

PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Encourage your student to walk to and from school on a regular basis to promote healthy living. You can save yourself from traffic and scheduling hassles. Cutting out even a few car trips to the school can improve our school and our community.

You taught your students to talk, walk, tie shoes, and cross the street ages ago. Elementary school students demand independence, but need reminding that they are not indestructible. Help them make responsible choices by reviewing safe walking habits.

Although parent volunteers have walked these main pedestrian routes to check for major safety issues, please keep in mind that no route can be guaranteed completely safe.

One of the main goals of our Safer Routes to School Committee is to help new McGirr students get to and from school safely. This committee relies on your participation to promote student safety, and to assist with ongoing monitoring. Your ideas and feedback are welcome. If you have questions or comments please contact the school at 758-8946.

IF YOU MUST DRIVE YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL, PLEASE REMEMBER... ...TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS

- ★ **ALWAYS** ensure everyone is buckled up.
- ★ **ALWAYS** yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- ★ **DO NOT** pass a vehicle which has slowed down or stopped at a crosswalk - there may be a pedestrian crossing the street who is not visible to you.
- ★ **OBEY** the posted speed limit and any parking restriction signs.
- ★ **DO NOT** park within 10 feet of a driveway entrance, or within 20 feet of an intersecting street.
- ★ **DO NOT** park within 20 feet of a stop sign or park on or back over a crosswalk.
- ★ **ALWAYS** stay alert and use extreme caution when driving in school zones.

The Safer Routes to School Project is a partnership between:

- McGirr Elementary School
- Safer City Program
- ICBC
- School District #68
- City of Nanaimo
- RCMP



School Zone 30 km/h limit is in effect from 8 am to 5 pm on school days.



School Bus Stop Ahead STOP when red lights are flashing.



School Crosswalk – yield to pedestrians – if there is a crossing guard, follow directions.



Cyclists may be on the roadway.



Playground Area – presence of children on, or near the road, could represent an unexpected hazard to the driver.

WEBSITES:

