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CORRESPONDENCE

as of 11-19-2021

From: [Safe Routes to School San Mateo County Office of Education Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
To: [Safe Routes to School San Mateo County Office of Education Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day - Exciting Updates!
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 2:15:35 PM

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San Mateo County
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
Healthy Kids • Green Communities • Safe Journeys

November 17, 2021

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day: Take a Virtual Walk Through History!



On November 14*, 1960, six-year old Ruby Bridges integrated William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ruby's simple but courageous act of showing up for school each day, despite the vitriol she faced, played an important role in the Civil Rights Movement. Learn more by taking our [virtual walk through history](#) and see the winning Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day poster below.

In spring of 2018 a group of 5th graders from Martin Elementary school in South San Francisco Unified School District were so inspired by Ruby's courage that they asked their school board to pass a resolution making November 14th Ruby Bridges Day in SSFUSD. The San Mateo County Office of Education Safe Routes to School team met with the students about making it

a walk to school day and a movement was born. Safe Routes to School programs across the country have helped promote this new walk to school day. Since the first event was held in 2018, Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day has grown exponentially with more schools participating each year. The 2020 event was the [1st national RBWTSD with schools across the country participating](#), even in the midst of a pandemic! This year the [California State Senate passed a resolution](#) recognizing RBWTSD and [Ruby Bridges restarted her foundation](#), making RBWTSD the centerpiece of her foundation's work!

An inspirational presentation by the 2018 Martin Elementary 5th graders and their desire to recognize and celebrate the courage of a 6 year old was the catalyst for Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. It started right here in San Mateo County and caught the imagination of school children across the county and across the country!

This year's RBWTSD takes place on November 17th. Thank you for your support of this day! Have a good walk!

Check out our resources at www.smcoe.org/rubybridges
or www.tinyurl.com/RubyBridgesWalk

*When November 14th falls on a weekend, RBWTSD takes place on the following Wednesday.



Take a Virtual Walk Through History!

The Ruby Bridges Virtual Walk Through History was created by the San Mateo County Office of Education Safe Routes to School Americorp Fellows! Get ready to learn about Ruby and pedestrian safety tips by completing a series of challenges. Play by yourself or with a group! Have fun!

www.tinyurl.com/RBvirtualwalk



Saira N. from Arundel Elementary School in the San Carlos School District won the Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day poster contest! There were over 250 entries from across the county. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Saira included the following about her poster: *"The letters represent hate speech. I was trying to show that Ruby did not let the words hurt or stop her. The cloud represents feelings of worry, anger and frustration that Ruby felt because of all that was happening around her. The rain represents everything that was trying to bring her down but she did not let that happen."*

Congratulations, Saira!





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