

# BikeSonoma

PROMOTING BICYCLING FOR  
TRANSPORTATION & RECREATION



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 4, 2006**

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**Parents, Students, School Staff and Community Leaders Participate  
in Local Activities for “International Walk and Roll to School Day” on  
October 4, 2006**

In observance of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Walk and Roll to School Day on October 4, the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition, Safe Kids Sonoma County and FedEx Express coordinated activities at over 15 schools in the county. More than 1200 children participated in the events. The goals of these activities were to encourage and educate students to safely walk and bike to and from school, and educate parents, school officials, and staff about the benefits of walking and biking to school. Walking and biking to school promotes health, increases safety by reducing traffic congestion around school, and aids the environment by reducing greenhouse gases produced by car exhaust.

Santa Rosa Mayor Jane Bender and City Councilmember Steve Rabinowitsh helped lead walking school buses at Biella and Proctor Terrace elementary schools. A walking school bus is formed when families meet at a location, such as a park, and walk together to school. Two adults hold each end of a rope and the children hold the middle; the walking school bus then proceeds to school.

Children at Proctor Terrace participated in a poster contest highlighting pedestrian safety messages. Safe Kids Sonoma County will submit winning entry to Safe Kids Worldwide, who will choose the national winner and present the entrant and his or her class with T-shirts featuring the winner's original design.

In the U.S., International Walk and Roll to School Day included over 5,000 schools from all 50 states. Walkers from the U.S. joined children and adults in over 40 countries around the world.

## more ##

Walk and Roll to School events work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and 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.

**For additional information, please visit these Web sites:**

International Walk to School in the USA  
National Center for Safe Routes to School  
International Walk to School

[www.walktoschool.org](http://www.walktoschool.org)  
[www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org)  
[www.iwalktoschool.org](http://www.iwalktoschool.org)

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