

Dear parents, guardians and families:

Many of you have expressed concerns about student safety and traffic around Elizabeth Finch School. Due to an increase in vehicle activity, arrangements were made for a consultant from the City of Edmonton's Traffic Safety office to do a pedestrian/vehicle assessment at the school.

Vehicle traffic around the school was monitored during peak hours. The City's consultant noted that troubling traffic behaviours occurred most frequently between 3:00 and 3:45 p.m. He also noted that although there has been an increase in traffic volume in the area, putting a crosswalk on 139 Street at 160 Avenue would not meet the City's crosswalk guidelines. Most disturbing in his report is the high number of u-turns taking place at this intersection. He has requested that a **No U-turn** sign be put up so that police could be called to ticket this practice. The City will also be putting up a **School Zone** sign facing southbound traffic on 139 Street, to remind drivers that children are present.

Also flagged in the consultant's report was that parents were parking in a few restricted areas. One area he noted was the east side of 139 Street, just south of 160 Avenue. A **No Parking** sign will be posted there to prevent obstruction and improve sightlines for students crossing. When cars park there, it blocks the view and makes it unsafe for children to cross. Parents were also observed parking in a bus zone with City of Edmonton signage across the street. The consultant advised that if there were no illegal parking, students would not have to cross through vehicles and the intersection would be much clearer.

In addition to this assessment, on Friday, October 21 at the end of the school day, two Constables from the Edmonton Police Service visited our school. They observed the same troubling traffic behaviours and spoke to a number of parents about the traffic infractions they noticed. They indicated that they will be returning to provide enforcement for continued traffic violations.

Our school community is very concerned about pedestrian safety around the school. We would ask parents who drive their children to school, to pick safety over convenience and only park where appropriate. We would also request that when you are driving near the school that you drive slowly and follow the rules of the road.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure that students are safe coming to and going from school. Thank you for your co-operation and continued support.

Yours truly,



Laurie Barnstable
Principal