



# St. Mary's School Goderich

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October 3, 2008

## **Urgent: School Safety Update**

Dear Parents and Guardians

After a month of observation and consultation with bus companies, parents, School Advisory Council, OPP and teachers, it is very obvious that we have a potentially dangerous situation on Bennett Street when picking up and dropping off students. In order to avert any problems or injuries we are making the following changes effective Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>:

- **ALL children are to be picked up or dropped off via the Gibbons Street entrance at the parking lot. The main parking lot of the school is to be used as a Drop Off/Pick Up Zone only. This means that unless you have an appointment with a teacher or you are planning to stay at the school for an extended period of time you are not to use this area to park your vehicle during the arrival or departure periods of the day.**
- **ALL students getting picked up or meeting a parent at the end of the day will leave the school through the front foyer doors ONLY. (K and Primary students will be walked by their classroom teacher to the Drop Off/Pick Up Zone area that will be monitored by school staff). Hopefully this will alleviate the situation of parents having to meet students at several entrances. This means that no students will be exiting through the primary entrance at the end of the day.**
- **ALL students who are walking home, or being walked home by an older student will exit the building through the entrances near the front foyer.**
- **Bennett Street is to be used solely for bus traffic.**

Please Note:

1. If you are a parent that wishes to park and walk to meet their child at the Pick Up Zone, you are asked to park your vehicle along Gibbons Street on the east side.
2. If you are a parent that simply wishes to drive through the pick-up zone to pick up your child, staff will be directed when it is safe for your child to go to your vehicle.
3. All students independently walking home are required to walk either along Gibbons Street or the North side of Bennett Street.

It is our hope that by trying to improve arrival and departure procedures, a serious incident will be avoided. Please know that these procedures will be closely monitored and refined if necessary for maximum safety. Any input is appreciated. We also appreciate your patience with the process.

Sincerely,