



# GEAR UP FOR NOVEMBER!

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Walking School Bus with Diane Feinstein Elementary

## Calling All Champions!

Do you want to make events such as Walk & Roll to School Week fun? Or organize a bike blender visit to your school? We need awesome volunteers like YOU to help!

Each school needs a parent/guardian or staff **Champion** to help organize events at their school—and it could be YOU! Parents, guardian, or staff at all San Francisco schools are welcome to sign-up and support their school with Safe Routes to School activities. No experience needed!

What will you do as a champion?

- Work with your school's leaders to select activities appropriate for your school community and help schedule them
- Rally your school's students, teachers, staff, and community members for events
- Lead fun activities and help hand out participation incentives



School Year 2023-2024 Safe Routes to School Champions celebrating a successful school year at a SF Giants Game

Parents, caregivers, teachers, and staff can all become Champions. Not sure if someone at your school has already signed up? No worries! Just fill out the form, and we'll connect you with other volunteers! [Sign up to be a Champion Today!](#)

## Celebrating a Safe Routes to School Advocate



Frances and her Son Teddy



Frances on Mt. Tam in 2020

Frances Elizabeth Barbour discovered her passion for active transportation and cycling during her college years, when she began bike commuting. This love of cycling, combined with her desire to empower others to ride safely and confidently, inspired her to earn certification as a League Cycling Instructor (LCI) through the League of American Bicyclists.

From 2003 to 2013, Frances played a key role in shaping the Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) and its groundbreaking Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) pilot program. Initially serving as Outreach Coordinator, she later became the program's Lead Instructor, a role she embraced as her son, Teddy Hayden, entered grade school. Frances's efforts not only laid the foundation for SR2S in Marin County but also contributed to its adoption as a national model.

One of the highlights of Frances's career came in 2005, when she traveled to Washington, D.C., as part of an MCBC delegation advocating for federal support of Safe Routes to School. During this trip, Frances and her young son Teddy—affectionately dubbed the "SR2S poster child"—participated in a Capitol Hill meeting that helped secure historic funding for the program. This advocacy effort resulted in over \$1 billion allocated nationwide for infrastructure improvements and educational initiatives to make walking and biking to school safer for children.

Throughout her time with SR2S, Frances developed and implemented bike and pedestrian safety curricula for elementary school students, organized hundreds of school-wide bike rodeos, led family biking workshops, hosted assemblies, and established after-school bike clubs for elementary students. Today, Frances continues to teach SF Safe Routes to School biking classes and collaborate with organizations such as Bicycle Solutions and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition to further promote safe cycling practices.

Frances's trip to Washington, D.C., stands as a testament to her tireless advocacy and commitment to creating safer, healthier, and more accessible transportation options for communities nationwide.

## Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) annual Elementary Poster Contest!

Students in grades 1-6 are invited to submit amazing artwork that explores safe, affordable, and sustainable alternatives to passenger cars. This year's theme is **Get Going, Go Green!**

**Eight lucky winners**—four from grades 1-3 and four from grades 4-6—will win fantastic prizes, including a total of \$950 in gift cards! Plus, your winning posters will be featured in the MTI monthly newsletter and displayed at the Annual Banquet at San José State University in June 2025!

Check out the [online website](#) for all the details. If you have any questions or need help with art supplies or finding a guest speaker to get you inspired, reach out to [alverina.weinardy@sjsu.edu](mailto:alverina.weinardy@sjsu.edu).

## Upcoming Events

RIDE MUNI TO SCHOOL WEEK  
February 3-7, 2025  
Citywide

Join us for our citywide celebration of Muni and transit! More info to come in upcoming newsletters!

## Connect with us today!

WANT TO REQUEST AN ACTIVITY AT YOUR SCHOOL OR INVITE US TO AN EVENT?

Email [saferroutestoschool@sfmta.com](mailto:saferroutestoschool@sfmta.com)

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LEARN MORE AT [WWW.SFSAFEROUTES.ORG](http://WWW.SFSAFEROUTES.ORG)  
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San Francisco County Transportation Authority