

Alameda Kindergarten Safety Town Goes Virtual



Every fall for the last 46 years, AUSD's kindergarteners have visited "Alameda K Safety Town. The pop-up miniature village (complete with miniature streets, miniature buildings, and miniature signs) gives five- and six-year-olds a chance to learn about fire and traffic safety, as well as get an up-close peek at fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles. The students also meet a talking fire truck named Freddy and McGruff, the Crime Dog.

Co-sponsored by the Bayview Women's Club and Alameda Kiwanis Club, Safety Town has been a cherished - and important - tradition in our community for generations. This year, with the county's mandated shelter in place and all schools in distance learning, children can't visit in person. But that's not stopping the tradition.

For the last several years, Safety Town has been set up behind the Alameda Fire Department's Emergency Operations Center. This year, instead of taking chartered school buses to Safety Town (an adventure in itself for these young learners), kindergarteners will watch videos that include information on fire prevention, the importance of wearing helmets, stranger safety, and when and why to call 911.

Notes Jane Lee, a retired AUSD principal who now coordinates the annual event, "While we're disappointed that the students won't be able to visit the Alameda 47th annual K Safety Town in person this year, we are grateful to our collaborative partners, APD, AFD, the Kiwanis, and Bayview Women's Club, for creating a virtual experience that will still teach these young students critical safety skills."