

Area students to celebrate the walk to school

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EASTON — The wheels on the bus go ... left-right, left-right.

As part of International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, about 530 Olmsted School children, parents and community leaders school bus” and huff a one-mile route from Parkview Field to the Olmsted School, said Jennifer Hruniak, recreation director for th

Hruniak said International Walk to School Day is Step 1 in a series of Walking Wednesdays to be held this month and next, with chaperone a series of four routes to the school.

She said Easton will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with children and adults from about 5,000 other U.S. schools and pedestrians fro

In Brockton, students at the Brookfield and Downey elementary schools will be encouraged to walk to school Wednesday followir school walking zone maps, according to the National Center for Safe Routes to School.

The walks aim to create safer routes, promote physical activity among children and pedestrian safety, decrease motor vehicle cc strengthen community connections, she said.

“It’s about parents and children being involved together, getting to know their neighbors ... bringing a sense of community,” Hrunia

“We’re hoping it takes off. Once other families see it, more families will walk,” she said.

Ann Agurkis, who is a member of the Activate Easton committee, said she hopes the walks raise awareness of safety hazards fa students, the majority of whom walk to school.

Activate Easton promotes healthy eating habits and physical activities and educates the communities about ways to improve hea quality of life.

Agurkis said there are no crossing guards at some corners and no sidewalks on some streets.

She said that instead of carpooling, a parent could walk with a number of children.

Parents and others are free to propose walking routes and to volunteer as chaperones. Chaperones would need to pass a CORI

“One of our goals is to encourage and provide opportunities for more activity, so the walking school bus is to encourage more ch school,” Agurkis said.

Olmsted School Principal Gary Mazzola said many students are dropped off at school, and with more than 1,000 students attendi Richardson schools, traffic gets congested.

“The traffic situation is not good,” he said. “The cars ring around the back parking lot.”

Mazzola said the Olmsted School would also start walking recess on Wednesdays with children to walk around the school perime

Mazzola, the Activate Easton committee and the Easton YMCA are organizing the event in Easton.

On the Web International Walk to School in the USA: www.walktoschool.org National Center for Safe Routes to School: www.saf International Walk to School: www.iwalktoschool.org Executive Office of Transportation – MassRIDES: www.commute.com

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