

Dear Prosperity Heights Families,

An important topic of concern for all of us is student safety. Keeping our children safe at all times is a primary job for parents and guardians, teachers and all school staff, and community members. We are focusing this issue on student safety, because it's helpful to review the regulations that are already in place, and it's necessary to revise some of our routines to make sure we are working together to keep everyone safe.

One important reminder is to make sure everyone signs in at the office when visiting the school during the day. This safety measure keeps us informed about who is in the building at all times. When you sign in and put on a visitor's badge, we can quickly affirm that you have checked in at the office and belong in our building. Staff will be asking visitors to sign in and show the visitor's badge in an effort to keep the school as safe as possible. We definitely want you to visit, and we request your cooperation in this very important safety requirement.

We have also been working to improve safety for all of the Prosperity Heights community by revising our traffic patterns before and after school. I have heard several complaints about minor car accidents, close calls with children running out into the street, and traffic congestion in front of the school during these busy times of the day. We are working to change the traffic patterns during student drop-off and pick-up times. We are also establishing expectations for parking along Ivy Street and Prosperity Avenue. You might have noticed that the snow banks were removed in front of the school along Prosperity Avenue. This was done in anticipation of revamping the student loading and unloading process. Here is a summary of our plan:

- Beginning Monday, March 2, staff will be directing all cars to drop students off on the school side of Prosperity Avenue in the morning. We will have plenty of staff and student patrols present to help move traffic and keep students safe. Cars will not be allowed to park in the student loading and unloading zone along Prosperity Avenue. There will be limited parking available farther south on Prosperity and also on Ivy if parents choose to park and escort their children into the school.
- If you do park and come into the school during these high traffic times, please use the crosswalks and hold onto your little ones. They are often not seen by the drivers of moving vehicles.
- Pick-up at the end of the day will follow the same pattern as the morning drop-off, with students gathered on Prosperity Avenue and cars being directed to load their students and keep moving. Again, we will have a strong staff and patrol presence to make this a safe and smooth process.
- Parking in *No Parking* zones and double parking will not be allowed. The Saint Paul Police will be helping us make pick-up and drop-off safer for everyone. They will be watching the school for several weeks, looking particularly for unsafe driving and illegal parking. We have been informed that they will ticket motorists who violate traffic statutes or who stop or park their cars illegally. We have no control over this enforcement activity and ask that you please follow all traffic and parking regulations.

- We have requested signs to help direct traffic and are open to suggestions.
- In the next couple weeks, staff will be handing out flyers during the drop-off and pick-up times to inform families of our plans so we can all work together to make these busy traffic times as safe as possible.

My goal as principal of Prosperity Heights Elementary School is to make sure every person who attends and visits our school feels safe and welcome so that the highest level of learning can occur for each and every child. In this spirit, I welcome your comments and your ideas to help us continue to make Prosperity Heights the best school it can be.

Sincerely,
Stacey Kadrmas