volunteers at each school. City staff help by coordinating Fire and Police appearances and the use of Ped Bee costumes at each participating school. Council members are invited to participate by visiting any of the schools' events, generally held in the morning at the beginning of the school day. Below is the event schedule with the nine schools in Kirkland that have thus far planned to participate. Lakeview Elementary, not on the schedule, held their Walk Your Child to School Week September 21-25. Changes, additions, or updates will be emailed to the Council as events are firmed up.

<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday, Oct 5	AG Bell Elementary	8:30 AM
Monday, Oct 5	Juanita Elementary	8:30 AM
Tuesday, Oct 6	Thoreau Elementary	8:30 AM
Tuesday, Oct 6	Peter Kirk Elementary	8:10 AM

Wednesday, Oct 7	Robert Frost Elementary	8:15 AM
Thursday, Oct 8	Ben Franklin Elementary	8:25 AM
Thursday, Oct 8	Rose Hill Elementary	8:00 AM
Friday, Oct 9	AG Bell Elementary	8:30 AM
Friday, Oct 9	Mark Twain Elementary	8:00 AM

Students and parents from each school will be invited to the October 6 City Council meeting to be present in the audience while a selected group receive the Proclamation from the Mayor. The school coordinators will be encouraging students and parents to support this important week in Kirkland to emphasize the priorities of pedestrian safety and healthy kids in Kirkland.

Attachment: Proclamation



## A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

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### **Proclaiming October 5-9, 2015 as "Walk Your Child to School Week" in Kirkland, Washington**

**WHEREAS**, the National Center for Safe Routes to School, a group working to improve safety and health and walking conditions for children, encourages local communities to support International Walk to School Day and similar activities; and

**WHEREAS**, walking or biking to school supports an active, healthy lifestyle through a common and enjoyable form of exercise and teaches children the skills to walk and bicycle safely and to identify safe routes to school; and

**WHEREAS**, Kirkland voters approved the Street Levy in 2012 which provides annual funding toward creating and enhancing school walk routes to elementary schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kirkland City Council has approved the Walkable Kirkland Innovative appropriating \$400,000 annually from 2015-2020 to complete school walk routes and community based neighborhood safety program projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kirkland recognizes the importance of pedestrian safety and has constructed multiple improvements to school walk routes across the City, including twenty-six Rapid Flashing Beacons at strategic school and other crosswalk sites since 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kirkland has asked the Lake Washington School District to have the Cross Kirkland Corridor as a school walk route; and

**WHEREAS**, children and parents in Kirkland are encouraged to walk or bicycle to school every day, but particularly during the week of October 5 through 9, 2015;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Amy Walen, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim the week of October 5 to 9, 2015, as "Walk Your Child to School Week" in the City of Kirkland, Washington and encourage Kirkland residents to participate in this annual event and to always consider the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2015

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Amy Walen, Mayor