

## **KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE**

### **PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT NOTICE** **from the Regnart Traffic Safety Committee**

The traffic safety committee is made up of the principal and a group of very concerned Regnart parents trying to make Regnart a safer place to be.

#### **First a Little Information**

Every school day, within the short time of 15 minutes, approximately 600 students will arrive at Regnart Elementary. Of those students more than half of them will be driven to school. Of those in cars, approximately 1/3 of them will park on the street and walk onto campus with their parents. The other 2/3 will enter the traffic circle and use the drop-off zone.

Traffic controllers have 15 minutes to assist 400 students across the street and 200 students safely out of their cars and onto campus. We can only do this with your help. We need you to read the following information. We need you to be courteous and considerate when dropping off your children. And most importantly, we need your cooperation, for the safety of all our students and parents.

We are asking for all parents at Regnart Elementary to take the time to carefully read the information below. It is for your own child's safety. At the end of the handout, we ask that you sign and return the slip of paper to your child's teacher. We encourage all to write comments and ask questions. We want to find a solution to a huge safety problem.

#### **Parking in the Regnart Elementary Parking Lot**

Before 8:30 am and between 12 noon and 12:45 pm, the school staff parking lot spaces are reserved for staff and teachers only. Safe and accessible parking spaces need to be available for staff and teachers at all times. Reserved spaces are for the principle and the secretaries only. Do not park in these at ANY time.

#### **The Drop-Off and Pick-Up Zone**

The yellow zone in front of the kindergarten rooms is the student drop-off and pick-up zone. The length of the yellow zone runs along the kindergarten playground fence to the red zone in front of the school office. Only cars that are dropping-off and picking-up students should be in this area. Cars parked in the yellow zone must have a driver in attendance at all times.

#### **Drop-Off Procedures**

Mornings are a very hectic time for everyone. We understand that many parents carpool students to Regnart, Kennedy, and Monta Vista. We understand that many parents choose to drive their children in lieu of walking because they are on their way to work. We understand that some children live far away and cannot walk to school. Whatever your reason for driving, give yourself plenty of time in the morning for students to arrive at school without rushing.

## **Tips for a Smooth Drop-Off**

Children should be ready with backpacks at their feet or on their laps. Lunch bags should be inside backpacks or in their hands. Good-byes and kisses should have already been exchanged at home. Children should be ready to disembark safely from their cars. All should be watching for any signals the traffic controller may be giving.

Be courteous to other drivers, pedestrians, and traffic controllers. Take turns - one at a time. Get in line – do not cut in front of other cars – and wait patiently. Yields are not the same as merges – you must wait until it is safe to turn. Don't block any intersections or crosswalks – cars can't come and go if the street is blocked.

**Please** do not use your cell phone while driving through the parking lot. Keep all your attention on your child and the traffic around you.

It is best if cars enter the Regnart parking lot traffic circle by turning right into the lot from Yorkshire. Pull up along the yellow curb as close as possible to the front of the school office. To use the traffic circle, children should exit from the passenger side of the car and be completely independent of parental assistance. If a parent needs to open a trunk, open or close a door, assist the child in getting out, or has the urge to watch their child walk towards the blacktop then that parent needs to park their car off campus and walk their child in.

After passengers are unloaded, cars can move out of the drop-off zone and into the exit lane. Cars exiting Regnart should proceed straight onto Folkstone. **DO NOT take a left turn back onto Yorkshire Dr.** Other than the yellow drop-off zone, parents may not use any other part of the school parking lot for drop-off. Do not drive into the first row of staff parking spaces or near CDC to drop your children off. Do not allow children out of cars near the bike racks. Drivers must follow proper drop-off procedures in order for all children to be safe.

## **Pick-up Procedures**

When picking students up, expect to pull up close to the office before your child can enter your car this is the safest and best place for students to see your car. Please stay IN your car.

## **Pedestrian Crossing**

Please use the crosswalks at all times. **DO NOT** cross your child through the parking lot. Traffic controllers are working on methods to cross groups of children rather than crossing whenever a single child arrives at a crosswalk. Children may need to wait on the sidewalk a minute while cars stop and pass as this will facilitate the flow of traffic. Please wait on the curb. Do not stand in the crosswalk.

**Please** if you wear a large sun visor, lift it up when driving around the school and through the parking lot so that the crossing guards and students can see your face. We are teaching our children to **stop** at the curb **look** for the drivers' attention and make eye contact **BEFORE** they cross. The children cannot do this when the visor is down. Thank you.

## General Comments

**At any pedestrian crosswalk with pedestrians present, cars are not allowed to cross into the walkway at any time. Pedestrians must completely clear and exit the crossing before cars can proceed. This is the law.**

**STOP SIGNS - Please stop at them. Look left, right and left again - then go.**

**Handicap parking** is for the disabled only. Proper tags should be visibly displayed on all vehicles. Any car not displaying proper red, white, or blue tags will be asked to leave the area immediately.

**Red zones are fire lanes.** These areas should be kept open at all times. Do not park on the red zone, at any time, even if you are staying in the car.

### Do Your Job

If everyone follows directions, traffic controllers can line up 9 cars along the curb, with children prepared to exit the car immediately, parents can safely exit the parking lot in under 2 minutes. At that rate, we can move 200 students safely through the drop-off zone in 15 minutes.

### Rainy Days

On rainy days, the number of children using the drop-off zone increases to at least 400. Leave at least 10 minutes earlier on rainy days due to the increased number of cars in the zone. There is also no need for children to open umbrellas or for that matter, for parents to get out of their car to cover their children with an umbrella and walk them to the awning. If kids exit their cars in a timely manner, they'll be under the awning in no time. A few sprinkles won't hurt. If you're worried they'll get wet, park your car outside the lot and walk them onto campus.

### Tuesdays

The second and fourth Tuesday of every month is a street cleaning day. Cars parked along Yorkshire on these days from 10 am to 12 noon are subject to ticketing by the city. This is another reason why teachers need the staff parking spaces available.

**Suggestion:** Try coming to school early, bike or walk.

The Traffic Committee is working hard to provide safe and efficient procedures for our Regnart community. What you have read is a reminder to parents of proper drop-off procedures. The "first day packets" included the *Regnart Parking Lot Rules* and map with directions. Look for future notes from the Traffic Safety Committee regarding other traffic issues.

Please sign the note below and return it to your child's teacher by Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006. As always, we welcome your comments, questions, and ideas.

With regards,  
Regnart Traffic Safety Committee

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**Please sign and return this form  
to your child's teacher by Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 2006.  
Please keep the remaining notice on file for future reference.**

I have read the procedures for traffic safety and I will do my best to follow these procedures.

Parent(s) Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher/Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher/Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher/Room: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer 20 minutes in the morning to help with traffic control.    Yes            No

I am available on the following morning(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

I am available on the following afternoon(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

Please call or e-mail me at \_\_253-5250 ext122\_\_ or hardee\_frances@cupertino.k12.ca.us

**A copy of this will be made available in the office translated into Mandarin**

Comments welcome: