

## Talking Points for Meeting with School Administration

### Car-Free School Day – Wednesday, October 7, 2015


- Who:** 6,000 kids attending Brookline's public schools.
- What:** **Brookline Car-Free School Day**, linked to “**International Walk to School Day**” held annually, attracting over 4 million school children in more than 40 countries. Day to walk, bike, skateboard, rollerblade (remember your helmet), take public transportation to school – rather than travel by private car. Sponsored by Public Schools of Brookline and others (see below). Parent volunteers and volunteers from sponsor groups will be at entrances to school from 7:30 am – 8:10 am, will stamp **all kids' hands** (see note about stamp below). **Very successful previous years.**
- When:** Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 7:30 am - 8:10 am.
- Where:** Public Schools of Brookline (Baker, Devotion, Driscoll, Heath, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pierce and Runkle, plus Brookline High).
- Why** **Improve the health of our kids. Kids need to move.** Obesity rates among children have more than doubled in the past twenty years. One of every 3 children born in 2000 could develop type 2 diabetes. Walking to school is an excellent way to get physical activity and to establish healthy lifestyle habits and exercise patterns that can be continued into adulthood.

**Improve the health of our planet.** Replacing car trips to school with walking, biking, or similar modes of travel can help reduce air pollution. Motor vehicle use is recognized as the source of more air pollution than any other single human activity. **In Brookline, CAB (Climate Action Brookline) and Selectmen's Climate Action Committee have joined forces to fight climate change at the local level. Car-Free School Day is a great way for the school community to help the Town meet its greenhouse gas reduction target.**

**Goals:** Reduce car use as means of transport to school; encourage healthy behavior.

Improve health of students; encourage physical activity.

Raise awareness about climate change; promote what can be done at the local level to reduce a community's carbon footprint. Take steps to improve health of the planet.

 **The Stamp:** Everyone entering school on Wednesday, October 7th may have their hand stamped to call attention to “Car-Free School Day,” and to remind us about the community's partner program, whose goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Brookline.

#### Links:

CAB: <http://www.climateactionbrookline.org>

International Walk to School Day: <http://www.walktoschool.org>



***A big step to change community culture and create environments that are more inviting for everyone, young and old.***

**Sponsors:** Public Schools of Brookline and the School Green Teams, Brookline Departments of Public Health and Recreation, Climate Action Brookline, Brookline Selectmen's Climate Action Committee. Questions: Lynne Karsten, Director of Community Health, Public Health Department, [lkarsten@brooklinema.gov](mailto:lkarsten@brooklinema.gov); 617-730-2336