

# NEW PARTNERS

A complete list of Resource Center partners is at [www.saferoutesga.org](http://www.saferoutesga.org).

## Bronze

Briarlake Elementary School  
Capital View Elementary School  
Centennial Arts Academy  
Chickamauga Elementary School  
Cornelia Elementary School  
Cowan Elementary School  
Dowell Elementary School  
Fair Street IB World School  
Freedom Park Elementary School  
Gaines Elementary School  
Gainesville Exploration Academy  
Gainesville Middle School  
Goshen Elementary School  
Haw Creek Elementary School  
Henderson Mill Elementary School  
J.G. Smith Elementary  
Louisville Academy  
Mary Lin Elementary School  
New Holland Core Knowledge Academy  
Northwestern Middle School  
Ocee Elementary School  
Pine Street Elementary  
Sweetwater Middle School  
Tunnel Hill Elementary School  
Tutt Middle School

## Silver

Addison Elementary School  
Chattahoochee County Educational Center  
Enota Elementary School  
Morris Brandon Elementary School  
Mountain View Elementary School  
Still Elementary School

## Gold

Appling Elementary School  
Clairemont Elementary School  
King-Danforth Elementary School  
Oak Grove Elementary School  
Oakhurst Elementary School  
Riley Elementary School  
St. Michael's School

## Friends

Alliance for a Healthier Generation  
Atlanta Bicycle Coalition  
Atlanta Regional Commission  
BikeAthens  
Camden Community Alliance & Resources, Inc.  
City of Decatur, Active Living Department  
City of Macon Planning and Zoning Department  
City of Tybee  
Coastal Regional Commission  
Georgia Operation Lifesaver, Inc.  
Healthy Savannah  
Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission  
PEDS  
Safe Kids Coalition Savannah  
Safe Kids East Central  
Safe Kids Toombs  
Safety Streets Georgia  
Savannah Bicycle Campaign  
Spalding County Board of Education

# BECOME A PARTNER

## HOW TO ENROLL

The Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center works with elementary and middle schools to create opportunities for children to safely walk and bicycle to school safely. School communities who become Partners will receive free support from Resource Center staff to get their SRTS program rolling. If you're not directly part of a school community but want to be involved, consider becoming a Friend of the program. As a Friend, you are indicating that you are interested in the program and are willing to help local schools.

The first step to becoming a Partner is to complete an enrollment form. Once this is done, one of our School Outreach Coordinators will contact you to complete the process. You'll be asked to determine the types of activities your school program will complete during the school year, packaged as 3 Partnership Levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The easiest way to enroll is on-line at [www.SafeRoutesGA.org](http://www.SafeRoutesGA.org). Or you can call our hotline at 1.877.GDOT.W2S [1.877.436.8927].

## WHAT'S HAPPENING? CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

### OCTOBER

October 1 - 31 • Walk to School Month

### NOVEMBER

November 1 • Daylight savings time ends.  
Turn clocks back one hour

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY QUIZ

**Question:** You're in the middle of a block trick or treating and see some friends across the street. They ask you to join them. Do you cross the street where you are or do you tell them to meet you at the corner and cross there?

**Answer:** Tell them to meet you at the corner and cross there.

# WAYFINDING

A News Resource for the Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Walk to School Day --  
Georgia's newest tradition!

Safety Tips for Halloween



## WELCOME!

Walk to School Day in Georgia was a great success! Over 60 schools hosted programs registered with the National Center for Safe Routes to School. We extend a heart-felt thank you to all school communities who contributed to this landmark day for Georgia families. Commissioner Smith participated in the Walk to School Day event at Morris Brandon Elementary School. Highlights from Walk to School Day events around the state are this issue of Wayfinding. In-depth stories are at [www.saferoutesga.org](http://www.saferoutesga.org).

Our state has a rich tradition of participating in Walk to School Day. This year is especially memorable because we celebrated the strides we've made this year in our Safe Routes to School Program. We opened our new Safe Routes to School Program Resource Center aimed at helping schools start local SRTS programs. We awarded \$5.7 million to local governments and these funds will have a meaningful impact in communities across our state and benefit an important group--children.

We encourage all communities in the state to create Safe Routes to School programs. Our SRTS Resource Center staff is ready to provide assistance. Visit the Resource Center at [www.saferoutesga.org](http://www.saferoutesga.org) to learn more about becoming a partner.

One final note. Trick or treating can be great fun for families and their communities. Remember to practice tried and true safety tips when out. Safety tips from the City of Atlanta are included in this issue. Consider cutting them out and putting them on your refrigerator before Hallowe'en, then reviewing them with the entire family before you go out.

