

École Poirier Elementary

December 10th, 2024

Walking School Bus (WSB)

General Information:

- Registration most likely to open next week for the route.
- The WSB is funded by the BC Government, with funding currently allotted for 2 years.
- The goal of the program is for children to learn how to travel independently, and to “graduate” from the program (especially around grade 5 – 7), so that younger members can join and learn this skill.

Route Information:

- The walking route has been drafted:
 - Starts at John Phillips Memorial Park (Sooke Country Market parking lot).
 - Goes through Stickleback Trail to Arranwood drive, with stops along the way.
- Route is based on a pre-proposed plan from School Active Travel Planning with the Municipality of Sooke, and created with the drive-to-15 model in mind.
- Route is around 1.2km in length and will take approximately 20 minutes to walk (one-way).
- Routes run both AM and PM, or as needed (depending on school interest and registration).
- Operates in all-weather, as long as the route is safe (e.g. ploughed) and school is operating.

Walk Leader Information:

Poirier Elementary will be operating with the **Paid Leader Model:**

- 1 SCY hired Paid Walk Leader with 1 (sometimes 2) Volunteer Walk Leaders per route.
- SCY screens and trains all Walk Leaders (including vulnerable sector checks, etc.), provides visibility vests, First Aid kits, backpacks, some other paraphernalia at times (e.g. play-along-the-way equipment, stickers)

We are currently accepting applications for the paid walk leader position on a rolling basis:

- Route runs AM and PM from Monday - Friday. The contract covers January to June, with the January start date TBD as new WSB programs roll out. Approximately 10 hours / week.
- A good fit for students with flexible schedules, community members (retired or otherwise), and parents who already walk their own child(ren) to/from school and want a bit of supplemental income.

Links:

Paid Walk Leader Position Posting:

- <https://scyofbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/BC-Walking-School-Bus-Walk-Leaders.pdf>

Walking School Bus Main Page / Video:

- <https://scyofbc.org/walking-school-bus/>

Society Website:

- <https://scyofbc.org/>

