

## Hopkins Hill Students Take A Walk

# Better late than never: school takes part in Int'l Walk Day

## NECAP testing forced initial postponement

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COVENTRY— Students and parents excitedly followed the Hopkins Hill Fire District's rescue up Johnsons Boulevard early Friday morning as they participated in the annual International Walk to School Day.

While the original day was on Oct. 9 this year, the students at Hopkins Hill were working vigorously on their NECAP testing from Oct. 1 through Oct. 10. Because of this the administration had to postpone the day until October 11.

Principal Kathryn Tancrelle said the students participate in the event every year and seem to really enjoy it.

"It's always a good turnout and they get very excited to see the police and fire escorts," she said.

This community event has the Coventry Police Department and the Hopkins Hill Fire District lead the students and their parents up Johnsons Boulevard to ensure the students and their families arrive safely.

International Walk to School Day is organized by the Partnership for a Walkable America. It began in the United States in 1997 but is now celebrated in 40 countries.

This day is a global event that encourages physical activity.

Along with that however, it raises awareness regarding safe routes to school, raises concerns for the environ-

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Students at Coventry's Hopkins Hill Elementary School participated in International Walk to School Day last Friday, and about 100 students and some of their parents walked.



# Walk to School Day Fri. at HHES

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environment and it reduces traffic congestion, pollution and speeding near the schools.

According to a press release, studies have shown that exercise reduces stress and improves test scores. It also helps to reduce obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

"It's great for the students to get out and experience fresh air and walking," Tancrelle reiterated. "We chatted on the way so it's a nice social time and it's a healthy time for them because they can walk and be outside."

There were two meeting locations for the students to walk to or get dropped off by parents; Johnson Boulevard and Arnold Road and Johnson Boulevard and Hopkins Hill Road.

Although the school has an enrollment of approximately 400 students, many of them live too far away to walk.

At 8:35 a.m. however, approximately 100 students were led by police, fire, parents and staff to the front door of their school as four students held a banner that announced it was International Walk to School Day.

**Walk to School Day is an exciting occasion to the 100 or so students who participate at Hopkins Hill.**

*Jessica Boisclair • Daily Times*

