

NEWS RELEASE

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KEEP CROSSWALKS AND SCHOOL ZONES SAFE

LANGFORD, BC – Crosswalk and school zone safety is essential for pedestrians and motorists. It is critical that motorists follow the rules of the roads to ensure that our students and all members of the community are safe while using marked crosswalks, including those with crossing guards.

In recent weeks, we have experienced three near misses involving crossing guards in the Westhills neighbourhood near PEXSISEN Elementary School and Centre Mountain Lellum Middle School. In all three occasions the crossing guard had their stop sign out and were in the crosswalk. In one case, a driver ignored the stop sign and told the crossing guard that they legally did not have to obey the crossing guard. The RCMP has been working to provide a higher presence in the area to educate motorists on their responsibilities while behind the wheel including the legal requirement to obey crossing guards.

Motorists should be extra diligent where children may be crossing, especially in school and playground zones. Below are important safety considerations for motorists:

- Make eye contact with children and crossing guards (if available), who are using the crosswalk, so they know you have seen them.
- Stop for all pedestrians and do not start driving until all pedestrians have cleared the crosswalk.
- Obey crossing guards and do not start driving until the crossing guard has cleared the crosswalk.
- Do not pass other vehicles at crosswalks.
- Check for children in the crosswalk before turning left at an intersection and check both directions before turning right.
- Follow school zone speed limits.
- Avoid distracted driving.

We will continue to work with our children, youth and families to educate them on how to safely use crosswalks. Our priority is that students, staff and community members arrive safely to their destination and we hope that motorists will do their part to ensure that happens.

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For more information, contact:

Kristen McGillivray (250) 686-3750
Manager of Strategic Communications

