



SUSTAINABLE MARGATE PRESS INFORMATION

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**Margate City schools, city officials, to celebrate International Walk to School Day
on Wednesday, October 4, 2017
The school district uses the event to kick-off its annual "Walking Wednesday" program**

Margate City – Margate City will join schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 4, 2017.

Students from both Ross Elementary School and Eugene Tighe Middle School will be walking and rolling to school on Wednesday, October 4 along with parents, teachers and community leaders, including Margate Mayor Mike Becker, and fellow commissioners John Amodeo and Maury Blumberg, as well as Superintendent of Schools John DiNicola.

The event will begin with children, parents and community leaders walking from all parts of the city towards either Ross Elementary School or Tighe Middle School. Walkers (and bicyclists) will arrive at the school between 7:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. A table with Walk to School information and giveaways will be set-up at each school. The event will be held rain or shine.

International Walk to School Day is also being used by Margate to kick-off the districts 2017-2018 "Walking Wednesday" program. The goal of the Walking Wednesday program is continue to have walking and biking to school be a part of the culture in Margate and to continue to have more children doing so on a regular basis.

Both Margate schools were awarded gold level recognition in 2016 from the New Jersey Safe Route to School Resource Center . Gold level recognition is good for three years and recognizes schools who:

- Meet silver level achievements.
- Show ongoing support of SRTS from PTO, Green Team, School Wellness Council, etc.
- Meet ONE of the following requirements:
 - School Travel Plan with the 6 mandatory components.
 - Adopt a supportive SRTS policy.
 - Implement an innovative program/project, subject to approval

"After three years, "Walking Wednesdays" have become part of our students' lives here in Margate Schools," said Margate Superintendent of Schools John DiNicola. "They repeatedly demonstrate an awareness of how important being "green" is, whether it is through our age-appropriate environmental



clubs in each school or embracing the many benefits of walking and biking for their own health as well as the health of our planet. We couldn't be more pleased that so many students are biking and walking to school each day," DiNicola added.

"Walking and biking have so many benefits: improved academic performance, getting children outdoors, and providing them with good life experiences," said Margate Mayor Michael Becker. "As a grid pattern town, Margate is very conducive to biking and walking and I applaud the district for embracing this initiative," said Becker.

Walk to School Day events raise awareness of the need to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and concern for the environment. The events build connections between families, schools and the broader community.

The event is being organized by the Margate City School District, Margate City's green team, and the Safe Routes to School committee, which consists of school officials, parents, city officials, the city police department, as well as members of Margate's green team.

For additional information, please visit these websites:

Walk to School Day in the USA

www.walkbiketoschool.org

National Center for Safe Routes to School

www.saferoutesinfo.org

International Walk to School Day

www.iwalktoschool.org

About International Walk to School Day

Walk to School Day was established in the United States in 1997 by the *Partnership for a Walkable America*. Canada and Great Britain already had walk to school programs in place. In 2000, these three countries joined together to create International Walk to School Day.

In May 2006, the National Center for Safe Routes to School was established to assist communities in enabling and encouraging children to safely walk and bike to school.

The National Center for Safe Routes to School serves as the national coordinating agency for Walk to School activities in the United States.

Walk to School Day began as a simple idea – children and parents, school and local officials walking to school together on a designated day. It is an energizing event, reminding everyone of the simple joy of walking to school, the health benefits of regular daily activity, and the need for safe places to walk and bike. Schools focus on health, safety, physical activity and concern for the environment.



Organizations supporting International Walk to School Day in the United States include America Walks, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the National Center for Safe Routes to School, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Safe Kids Worldwide, and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership.

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