



The Bus Zone

OCTOBER 2007

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Angie's Reminders:

- No School on Thursday, Oct. 11th
- No School on Friday, Oct. 12th
- 1:30 PM Dismissal on Wednesday, Oct. 17th

National School Bus Safety Week

"Be Aware – Cross with Care"

October 22-26, 2007

National School Bus Safety Week – October 22-26, 2007

National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program designed to promote school bus safety. It's an excellent way for everyone - parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and other interested parties – to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety.

Promote Bus Cleanliness

By Angela Moore

As adults we bemoan the fact that students can't seem to pick up after themselves. They seem to leave a trail behind them. Some students are worse than others and many times it is the same students leaving trash behind. What are ways you help contain the mess?

One of the more logical ways to keep the buses clean inside is to keep a 5 gallon bucket in the back of the bus for trash. Or if there is a spot up front have the second bucket for your front riders. I've seen one driver secure a trash bag by the front door and remind riders to put the trash away when they exit.

For activity trips, enlist the help of the coaches and/or sponsors. They can help remind students to pick up their trash on the way out the door or even to tell students who eat their supper or sunflower seeds to keep their area clean. We've got trash bags at the school if you need more for activity trips.

Please remember to say "Thank You" for those who drop trash in the bucket. Positive reinforcement will go a long way in keeping everyone happy. Yelling at them or belittling them might work once, but certainly will have them working against you. Most kids will take pride in their bus when given a chance.

Safety Loading Procedure

By Jim Bathen

I consider the bus the same as a classroom. The bus should be supervised at all times to help prevent problems while students are loading after school. If something serious happens on your bus and you are outside talking, you have to explain that to the administration and to the parent. We have had nothing serious happen yet, but there has been at least one incident where a bus driver could have stopped the incident before it happened. Please be on your bus monitoring your riders at all times. Thanks

October's Risk Alert: School Bus Drivers

By ALICAP

We have all heard the saying, "Attitude is Everything". This phrase is also significant to school bus drivers. Every year in the United States there are 12,000 students injured and 25 students killed due to school bus accidents. Riding a school bus is a daily activity for many students, and it only takes one error to make that student a statistic. Ninety-two percent of all school bus accidents are caused by poor driving performance, which often leaves a driver at fault for the accident.

School Bus Drivers: Ask yourself these three questions:

- **Does your attitude effect how you do your job?** Show up early and inspect the bus before the route, this should make you feel more confident when driving the route.
- **Does your attitude effect how you drive?** When your mind is clear of all personal concerns, you are more observant, alert and watchful and thus you should be able to drive more defensively and avoid potential accidents while driving your route.
- **Does your attitude effect how the students behave while on the bus?** If you smile and greet each student as they come onto your bus, the students will follow your kind attitude.

Usually if a school bus driver can create a fun, safe and respectful atmosphere on their school bus, the students and the school bus driver will benefit from it. A positive atmosphere is a safe atmosphere for all passengers.