



Happy Holidays Menlo Park!

On behalf of everyone at Parents for Safe Routes we would like to wish you and your family a wonderful and SAFE holiday season! Whether you plan to spend your Winter break traveling to exotic places or staying on the Peninsula and watching movies ("Star Wars: The Last Jedi" comes out today!), we hope you enjoy this time of year. Our New Years resolution is to keep advocating for Safe Routes - we appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jen

Jen Wolosin, Founder and Chair

Parents for Safe Routes



In This Email:

[Tips for Biking \(and Walking\) Safely in Rainy Weather](#)

[Oak Knoll Safety Intervention Week Piloted](#)

[Updates - Menlo Park and Unincorporated San Mateo County](#)

[Oak Grove Bike Route - Wayfinding Signs Installed!](#)

[Civic Engagement Opportunities](#)



Tips for Biking (and Walking) Safely in Rainy Weather

It's often dark during school commute times and rainy season is coming. Help your student make the trip safely by being highly visible to traffic.

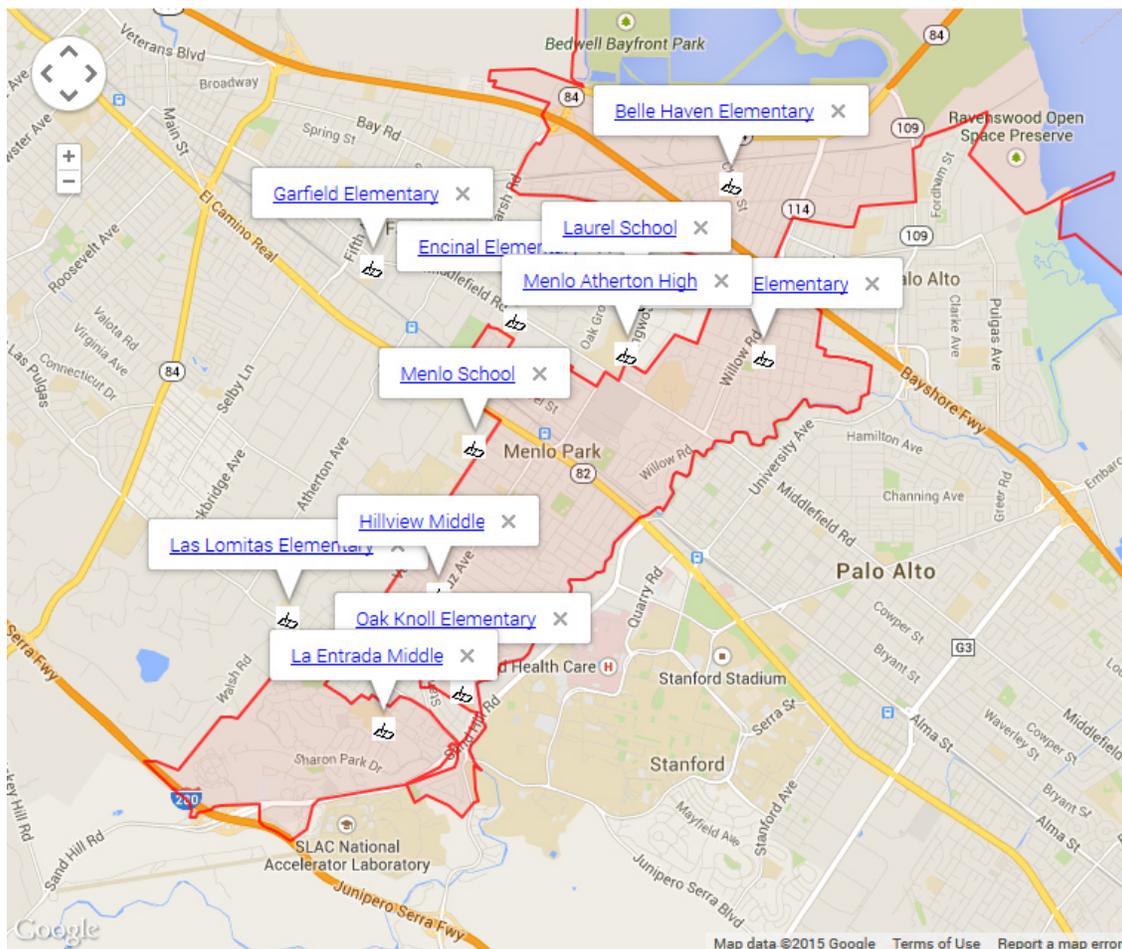
- For bicyclists, it's a good idea to use a bike light *during the day* so that motorists can see you. Daytime running lights have been shown to [decrease motorcycle accidents by 26 percent](#). Consider [a light that has a blinking mode but is also bright enough](#) (200-500 lumens) so that it can also work as a headlight when going down a dark road.
- Wear a neon-colored helmet, jacket, and/or rain gear. Remembering to put on a bike/walk vest is tough. So if your gear is brightly colored, you don't have to think about it.
- Allow extra time to get to school when weather is bad. You may have to navigate a higher level of traffic, and going early takes the pressure off.

