CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND ROAD USE

To the Moonee Ponds West School Community,

On average each year, thirty-five children aged between 0 to 18 years old are killed and 839 others are seriously injured on Victorian roads. (VicRoads Road Crash Information System, 2006-2010 data).

“Young children, from birth, are users of our roads. Daily they are out and about with their families as active community participants. In the early years children need significant assistance from adults to manage the considerable risks associated with road use, because children’s vision, hearing, coordination and thinking are not fully developed until about 10 or 11 years of age.” (Cross D, Hall M, Bell S, 2007).

As they grow and develop, and with the help of adults, children become increasingly aware of how they can participate in their own safety and the safety of others in the road environment. As children get older, their transport options, as well as their exposure in the road environment increases. They become more independent as pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, and drivers on our roads. With increased exposure comes increased risk. Road safety education focuses on minimising that risk at each stage of a child’s interaction with the road environment.

Considering these factors the Moonee Ponds West School Council have consulted with the Moonee Valley City Council to have a number of engineering modifications made in our local streets to make the traffic environment safer for our students.

This note is to provide information to parents/carers that will encourage you to reinforce and practise road safety skills. Adults are actively encouraged to model appropriate road safety behaviour and attitudes that are consistent with road safety laws. This modelling of appropriate behaviours to our children is crucial as the next generation of road users form their own attitudes and beliefs around safe road use.

We now have two minute drop off zones between the hours of 8.00am - 9.00am and 3.00pm - 4.00pm in Athol and Eglinton streets. Drivers are not to leave their cars unattended in these designated areas. They are for drivers to pull up for a very short time and for the children to exit the vehicle on the footpath side of the road. This allows children to leave the vehicle close to the school gate on the kerb side and walk the short distance into the school. Unfortunately we have a small number of families not doing the right thing by parking in this area and leaving their car unattended whilst they walk into the school. This is not appropriate and could put other students’ safety at risk. Council Bylaws officers are booking cars left in these two minute drop off zones during these nominated hours. Please see over page for a list of the school zone parking offences.

We are indeed very fortunate as a school community to have two schools crossing’s located in Athol and Eglinton Streets. There are very clear areas around these crossings where cars cannot park. It is crucial that we all abide by these laws so that the crossing can be used safely by our students. Once again Council Bylaws Officers will be booking people who do not follow these laws. It is great to see adults using these crossings with their children, sending the correct road safety messages.

Parents and carers have a crucial role in the traffic safety education of our children. There is a great deal of agreement in current road safety literature that children learn primarily by experience and their learning is enhanced by adult involvement and especially where such involvement encourages reflection by the child either through peer collaboration or adult guidance (Elliott, 2004).

Please do the right thing and follow the traffic safety signs and safe behaviours so that the roads around our school are as safe as possible for our children to use.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Crowle
Principal

15G Athol Street Moonee Ponds VIC 3039
Phone: 9370 6872 Fax: 9370 1909 Email: moonee.ponds.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
ABN: 45 650 832 392
SCHOOL ZONE PARKING OFFENCES

A ‘No Parking’ sign means that drivers must not stop in the area indicated by the sign unless they are dropping off or picking up passengers or goods. While stopped drivers are not permitted to leave the vehicle unattended, which means they must remain within 3 metres of the vehicle. The driver must complete their task and drive on within two minutes.

Drivers with a disabled parking permit may stop for twice the allowed time.

A driver must not stop in the area shown by the arrows on the sign, even if they are picking up or dropping off passengers. Similarly, drivers must not stop along sections of road marked with a continuous yellow edge line, where older ‘No Standing’ signs are being phased out, but they have the same meaning as ‘No Stopping’.

No stopping on a children’s crossing or
Within 20 metres before or
Within 10 metres after a children’s crossing
You cannot proceed through the crossing until all people are off the crossing.

Penalty $144

Not to stop within 20 metres before or within 10 metres after a sign indicating a bus stop.

Penalty $87

You are not permitted to stop or park your vehicle alongside another vehicle that is already parked parallel to the kerb

We all understand that pick up and drop off times around schools are very busy.
Do the right thing be aware and be patient.

Signs are placed around school precincts to protect our kids.

Police will enforce breaches of the road rules.

A message from your local police.