



The following article is one we published last year at this time. We thank all those drivers who took heed of it and changed unsafe driving practices. Sadly, however, we feel compelled to keep reminding people of the need to abide by driving and parking regulations around our school.

At a glance:



And we might add, NO U-TURNS in intersections or streets... something we frequently see...

Each school day the streets around Braemar Elementary School are heavily congested with traffic before and after classes. The number of student drop-offs and pick-ups has increased dramatically over the years and there are times when nearby streets become so crowded that safety for pedestrians becomes significantly compromised.

In conjunction with the District of North Vancouver, the North Vancouver School District and the RCMP, Braemar School and individual parents are looking at ways to mitigate 'the traffic crunch' that occurs each day. Without question, a concerted and communal effort is required to better manage our traffic difficulties.

We are very much aware that as a French Immersion school, many families live outside our regular catchment area and that some students have a longer than usual distance to walk to and from Braemar School. Nonetheless, traveling by foot is a healthy alternative to being driven. In cases where students continue to arrive by car, we ask that ALL drivers assist us in enforcing local traffic bylaws and school guidelines. The well being of our students depends on everyone's cooperation in this regard.

**LAWS and BYLAWS:** Laws and bylaws have been and will continue to be enforced by the RCMP and the District of North Vancouver Bylaws Department. As well, the school frequently requests the presence of officers from each of these organizations. To avoid upset from unwanted fines may we humbly remind ALL DRIVERS to:

- Stop at stop signs.
- Stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks.
- Respect speed limits in school zones.
- Respect parking signs. Motorists may not stop or park in the Mahon cul sac between the hours of 8:30 and 9:30 and 2:30 and 3:30 on school days ie NO STUDENT DROP OFF/PICK without special permission from school office.
- Refrain from making U-turns in intersections or other roadways.
- Refrain from stopping or parking at anytime along yellow curbs.

**GUIDELINES:** Braemar has developed guidelines to better ensure the safety of our students.

- Have students exit cars on the sidewalk side of the street, rather than directly into the street and the path of passing vehicles
- Do not park anywhere facing against the traffic flow (wrong side of the road)
- Please do not enter the Braemar staff parking lot. Traffic in this area provides an especially hazardous situation for children. As well, the size and configuration of this parking area can be problematic on the best of days.
- Keep designated handicapped parking stall free for those who legitimately need it.
- Do not use the entrance to the staff parking area as a 'quick drop off zone'. It must be kept clear at all times for pedestrian safety and access for emergency vehicles.

As a 'new year's resolution' let's all work together to reduce traffic congestion at Braemar. Here are a few suggestions that might accomplish that:

- allow enough time each day to park a few blocks away, and walk with your child to the school (thereby building in regular exercise for all...!)
- encourage older students to ride their bikes to school (again, more fitness...!)
- organize a 'walking school bus' arrangement with other families in your neighbourhood
- carpool with other families

We are a school community. Let's be mindful of one another. Let's model 'due care and attention'. Let's be sensible and above all, LET US BE SAFE!

We appreciate your attention to this and the other safety regulations posted near our school!