*The GDOT Safe Routes to School Team*

## FEATURES

### Resource Center News

- New to the Safe Routes to School program
- Get to know Patti Sistrunk, SOC for Coastal Georgia

### Become a Partner

- How to enroll
- Our newest partners

### What's Happening



Georgia

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

## WALK TO SCHOOL DAY IN GEORGIA

International Walk to School Day proved to be a great way for many partner schools to kick-off their Safe Routes to School program for the year. The rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of schools anxious to make their statement about the value of walking and biking to school. From small to big student, parents, teachers, principals and local officials from 65 Georgia schools celebrated the day. Here's a glimpse from this memorable day.

**Best student quote:** "I get a lot of exercise!" (Fifth grader from Coastal Georgia when asked why she liked walking to school)

**Best parent quote:** "It's great to finally do something different and switch up the routine. It was like a big party with the neighbors this morning!" (Parent Dori Williams who walked over a mile with her two children)

**Best principal quote:** "...we are fortunate in that the smallness of this town creates a sense of community. When children walk down the streets of Louisville... we adults know who they are." (Principal Kitterman, Louisville Academy, Louisville, Jefferson County)

**Most participants:** 294 students, parents and school officials (Crabapple Crossing Elementary School)

**Fewest participants:** 5 walkers from Pine Street Elementary School, Conyers, Rockdale County

**Most enthusiastic participants:** ALL who participated!

Check out Walk to School Days stories at [www.saferoutesga.org](http://www.saferoutesga.org)



## GEORGIE'S PAWS

The Resource Center created a series of inserts for school newsletters. Called Georgie's Paws, these SRTS pauses provide a quick read on elements of comprehensive, success SRTS programs. Call the Resource Center Hotline at 1.877.GDOT.W2S [1.877.436.8927] to receive the current offerings, or check them out at [www.saferoutesga.org](http://www.saferoutesga.org).



## GET TO KNOW...

Patti Sistrunk, School Outreach Coordinator,  
Coastal Georgia

What do South Carolina and Georgia have in common? Peaches? Sure. The Savannah River border? Yep. Amazing Safe Routes to School Programs? DEFINITELY!

Just a few months ago, I was the SC State SRTS Coordinator. After three years of working hard to build South Carolina's Safe Routes Program, I learned of Georgia's plan for a state SRTS Resource Center. I jumped at the opportunity to cross the Savannah River, move back to the Peach State, and to be a part of the Georgia SRTS movement. I grew up in Augusta, graduated from UGA, and have family in Augusta, Savannah, St. Simons, and Macon. Now, armed with my extensive experience and knowledge of SRTS and a background in communications, I'm working hard to bring SRTS to the Coastal Region's communities!

- Patti

Meet the newest member of the  
Resource Center Team

The Resource Center team has a new member -- Georgie. Recently rescued from a local animal shelter, Georgie is a special breed of dog call BOW-WOW. This breed is identified by its strong desire to accompany children to school as they Bike on Wednesday or Walk on Wednesday. If your school is starting a BOW-WOW program, Georgie may be just the person --er--canine -- to help.



# SAFETY TIPS FOR HALLOWEEN

Trick or treating is the perfect time to for children and parents to practice safe walking. It's also a time when motorists must be aware of our youngest pedestrians – our children. Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington is one of many police chiefs in Georgia offering safety tips and messages.

- Carry a flashlight while walking to be as visible as possible at night and in low-light conditions. Visibility is an extremely important factor for pedestrians who should always assume that drivers cannot see them, especially at night.
- Use other kinds of light sources in addition to a flashlight, such as a flashing LED light.
- Wear retro-reflective materials. These materials are often found on athletic shoes or gear. Retro-reflective materials that outline the human form provide an even stronger visual cue to drivers that a pedestrian is in front of them, and that they should slow down and proceed more cautiously.
- Always stop and look left, right, left before entering the street.
- Don't assume that it is safe to cross in marked crosswalks if there isn't a stop sign or traffic light. Make eye contact with the driver and make sure the vehicle has stopped moving before advancing into the intersection.
- There's "traffic safety in numbers." Whether walking with parents or friends, encourage children to trick-or-treat in groups.
- Children under 10 years old should not cross streets alone. They should trick-or-treat with parents or older youth.
- Costumes are part-and-parcel of Halloween, but when trick-or-treating avoid wearing masks or other items that could impede vision.
- Trick-or-treat on streets with sidewalks if possible. If sidewalks are not available, walk against traffic. This allows pedestrians to take evasive action sooner if they think an oncoming vehicle is getting too close.
- Carry a cell phone for emergency situations.

Source: [http://www.atlantaga.gov/media/nr\\_halloweentraffic\\_102706.aspx](http://www.atlantaga.gov/media/nr_halloweentraffic_102706.aspx)

