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Mamaroneck schools to Participate in Walk to School Day October 8, 2008 Student Safety at Forefront in Light of Recent Incidents

MAMARONECK, NY, October 2, 2008 -- As part of Larchmont-Mamaroneck's Safe Routes to School Initiative, all four elementary schools in the Mamaroneck School District (Central, Chatsworth Avenue, Mamaroneck Avenue, and Murray Avenue) will join schools from around the globe to participate in International Walk to School Day on October 8, 2008. This year's Walk to School Day comes just a few weeks after two Hommocks students were struck by cars following school dismissal, but not on school property.

"Student safety remains a significant concern, as several serious incidents have occurred over the last few months," says Dr. Paul Fried, Superintendent, Mamaroneck Public Schools. "Walk to School Day presents another opportunity to reiterate the importance of observing safe pedestrian practices for students and safe driving precautions for parents."

In the U.S., International Walk to School Day is expected to include 5,000 schools from all 50 states. Walkers from the U.S. will join children and adults in 40 countries around the world. In fact, the Mamaroneck Union Free School District has deemed October 6 – 10 "Walk to School Week." All elementary-aged children in the District (about 2,400) will be encouraged to walk, bike or carpool to school each day that week. Special activities associated with the event include walking school buses, giveaways, teacher greeters, and parent/child safety pledges.

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, in addition to the safety and health messages it conveys.

The event is being organized by the elementary schools' PTA organizations. The Larchmont/Mamaroneck Safe Routes to School Committee has provided information and guidance to the schools with the hope that Walk to School Week will highlight the health benefits of regular daily physical activity among children, the need for pedestrian safety, the dangers of traffic congestion, concern for the environment, and the positive impact of building connections between families, schools and the broader community.

For additional information, please visit these Web sites: International Walk to School in the USA, www.walktoschool.org; National Center for Safe Routes to School, www.saferoutesinfo.org; International Walk to School, www.iwalktoschool.org.

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