

Project helps Beechview students have write stuff

BY TIM SMITH

STAFF WRITER

Beechview Elementary School fourth graders want sidewalks installed in their subdivisions. And they want their voices heard about the subject.

As part of a writing assignment in the classroom of Beechview fourth grade teacher Scott Stautler, students brainstormed topics of interest to them that they could write persuasive business letters about.

Most of the class decided they wanted to write about the lack of sidewalks. Stautler's students composed letters in the media center and mailed them to Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates or to the *Farmington Observer* for possible publication.

"I think they do have hopes someone will take their concerns seriously," said Stautler, noting that the assignment began in early October and took several weeks to complete.

Stautler said he was "pleased with the results," and students wrote thoughtful letters chock full of compelling ideas.

"Safety was a common thread in the letters."

"They're generally concerned," Stautler said, "... that they don't have any place to ride their bikes, ride their scooters or walk their pets. And especially when it snows like this, there's no place to walk."

Stautler said Bates will be invited to speak to the students about the sidewalk issue.

Students participating in the project were Matthew Aho, Amali Aghbari, Jonathan Baldwin, Kristi Brandon, Tabetha Chapman, Steven Daily, Sean Daro, Alexandra Decker, Gina Ellsworth, Samantha Fishburn, Garrett Kidd, Kyle Kotick, Sam Kusek, Bryan McConnell, Yanna Ospov, Candace Quint, Kathryn Richardson, Jenna Riley, Robert Scriven, James Stollings and Melissa Wesson.

Following are some of the letters:

Loves biking

I am a fourth grader at Beechview Elementary School. I love to ride my bike, but I am concerned about not having a sidewalk. I think we need them to be safer when we go for a

bike ride. It really concerns my family that a car might hit us.

There are many reasons why we need sidewalks. First, if we don't have sidewalks someone can get badly injured by a car. Second, it would look neater and it would be more fun to go

on a walk.

My request is simple. We want sidewalks in the neighborhood so I can ride my bike safely. It will make my street look like a new street. I can then take a long walk. But if the city puts sidewalks in, we will be more than thankful.

Jenna Riley
Beechview Elementary

because my brother is forced to ride his bike in the street. That is not safe.

There are many reasons why this is an issue. Hers is one. There are tons of kids who die from car accidents. Sidewalks are a very safe place for walking, riding bikes and pushing strollers.

My request is simple. I want sidewalks in my neighborhood. It would be a safer place for kids.

Christopher Scriven
Beechview Elementary

Sidewalk needed

I am a fourth grader at Beechview Elementary School, and I am concerned about not having a sidewalk in my subdivision. When a car goes by, I have to stop and wait. If we had a sidewalk in our neighborhood, then we wouldn't have to stop so much.

There are many reasons for a sidewalk. One is I can ride my bike, Rollerblade and ride my scooter all the time. Sidewalks would make it safer for all kids.

My request is simple. I would like sidewalks to be put in my neighborhood. When you go for a walk, you can use the sidewalk.

Bryan McConnell
Beechview Elementary

Street unsafe

I am a fourth grader at Beechview Elementary. There is a particular issue I'm concerned about. The issue is there are no sidewalks in my neighborhood. I'm concerned about this issue

because my brother is forced to ride his bike in the street. That is not safe.

There are many reasons we need sidewalks. First, we have to walk and play games in the street and it is unsafe for us to walk in the road. Second, I have to ride my bike in the street and my friends like to ride their scooters and we could get hit by a car. Third, when we are at our Aunt Marie's house, we tell our 2-year-old cousin "Don't go past the sidewalk." This keeps her a safe distance away from the road. Fourth, many people like to walk their dogs and they need a place to walk them safely.

My request is simple. Please put sidewalks in my neighborhood.

Jonathan Baldwin
Beechview Elementary

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My request is simple. Please put sidewalks in my neighborhood.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL REEDER

Home of writers: Beechview school is in a Farmington Hills subdivision between 11 and 12 Mile roads.

Many reasons

I am a fourth grader from Beechview Elementary, and I am concerned about sidewalks. Every time I go for a bike ride, I don't feel comfortable.

There are a lot of reasons to put sidewalks in. First, someone could get hit. Next, someone's dog could get hit. Finally, a little kid could get hit. Once I was

going for a bike ride and a car almost hit me.

My request is simple. Please put sidewalks in my neighborhood.

Gina Ellsworth
Beechview Elementary

I am a fourth grader at

Concerned

I am a fourth grader at

Beechview Elementary School. I want to tell you a concern I have. I would like sidewalks in my neighborhood. I live on Springfield Street.

There are many reasons.

First, I don't want to get hit by a car. Second, people can walk, Rollerblade, bike and other things too. Third, parents now

have to watch their kids every

second, with sidewalks and a car

almost hit me.

My request is simple. Please put sidewalks in my neighborhood.

Samantha Kusek
Beechview Elementary

I am a fourth grader at

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