SD68 – www.sd68.bc.ca
City of Nanaimo – www.nanaimo.ca

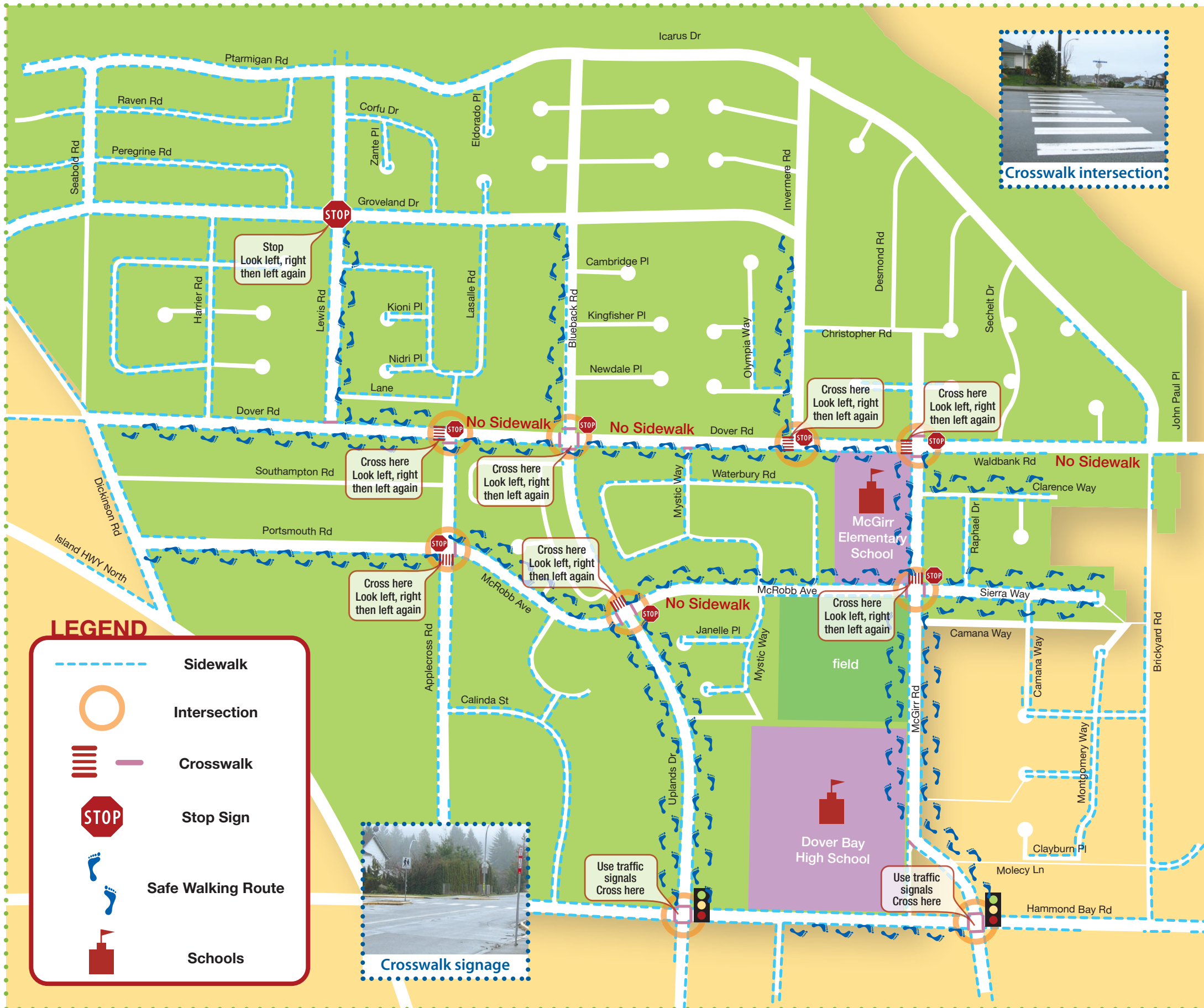
Street Wise

MCGIRR SAFER SCHOOL TRAVEL ROUTE



...MAIN PEDESTRIAN ROUTES TO SCHOOL...

MCGIRR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - BEST WALKING ROUTES TO SCHOOL



Street Wise Tips

SIDEWALKS

- ★ If there is a **SIDEWALK**, use it. It's for your safety!
- ★ Where there is **NO SIDEWALK**:
Where safe to do so, **WALK** facing traffic.
WALK on the gravel shoulder or grass boulevard.

CROSSING THE STREET

LOOK!

- ★ **NEVER** Jaywalk.
- ★ USE marked **CROSSWALKS** where available.
- ★ **STOP** at the curb or road edge.
- ★ **LOOK** left, right, then left again.
- ★ **DO NOT** step onto the roadway until all vehicles have **STOPPED** moving.
- ★ **CROSS** when the street is clear but keep looking and listening.
- ★ **WATCH** for left and right turning vehicles.
- ★ **LOOK** at the driver to make eye contact.
- ★ **KNOW** that a driver **MAY NOT STOP** for pedestrians at a marked crossing.
- ★ **KNOW** that a crosswalk **DOES NOT** make it safe to cross the street.

CROSSING AT A TRAFFIC SIGNAL

LOOK!

- ★ **PRESS** button for desired crossing.
- ★ **STEP BACK** from the curb.
- ★ **WAIT** for all traffic to stop.
- ★ **LOOK** both ways before starting to cross.
- ★ Only when the **"WALK"** signal is shown and all traffic is **"STOPPED"**.
- ★ **WATCH** and **LISTEN** when crossing.
- ★ If the **"DON'T WALK"** signal starts to flash after you have started to cross, keep going, but do not run. You have lots of time.
- ★ **DO NOT** start to cross when the **"DON'T WALK"** signal is flashing or continuously displayed.

...MORE SAFETY TIPS

- ★ **BUDDY-UP**: walk with a friend or two.
- ★ **BE SEEN**: wear something bright or reflective.
- ★ **BE ALERT**: Do Not wear headphones while walking / biking to school.
- ★ **STOP SIGN**: look left, right then left again.