Still need to do some holiday shopping? Consider buying friends and family daytime running lights, neon rain gear and other safety equipment. Your holiday gift could save a life!



A special thanks to Leah Kessler, Asst. Principal at Oak Knoll Elementary School and many parent volunteers (including Katie Behroozi, the Parents for Safe Routes rep at Oak Knoll) for piloting a Safety Intervention Week at Oak Knoll in November! The effort involved reminding parents and students (in a friendly way) about proper drop-off and pick-up protocol related to safety. Oak Knoll has very high biking and walking to school rates (which is great!), we just want to make sure those biking and walking (and driving!) can do so safely.

Stay tuned for a similar effort at Hillview Middle School in early 2018!



Updates - Menlo Park and San Mateo County

Below please find updates for Safe Routes-related projects that we are following city and county-wide:

Menlo Park*

- **Willows Traffic Calming** - Starting on Monday, December 18th, motorists will encounter multiple turn restrictions in the Willows neighborhood (no right turn on Durham, O'Keefe and Chester during afternoon hours). These changes are being put in place due to the Willow/101 construction project. Parents for Safe Routes will be closely monitoring how these measures affect the traffic flow for students traveling home from Laurel, M-A, Willow Oaks and other schools in the area.

*Unfortunately, due to a staffing shortage in the Transportation Department in the City of Menlo Park, many projects are subject to delays. Parents for Safe Routes will continue to lobby for additional staff capacity and resources for Safe Routes-related projects in 2018.

San Mateo County

- [Santa Cruz Avenue Corridor Study](#) - The County of San Mateo has created a Task Force to address safety concerns near the "Y" at Santa Cruz Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas. It is comprised of key stakeholders including staff members and officials from both the County and the City of Menlo Park from Public Works, Law Enforcement, the Fire District, neighbors, seniors, advocates from the cycling community, Parents for Safe Routes and others. To follow the progress of this effort you can sign up on the [County's webpage](#) for email updates.

Do you want to tell your elected officials how you feel about one of the above projects? Or maybe you want to make sure they're aware of another hot spot. Check out the ["Engage" tab on our website](#). We include all of the important emails and contact info you need to be an active citizen. Questions? [Email us](#) - we're here to help.



Oak Grove Bike Route - Wayfinding Signs Installed!

Have you found your way to Oak Grove (Crane or University)? If not, good news! The City of Menlo Park recently installed wayfinding signs to help guide cyclists along the route. Now with the new signs and the [route map](#), hopefully everyone will have a chance to try out the bike route before the one-year trial ends. We'll need to show support to keep the bike route after this first pilot year!

Want to give feedback and/or show your support for the Oak Grove Bike Route (remember, it's just a pilot and the City needs to see that we want it to stay!)? Email the Menlo Park City Council at city.council@menlopark.org and let them know how much you appreciate Oak Grove and investments in safer walking and biking. These types of emails matter.

**THE CITY OF MENLO PARK
NEEDS YOU...**



Civic Engagement Opportunities

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can **change the world**; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead*

In addition to advocating for safer walking and biking opportunities, Parents for Safe Routes joins many other local organization in advocating for more civic engagement:

Apply for the Menlo Park Advisory Districting Committee (deadline January 8th!) - The City of Menlo Park is actively recruiting for citizens to serve on the Advisory Districting Committee. Because of a threatened lawsuit alleging California Voting Rights Act violations, the City of Menlo Park is rapidly moving from "At Large" (everyone votes for all candidates) to "By District" (one votes only for candidates who live in his or her district) elections. To ensure oversight and impartiality in this transition, the City has adopted an ordinance which creates an Advisory Districting Committee to develop district maps. This Committee will be tasked, with the help of a demographic corporation and

public input, with developing two maps, one with 5 districts and one with 6 districts. Each submitted districting map shall also contain an election sequencing recommendation. Application packets available now (**deadline January 8th!**) on the City of Menlo Park's website:

<http://menlopark.org/DocumentCenter/View/16238>. Apply today!

Attend Menlo Park Civics 101 - Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 2-4:30pm at the Menlo Park Library Meeting Room (800 Alma St., MP). Join Belle Haven Action, Menlo Spark, Imagine Menlo and Parents for Safe Routes for an introduction on how Menlo Park is governed and how you can get involved.



Copyright © 2017 Parents for Safe Routes, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

