

EDUCATION MATTERS

School Bus Safety Week

The week of October 21st to 25th is School Bus Safety Week across Manitoba. Approximately 765 of B.P.S.D. students are transported by bus, safety is a very high priority in the Division.

Beautiful Plains School Division operates 22 school buses on regular bus routes with an additional nine spare buses. The longest route is 198 kilometers per day and the shortest route is 42 kilometers per day. Approximately 40% of our students are transported daily within the division.

Students that are transported by bus are trained and instructed in proper evacuation and ridership procedures twice a year. Regular bus drivers as well as spare drivers have 8 hours of in-service per year to review procedures or changes to regulations.

All school buses are given a complete mechanical inspection twice a year and minor inspections at more frequent intervals. As well, school bus drivers do pre and post inspections daily to observe the mechanical and safety equipment on the bus. The fleet is kept in top condition due to the diligence of the staff at the bus garage as well as the drivers.

School buses in Beautiful Plains are equipped with strobe lights to help make them more visible especially in snowy or foggy conditions.

Most of all the school bus accidents where students are injured occur during loading or unloading of students, so remember that it is illegal and dangerous to pass a school bus when its' red lights are flashing and the stop sign is out.

In Manitoba if you are convicted of passing a stopped school bus that has its STOP arm(s) extended and RED lights flashing you could face a fine of \$673.00 and demerits.

So please be aware of the big yellow buses and keep our children safe.

Submitted by:
The Board of Trustees
Beautiful Plains School Division