

BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK – OUTCOME STORIES FROM REPORTING SURVEY

FIRST B2SW EXPERIENCE:

“This was our first event and we were pleased with our beginning. Our school is looking forward to doing more varied events next year.”

IMPACT OF PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS:

“It was so nice to see parents walking their kids to school and all the kids within walking distance biking to school that would otherwise get a drive. The weather was amazing and the kids loved to meet the teacher in the front to get their prize. We are a small school so the amount of prizes were just enough but once the kids figured out how cute the prizes were so many more brought their bikes so they could get one too. Without the prizes we would not have had as many participants as we did. Each day we had more students taking part and it was so nice to see them waiting in the front to show off their bike or scooter and to get a prize from the teacher. “

“Students were thrilled to receive prizes for Bike week. A student who did not have a bike helmet won the Canadian themed bike helmet. We have had three newly installed bike racks in the past two years and students are thrilled with them. We are hoping that the increase in ridership continues over the next few years. As well we have a business class solely dedicated to promoting Bike Week.”

“The helmets that were donated by the Region of Peel were offered to two students who had none. However, both families said that they wanted to spend their own money to buy something so important; and felt that perhaps others could be offered the gift. The returned helmets were then passed on to two other students who needed them. In the process, the bike helmets became a way for kindness to be shared and passed on - very heartwarming!”

“We are lucky to have won a bike rack and can't wait for it to be installed to allow for more students to bring their bikes. We are considering getting locks for local students to feel safe. Students who have never biked before learned to bike. So awesome when you see 15 year old students try something new and be successful. Students also enjoyed the handbooks on safety.”

MORE STUDENTS BIKING:

“We have noticed many more bikes on our bike racks throughout Bike to School Week... We were excited to see so many parents walking and rolling with our students. They all seemed very positive about this initiative and looked forward to seeing their children get stickers as they arrived. One parent rolled in on his Roller Skates as he pulled one child in a wagon and his other rode a bike! What a fantastic sight to see.”

“We had more students ride this year than last and were able to accommodate more riders due to the addition of a new bike rack last year. “

“Many more students began riding their bikes to school, especially younger students. The kindergarten and grade 1 students were very excited, as were parents, to ride up and get their sticker and a prize. I

think many students hadn't really thought about riding their bikes before. One week later I notice many more bikes on our rack than in the past."

"The weeks following Bike to School week we have seen an increase in the number of students biking on a daily basis. In addition, Peel Police sent out a reminder about bike helmets and we have seen an increase in the number of students wearing helmets."

"The students who were the most enthusiastic were the Kindergartens. They are not bused and they demonstrated much enthusiasm for this event. There are families who came on bicycles together as well which was very heartwarming."

"More parents biked to school with their children. A few parents said that biking to school was fun and their children enjoyed the morning ride. Our Youngest students were the highest participants! The kinders and gr 1/2 students were super excited to ride to school and use a bike lock. "

STUDENTS CONTINUE TO BIKE EVEN AFTER B2SW:

Students made an effort to bike to school even though we are a school located in an area where this is a lot of bused students. Students continued to bike to school even after event was over.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

"Our assigned police officers visiting the school twice mid week was a real boost and a great learning opportunity for the students. Police officers actually came with their road bikes and gave our students safety tips out in the recess yard.

"Having the Peel Bike Unit as well as our NPU and Public Health Nurse present at the Bike Rodeo was also a great way to extend our activities into the community who have expertise in these areas. It is a great way to open up the school. "

BIKING SKILLS DEVELOPED:

"We had over 10 students learn how to ride two wheels. One little grade 2 girl, in particular, was so proud of herself. She had the biggest smile on her face and was telling everyone she could ride a bike. Several students started showing up that week, and the week after, with new bikes and big smiles. One of our grade 7 students said, "Well, I'm going to have a talk with my dad when I get home tonight. I've been taught it all wrong for all these years. I finally know the right way to set up my bike and ride it."

PARENTS SUPPORTING B2SW:

"It was nice to see how our primary parents supported the children by walking their bikes back home at the beginning of the day and some parents walked children's bike to school so that their children could ride back home. The children were extremely excited about the possibility of winning a helmet. It made me realize that a lot of children do not own."