We are fortunate to live in the Northwest where trees and greenery thrive and provide beauty that contributes to our quality of life. In this issue of School Safety Matters, we discuss how landscape design can also create challenges to keeping our buildings safe. Bushes and shrubbery can limit visibility for supervision and create hidden and concealed spaces, foliage from trees block light fixtures casting shadows and darkening campuses, and roots can lift sidewalks and pathways, creating trip and fall hazards. Maintaining our landscapes is a critical component of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and an important aspect of general safety. We work closely with the Maintenance Department to maintain our grounds to reduce hazards and create safe and welcoming campuses. We ask any staff member who observes one of these issues at their school to report it to their school’s safety committee.

**Bees**

With spring around the corner, the risk of bee stings to students and staff is back. The following are some safety tips that can help reduce the risks posed by these feisty insects:

1. Limit the amount of food and drinks outside, which can be a sure magnet for angry bees (they love sugar!).
2. Empty outdoor trash cans as often as possible.
3. If staff discover any signs of bees nesting on or near school property, be sure a work order is immediately submitted to Maintenance. This should also be followed by a phone call so the problem can be eliminated as quickly as possible.
4. Never pull a bee stinger out with your fingers. Instead, remove it by scraping with a driver’s license or credit card over the skin.
5. Make sure there are staff on site that are trained to use an epi-pen to respond if a student or staff member should suffer an allergic reaction to a bee sting.

**Propping Doors**

The propping open of doors is an all too common practice at many of our buildings. This is done for a variety of reasons, usually in the name of convenience. Unfortunately, this convenience comes at a cost to safety and security. Self-closing doors are designed to close and lock to keep our students and staff secure. They also provide a separation barrier in the event of a building fire. It is far easier to deal with a minor inconvenience than a serious safety or security issue.

Please call Risk Management at ext. 4560 if we can help you with any safety question or if you have any safety tips that should be forwarded to the rest of the District.
Tips for Parents and Other Adults
For Teaching Pedestrian Safety to Children

Walking is a fun and healthy way to spend time with your children while teaching them skills that can serve them well throughout life. The walk to school is a great time to use these safety tips.

Be a walking role model

Children learn through experience. Walking with parents or another caregiver is an important way for children to practice crossing real streets and picking safe places to walk. There is no magic age when children are old enough to walk without an adult. But, as a parent, you should decide when your child has the skills and experience to deal with traffic safely without you.

As you walk with your child, remember these safety tips:

• Wear bright-colored clothes, and carry flashlights or wear reflective gear if it is dark or hard to see.
• Look for traffic at every driveway and intersection. Be aware of drivers in parked cars that may be getting ready to move.
• Obey all traffic signs and signals.
• Cross the street safely:
  1. Stop at the curb or edge of the street.
  2. Look left, right, left and behind you and in front of you for traffic.
  3. Wait until no traffic is coming and begin crossing.
  4. Keep looking for traffic until you have finished crossing.
  5. Walk, don’t run across the street.

Choose the safest route to school

Select a walking route with less traffic and intersections.

• Pick places where there are sidewalks or paths separated from traffic. If there are no sidewalks or paths, walk as far from the motor vehicles as possible and, if possible, on the side of the street facing traffic.
• Limit the number of street crossings. When available, cross at a location with an adult school crossing guard.
• Avoid crossing busy or high-speed streets.

District Goal for 2010-2015: All students will show continuous progress toward their personal learning goals, developed in collaboration with teachers and parents, and will be prepared for post-secondary education and career success.