

Slow down, pay extra attention when driving in school zones

The last vestiges of an all-too-short summer are falling away. On Sept. 5, the doors to Oakville schools will be wide open and awaiting the arrival of elementary and high school students once more.

The lead-up to back-to-school has begun in earnest across Halton. Moms and dads with their kids in tow are beginning to flood shopping plazas and local malls to ensure there are new clothes for their students as well as backpacks, pens, and pencils, and other necessities are purchased for the new school year.

It's a familiar progression in the lead-up to school being back in session. For parents, it also means re-establishing the daily routine of getting their children to bed at a reasonable hour, up earlier in the mornings and either getting to the bus stop or giving them a ride to school before the bell rings.

It's also a time to remind children to be mindful of the streets, as traffic ticks up with the start of the new school year. Unfortunately, each school year seems to bring about a spike in injuries — even fatalities — from accidents involving pedestrians.

Safe Kids Canada reports that pedestrian injury is the third highest cause of injury-related death among Canadian children. Driving defensively and observing the rules of the road will help ensure everyone remains safe.

We sincerely hope motorists in Halton show courtesy and patience on the road when school begins next week — looking out for the safety of children and teens at crosswalks, signalled intersections and side streets across the region.

Children can be unpredictable and may run out into traffic at any time. Watch carefully as you approach a school zone and be prepared for children to step on the road unexpectedly.

The message is simply this: slow down and certainly pay extra attention when driving within school zones, so no parent has to experience having their child either killed or injured simply by attempting to get to school.

Pedestrians need to remain alert and should dress to be seen. Wear light or brightly-coloured clothing or reflective material. In dark or bad weather, wear reflective material on clothes, coats and backpacks so you are more visible to drivers. Stop, look in all directions and listen for traffic before crossing safely when the road is clear. It is very important to remove headphones, and put away phones when crossing.

Parents also have a responsibility to teach their children the rules of traffic safety and school bus etiquette.

Our wish for students across the region is a problem-free return to school, meeting new friends and teachers, and having a positive learning experience this year.



ABOUT US



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My View

CSJ program offers students valuable work experience

Last week employers and students joined me to celebrate the end of the 2017 Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program in Oakville North-Burlington.

The CSJ program is a federal program that provides funding to help employers create summer job opportunities for students in their community, allowing them to gain the experience and skills they need to get their careers started.

This summer, more than \$600,000 in government funding helped Oakville North-Burlington employers hire 165

students through the CSJ program in a variety of fields, including health care, not-for-profit, law enforcement, engineering, social services, the arts, environmental studies and education — nearly double last year's numbers.

Through the CSJ program, employers gain extra staff to improve productivity while students learn transferable skills such as time management and organization, work experience, self-confidence and enjoy a reliable income through paid summer employment. Students

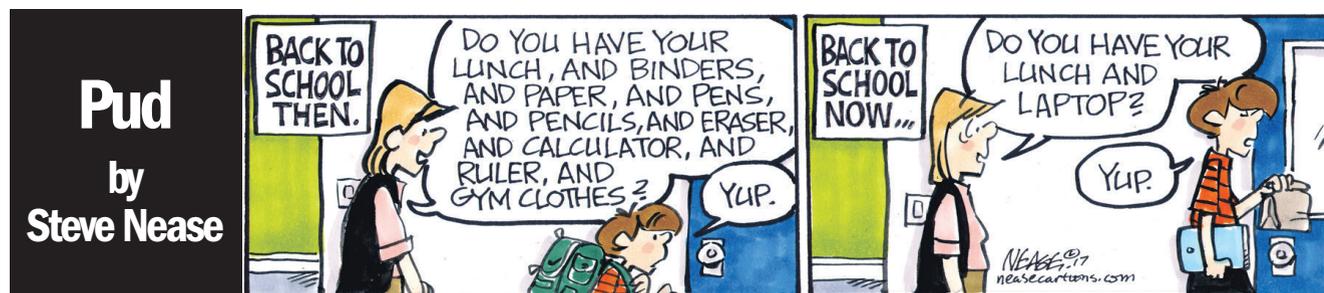
Pam Damoff

Oakville North-Burlington MP



return to their studies in the fall better prepared for future employment and with a new found confidence thanks to their summer work experience.

I was thrilled to hear from so many
see Program on p.11



Pud
by
Steve Nease

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