



April 2022

Dear Neighbours of John McCrae Public School,

Road safety around our schools is of the utmost importance to keep students, families and school staff safe as they travel to and from school. As part of our efforts to encourage active travel for students at John McCrae Public School and to enhance road safety around the school, the City of Markham and the York Region District School Board are piloting a new “School Streets” program.

School Street on Stricker Avenue

During the pilot, **Stricker Avenue between Hammersly Blvd. and Fred McLaren Blvd. will close to through traffic between 8:15- 9:15 a.m. and 3:00- 4:00 p.m. every Wednesday in May 2022 as follows:**

- Consistent with current practice, students arriving by car cannot be dropped off on Stricker Avenue.
- Residents living in this segment of Stricker Avenue, buses, service and emergency vehicles, and school staff will still be able to come and go through the southern road closure barrier (Fred McLaren Blvd) with the assistance of volunteers.
- Vehicle exit or entry at Hammersly Blvd will not be permitted.





What are School Streets?

School Streets are temporary car-free environments directly in front of schools around school bell times that prioritize safe walking conditions for children, families, and caregivers. School Streets programs originated in the United Kingdom and have spread to cities around the world, including Canada, and are supported by the Ontario government and the Ministry of Education.

Why School Streets?

Providing young children with a safe and welcoming environment so they can move freely on foot or on bike within their neighbourhood and school zone has very positive impacts on their mental, emotional, and physical health. In addition to improving road safety, School Streets programs improve air quality around schools by reducing vehicle emissions, encourage active travel, and foster a sense of well-being and self-reliance amongst students.

For more information on School Streets, visit https://www.880cities.org/portfolio_page/school-streets-guidebook/.

We Want to Hear From You!

We want to know your thoughts on this School Street test program and what we should take into consideration when designing the pilot program. Please visit the website www.markham.ca/schoolstreets to complete a short five-minute survey to share your feedback about the program. The survey is anonymous and confidential so no one will know your individual responses to the questions.. After the pilot ends in late May, we will conduct a follow-up survey and other studies to assess the effectiveness, community response and cost of the pilot program.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact activeschooltravel@yrdsb.ca

