

TOBY TIRE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ALERT



As winter begins to lose its grip on the Midwest, it's a good time to review some child and traffic safety rules and reinforce our commitment to safe travel.

Adults understand the temptation of spring fever, when our attention turns from the frigid discomfort of winter to the prospects of warmth and rebirth. Kids get it too. They look forward to bringing the bicycles out of the basement and garage and back outdoors where they can experience the freedom of a spring afternoon.

It's a good time for us all to return our attention to school bus and pedestrian safety rules and procedures.

Some reminders:

- Younger students should be reminded that drivers may be distracted for a variety of reasons as spring weather approaches. *Always be careful crossing the street.*
- Nationally, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of kids who have been struck by motor vehicles that illegally pass their school buses. There has been no definitive reason offered for this rash of accidents. *Remind your students they must always cross in front of their school bus and be sure that traffic has stopped for them before they proceed across the street.*
- The spring weather brings out the euphoria in children. *This is a good opportunity for us to remind them that school bus drivers have a difficult job. Respect your driver, talk in your inside voice and always remain seated while the bus is in motion.*
- Bullying may not seem like a barrier to school bus safety but it is. A child who is consumed with worry about a bully has a tough time concentrating on staying safe. And adults need to understand that kids today have challenges that we never faced: cyberbullying has become epidemic. *Respect each other. If someone is bullying you, tell a teacher or your principal. That's simply behavior that will not be tolerated at our school.*

Spring is a time of rebirth. Let's make it a re-commitment to school bus safety as well.