

For immediate release

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**Comox Valley Schools urges drivers to slow down as students return**

**COMOX VALLEY, B.C.** – With students and staff returning to classrooms throughout the Comox Valley, we're reminding everyone to slow down, stay alert, and share the road responsibly. Throughout the Comox Valley more children and families will be walking, cycling, busing, and driving to school.

Comox Valley Schools is working in partnership with the City of Courtenay, ICBC, and the RCMP to raise awareness and promote safe travel around schools and neighbourhoods.

"No matter where you live in the Comox Valley, every driver, cyclist, and pedestrian has a role to play in keeping students safe," said Michelle Waite, Chairperson, Comox Valley Schools. "Please slow down, plan extra time, and be especially alert near schools."

All district schools are located in school zones with posted speed limits of 30 km/h or 40 km/h, typically from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days (unless otherwise posted). Drivers should be especially cautious at intersections and crosswalks when schools are in session.

Each year students in the Comox Valley are involved in collisions while travelling to and from school. Drivers are reminded to stop for school buses when the stop arm is extended and red lights are flashing, from both directions. Please respect crossing guards and school patrols, follow their directions, and slow down when they are present.

Road safety is everyone's responsibility, but drivers carry the greatest duty of care due to the size and weight of vehicles. By working together as a community, we can help ensure a safe and successful school year for all students in the Comox Valley.

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