

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – REGARDING THE PSP

What is a PSP and what do they do?

PSP stands for Parent Safety Program. The PSP is a parent run initiative that deals with safety concerns in the school community such as traffic and parking issues.

The Motto of any PSP (there are many in Toronto) is 'Choose Safety Over Convenience'. The goal of the PSP is to eliminate the traffic hazards near the school using volunteer visibility and education.

Why is Northlea considering starting a Parent Safety Program?

To help address the ongoing traffic issues surrounding the school. Walking remains strongly encouraged and there is ample parking all around school. Nevertheless, a safe-drop off system seems necessary to curb the daily danger of speeding cars and unsafe drop-off practices.

What if I absolutely *have* to drive to school?

Northlea, in partnership with the Toronto Police Services will be piloting (!) a school run Kiss and Ride program. The Kiss and Ride program will offer a legal, safe drop off for student's arriving to school in a vehicle.

Once a drop off location and process is established via the Kiss and Ride program, the illegal stopping and unsafe driving practices we are currently experiencing should be eliminated.

How does the process work?

The school, in consultation with the Toronto Police Services determines a suitable, safe location for a school run Kiss and Ride. The Kiss and Ride operates from 8:30 to 8:50 in the morning. It will be staffed by parent volunteers. The cars will form a queue at the designated spot. As a car pulls up to the pylons a volunteer will open the car door and assist the students (who are ready to go!) from the car. They will then lead the student into the school yard. Each car will wait (patiently!) until it pulls up to the front of the queue where the volunteer is waiting.

Who runs the program?

The program is implemented by the school with the help of the Toronto Police Services. Police officers not only provide the training of the parent volunteers but they also educate the students about the program and safety through a school-wide assembly. It is staffed by a team of volunteers from the school community.

Where is the drop off?

The proposed drop off point is the West side of Sutherland, on the south side of the teacher's parking lot. Normal traffic rules remain fully in place: they entry and exit of the parking lot should be unobstructed at all times!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – REGARDING THE PSP - CONTINUED

What if I don't want to drop my kids off in the outlined location?

The drop off location was decided in consultation with the Toronto Police Services. Parents are able, and indeed strongly encouraged to park in any number of legal parking spots around the school and walk their children to the school (see the associated map).

Police Officers will be at the school every day during the first few weeks. Anyone who stops in the bus zones and no stopping zones will be ticketed. Increased supervision will remain in place also after the initial phase.

What can we do to help ensure the program is successful at our school?

The key to running a successful, ongoing program is volunteers. We need volunteers each morning from 8:25 to 8:55am to help children from the cars and ensure they get into the school yard where there are teachers on duty. Volunteer opportunities range from weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or even bi-monthly basis.

When will the Parent Safety Program start?

As soon as enough volunteers come forward, a training sessions will be held. Following school-wide Student assemblies, the Kiss-and-Ride can start. We hope and aim to run a pilot in June 2011.