# Bus safety rolls into public, private Walled Lake schools

April Morrison-Harke likes to-tell the story of a little girl named Suxy who dropped one of her school papers on the ground while getting on the school bus

ne morning. Not thinking it was a hazard, Not thinking it was a hazard, Sury retrieved the paper from the curb area, but the bus driver didn't know she was there because she had just settled an argument between two kids at the back of the bus. Little Sury was in the 'danger zone' and could have been killed,

said Morrison-Harke, regional community safety coordinator for AAA Michigan.

She's been talling that story to elementary school students in the Walled Lake area through a bus safety program that will continue into May at public and private schools in the area.

"It's a good story because it stresses the importance of being quiet on the bus and describes the danger zones around the bus," she said. "Suzy should have taken 10 giant stops away from the bus so the driver could see her."

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April Morrison-Harke

tions are helping the Walled Lake schools transportation department start its own school bus safety program, said Marilyn Nieman, supervisor of trans-portation for the district.

portation for the district's pro-Nieman said the district's pro-

gram will be presented annually,

training in October.

The AAA Michigan presentation involves school bus etiquette for kids, danger zone identification, evacuation procedures and street-smart safety measures.

Nieman said it's important that all students see the program, even those who don't ride the bus every day. All students, at some point, will ride buses for field trips and such, she noted.
Students in kindergarten through second grade are most likely to be hit by a school bus while loading and unleading, said Morrison-Harke, and older students are more likely to get hit by passing vehicles.

In 1998, there were 162 school bus accidents in Oakland Courty, injuring 53 people and killing one person, according to statistics from the Michigan State

Police Office of Highway Safety Planning. Of those 152 reported accidents, 132 occurred on local streets and five on interstate

highways.
School bus safety is a community wide responsibility noted Morrison-Harke. She commended the Walled Lake school district for starting its own safety

rict for starting its dwall and program.

Tits nice that everybody is out there achieving safety, "she said.

We're glad to help them out and get them on the right track. It's so important to educate everybody, because it takes teamwork.

## AAA Michigan offers drivers and kids plenty of tips for the road

AAA Michigan offers these tips

Get in the habit of recogniz-ing school zones on your route

E Look for bicycles, children

E Drive with headights on at all times so children and other

Black-and-white canvas bags and white identification badges with red-and-blue lettering are

driving, especially during school start and end times when children are likely to be crossing streets

SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS

BLook both ways and over your shoulder before crossing the street

Cross only at crosswalks

Doby the adult school crossing guards and the AAA school safety petrol

ing the street

Wait for the school bus at assigned bus stop and stay away

Arrive on time to the bus

# playing and school safety patrol, which indicate children are nearby as Scan between parked vehi-

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cles and other danger zones for

Census 2000 workers will canvass neighborhoods for follow-up ulation puzzle that the Census Bureau is putting together. These households that did not mail back their consus forms will get a visit from an enumerator. The operation is called Non-Response Follow-Up and is the most labor intensive part of the

nation's largest peace time mobilization. Hundreds of thousands of workers will visit households all over the country. Consus workers will generally be in the neighborhoods between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Most census enumerators will work during the evenings and weekends when residents are home.

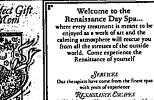
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will be made to get another

will be made to get another sworn census enumerator fluent in that language to the house-held to facilitate the interview. This phase of Census 2000 is one of the most public parts of the operation. It will require a great deal of cooperation from individuals and families. What has not changed are the mea-sures the Census Bureau has taken to maintain everyone's pritaken to maintain everyone's pri-vacy. Every enumerator has been through an FBI background check and has taken a solemn, legal oath to keep all census information confidential.



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