

Crossing safely

Have you said “Hi” to the crossing guard in your neighbourhood lately? Or how about “Thanks” for the important work they do every day?

This issue of *Traffic Safety Times* puts the spotlight on crossing guards and the crucial job they have in keeping children safe in school zones.

The City of Mississauga Crossing Guard Program is the responsibility of the city’s Transportation and Works Department. There are approximately 200 crossing guards at 150 locations in Mississauga. Crossing guards are responsible for crossing school children from kindergarten to Grade 5 for both the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Peel District School Board.

Our crossing guards all go through training to do the job you see them performing every day. When working and dressed with their reflective vest holding their stop signs, they have the same authority as a police officer to stop traffic. Their only goal is to get your kids across the street safely.

As parents and students, you can help make their job easier by paying attention to what’s happening at and around a crosswalk.

Drivers:

- **Slow down:** never speed up to get through a crosswalk before the crossing guard steps off the curb.



Pedestrians, motorists and the crossing guard all share the responsibility in making sure kids remain safe crossing the street.


**Crossing Guard
Appreciation Day is
Tuesday, June 8, 2010**

THINK SAFETY FIRST

Taking your time means preventing accidents!

SLOW DOWN — BE PATIENT

SIGN OF THE TIMES



**CROSSWALK
MULTIPLE CHOICE:**
When approaching this sign, motorists should:

- a. slow down
- b. watch for children crossing
- c. make sure not to stop or park in the crosswalk
- d. all of the above

© JEMSUN

- **Keep the crosswalk clear:** do not stop or park in the middle of a crosswalk, even for a second. If vehicles are queuing up on the street, use good judgment to see if you can make it all the way through the crosswalk before moving forward.
- **Listen:** obey the guard’s signs, gestures and words. He/she has your child’s best interest at heart.
- **Wait:** do not proceed through the crosswalk until all pedestrians and the crossing guard have returned all the way to the curb.

Walkers:

- **Wait, watch and listen:** pay close attention to what the crossing guard is telling you. Stay on the curb until he/she is out in the street with the sign raised, looks at you, and tells you it is OK to cross. Traffic does not always stop immediately so let the crossing guard get things under control before you move out into the street.

Win \$500 for your school

Does your school have a smooth-running Kiss and Ride? Apply for the WildeWood Award for your chance to receive a \$500 bursary. Call 905-615-3200 x4516 to apply. Deadline is May 20.

The Traffic Safety Times is a publication of the Traffic Safety Council (TSC), an advisory committee of the Council of the City of Mississauga. TSC considers matters related to the safety of students and makes recommendations to Council designed and intended to protect elementary and secondary students from the dangers of vehicular traffic and related hazards.