

# **KNW** **Kissimmee Neighborhood Watch**

## **The Traffic Corner- Walking to School**

The first day of school in Osceola County is August 7, 2006. As a result, there will be much more pedestrian traffic, including both experienced walkers and little ones walking to school for the first time. There will also be drivers, walkers and bicyclists new to our area. Please watch out for them and our crossing guards.

Do you remember as a youngster being excited to go back to school? Running everywhere and eager to see your friends that first week of school? Cars, traffic and safety were not at the top of your list. Well, some things never change.

It is our responsibility as adults to teach the kids safety. It is also our responsibility to watch out for them.

Your child is safest when walking with others you know and trust. Meet your neighbors and agree on a good time for everyone to walk together. Just remember to also agree on the route the kids will walk and emphasize the safety rules.

If you have students walking or bicycling to school, please take the time to walk or bike the route you want them to take. Point out any safety issues. Are there places where branches hang down or the sidewalk is broken? Let the City know so they can be corrected or repaired.

Do you know the names, addresses and phone numbers of your child's friends? If your child does not come straight home from school, do you know the route they take, who they walk with, or how to contact their friends?

You should also know the location and scheduled times of the crossing guards. What time does the school allow students on campus? Students should not be arriving and waiting outside the gates of the school. The school, the crossing guard, or other adults in the area are not responsible for a student waiting to be let onto school property.

Point out the McGruff Trucks to your children and teach them to flag down a McGruff Driver if they need help.

As you are driving through an area congested with students, stay off the phone and pay attention to what is going on around you. Kids have been known to run across traffic to meet a friend or fall off a bike right in front of you. Slow down and leave early, so you won't be impatient if you are delayed by a school bus, crossing guard or traffic problems.

Remember, nothing is as important as the safety of everyone in our community.

If you have questions about school crossing times, locations or other traffic related topics, please contact the Traffic Enforcement Unit of the Kissimmee Police Department at 407.846.3333.