



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Department of Public Health

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Health Department, Community Partners Observe Walk to School Day on Oct. 3

FAYETTEVILLE – The media are invited to a program highlighting pedestrian safety for school children on Oct. 3 at Mary McArthur Elementary School. Volunteers will walk with students and teach safe practices at the street intersection in front of the school from 12:45 to 2 p.m. as part of “International Walk to School Day.”

Safe Kids Cumberland County, coordinated through the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, will partner with Cumberland County Mental Health, Fayetteville Police, Fayetteville Fire Department, FedEx and the Fayetteville Swampdogs baseball team. Volunteers will walk with each class of children starting at 12:45 p.m. to show children the proper way to cross streets safely. Kassie Howard, maternal health educator for the Health Department and coordinator for Safe Kids Cumberland County, will conduct a pedestrian safety assembly at the school following the walk. Reflective stickers and safety pamphlets will be distributed to school children.

“On International Walk to School Day, parents and caregivers both teach and model safe pedestrian behavior,” Howard said. “It is one thing to tell students about pedestrian safety, but by walking with them on International Walk to School Day, we can show them proper behaviors and give them the tools to be safer pedestrians.”

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among children ages 3 to 15. More than 500 children are killed every year. International Walk to School Day is a coordinated nationwide effort involving more than 250,000 children.

Mary McArthur Elementary School is at 3809 Village Dr. in Fayetteville. The phone number is (910) 424-2206.

For more information about Safe Kids, go online to <http://www.ncdoi.com> and click on the Safe Kids link.

For additional information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.

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