

Culver Currents, May 2016

What an exciting year for Culver City Walk & Rollers! As we wrap up the third year in the four year city-wide Safe Routes to School Grant Program, we are proud that the Program has continued to grow and take hold in the Culver City schools. The federally funded program began in November 2013 and will continue through the 2016-17 school year. Some highlights this year include:

- Each school organized and solidified Safe Routes to School committees, with champions at each school working to find creative ways to grow the program at their schools.
- At CCMS, the ASB class took charge of the Walk to School Program and incorporated it into their Green 5 programming
- Each school held events celebrating International Walk to School Day in October and Bike to School Day this month
- Parents, civic leaders and students participated in a Visioning Symposium to celebrate the midpoint of the program, review work done to date and lay the plans for the second half of the program
- Themed family-friendly group rides and middle school specific fun rides have been added with success
- We hosted our third annual Walk & Roll Festival with over 110 kids learning how to bike safely in their community during our hands on skills course and group rides.
- Some schools, Linwood Howe and El Marino began experimenting with walking school bus apps to encourage even more families to join the fun.

Two standout programs are the Active4.me tracking app, and the pedestrian and bicycling education programs during PE.

With the tracking app currently used by all five elementary schools and the middle school, kids are given a bar coded "shoe tag" that gets scanned by volunteers at their walk-bike to school events. The app allows each school to track participation, reward prizes and see their effects on the environment and more. So far this year, collectively 1,520 CCUSD students have walked/bike 2,049 miles, reduced car trips by 4,451, saved 82 gallons of gas, burned 81,990 calories and removed 1,575 lbs of carbon from the air!

This year, we incorporated pedestrian and bicycling safety education at all elementary schools through PE. Students learned essential safety lessons such as recognizing traffic signal phases, where and how to cross streets safely and making eye contact with drivers. The bicycle safety workshops were geared for 3-5 graders and included lessons in helmet safety, starting and stopping bicycles properly and where and how to ride safely. A key component of these workshops is that the PE teachers have been trained so they can offer the workshops at their convenience in the coming years. Through the Program the City and the CCUSD have purchased equipment the PE teachers and District will continue to use to sustain the Program beyond the end of the grant funding.

Next year we expect to build on our success and see the program continuing to grow with an increase in walking school buses, monthly programs becoming weekly and weekly programs becoming daily. Also, parents can look forward to more family rides and safety workshops to help increase.

