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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Stanislaus County Schools To Celebrate International Walk to School Day Throughout The Month of October

What: Approximately 2,500 students from Fairview, El Vista, Franklin, Hughson, Shackelford, Alberta Martone, Empire, Bret Harte and Orville Wright Elementary Schools will be walking to school this October along with parents, teachers and community leaders. Members of the Stanislaus County Safe Communities Coalition, law enforcement personnel, and Stanislaus County Health Services Agency staff will be walking with the children to show their support for this program. 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. This year's Walk to School Day events include promotional assemblies by the Safe Communities Coalition, Center for Human Services, Memorial Medical Center, Modesto Police Department and Kaiser Permanente's Theater Group, where the students are taught about healthy eating and active living, as well as pedestrian and bicycle safety. As students walk to school during each event, they will also complete "walkability" checklists, to help the Safe Communities Coalition identify areas of concern for pedestrian safety in our neighborhoods.

School Site Schedule:

Modesto School Sites:
October 2 – Fairview Elementary School, 1937 West Whitmore Avenue
October 7– El Vista Elementary School, 450 El Vista Avenue
October 9– Franklin Elementary School, 120 South Emerald Avenue
October 20– Shackelford Elementary School, 100 School Avenue
October 21 – Alberta Martone Elementary School, 1413 Poust Road
October 23 – Bret Harte Elementary School, 900 Bret Harte Place
October 28– Orville Wright Elementary School, 1602 Monterey Street

Hughson School Site:
October 15 – Hughson Elementary School, 7201 East Whitmore Avenue

Empire School Site:
October 22 – Empire Elementary School, 5201 First Street

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- Visuals:** Each event will begin before school with groups of kids, parents and community leaders walking from various locations around each school site (see attached locations list). The walking groups will arrive at school approximately 15 minutes after leaving from their starting point. Two bicycles will be raffled and awarded to students that participate at each event.
- Who:** Local Walk to School Day activities are coordinated by the Stanislaus County Safe Communities Coalition, whose mission is to empower and mobilize Stanislaus County residents by supporting community awareness and education to develop a safe and healthy community. "In 2008, we reached out to more than 1900 students at the Walk to School events; which promotes walking safety and healthy living for the students in our community. This year we expect approximately 2,500 students to participate," said Tom Nipper, the Safe Communities Coalition chair. The Coalition is staffed and coordinated by the Health Services Agency, with members including County and City departments, law enforcement agencies, community based organizations, local Family Resource Centers, neighborhood organizations, schools and community members. The Walk to School events are sponsored by several local businesses: Fun Sport Bikes, the Modesto Nuts, and Save Mart Supermarkets.
- Spokesperson:** Please contact the Health Services Agency Public Information Office in advance for on site interviews with spokesperson.

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Walk to School Day Photo Opportunity Locations

October 2 at Fairview <i>1937 W. Whitmore Ave., Modesto</i>	Groups will gather and start walking at the following locations: Corner of Glenn Ave. and Ustick Ave. Corner of Marin Ave. and Ustick Ave. Corner of Whitmore Ave. and Ustick Ave.
<u>Walking starts at 7:45 a.m.</u>	
October 7 at El Vista <i>450 El Vista Ave., Modesto</i>	Groups will gather and start walking at the following locations: Corner of N. Riverside Dr. and Encina Ave. Corner of Miller Ave. and El Vista Ave. Corner of Phoenix Ave. and Hadden Ave.
<u>Walking starts at 8:00 a.m.</u>	
October 9 at Franklin <i>120 S. Emerald Ave., Modesto</i>	Groups will gather and start walking at the following locations: Corner of California Ave. and Emerald Ave. Corner of Maze Blvd. and Spencer Ave. Corner of Mathia Dr. and Emerald Ave.
<u>Walking starts at 8:00 a.m.</u>	
October 15 at Hughson Elem. <i>7201 E. Whitmore Ave., Hughson</i>	Groups will gather and start walking at the following locations: 7600 Fox Rd. 6937 Fox Rd.
<u>Walking starts at 7:30 a.m.</u>	
October 20 at Shackelford <i>100 School Ave., Modesto</i>	Groups will gather and start walking at the following locations: Corner of Crows Landing and Pueblo Ave. Corner of Crows Landing and Hatch Rd. Corner of Boulder Ave. and Broadway Ave.
<u>Walking starts at 7:30 a.m.</u>	
October 21 at Alberta Martone <i>1413 Poust Rd., Modesto</i>	Groups will gather and start walking at the following locations: Corner of Woodland Ave. and Rosemore Ave. Corner of Poust Rd. and Bluegum Ave. Corner of Shasta Ave. and Brett Ln.
<u>Walking starts at 7:45 a.m.</u>	
October 22 at Empire Elementary <i>5201 First Street, Empire</i>	Groups will gather and start walking at the following locations: Corner of South Ave. and S. Abbie St. Corner of Northland Dr. and Church St. Corner of B St. and 2 nd St.
<u>Walking starts at 7:30 a.m.</u>	
October 23 at Bret Harte <i>900 Bret Harte Pl., Modesto</i>	Groups will gather and start walking at the following locations: Corner of Glenn Ave. and Dallas St. Corner of Frazier St. and Lassen Ave. Corner of Glenn St. and Ustick Ave.
<u>Walking starts at 7:45 a.m.</u>	
October 28 at Orville Wright <i>1602 Monterey Ave., Modesto</i>	Groups will gather and start walking at the following locations: Corner of Benson Ave. and Oregon Dr. Corner of Oregon Dr. and Empire Ave. Corner of Kerr Ave. and Tenaya Dr.
<u>Walking starts at 7:45 a.m.</u>	
