

NEWSLETTER

WebParentTip, Volume 11, # 4 for April 7, 2010

A TIP FROM ITALY

There is a town in Italy in which 450 school children travel on 17 school bus routes to elementary schools. But there are NO SCHOOL BUSES.

The children WALK to school! What a novel idea, she who ALWAYS walked to school types sarcastically as she reads an article from the New York Times of March 27, 2009 written by Elisabeth Rosenthal.

The town of Lecco wanted to combat childhood obesity, traffic jams, and greenhouse gases by finding a way for children to walk to school safely. The "piedabus" (foot bus in Italian) is a bus route with a driver, school staff, and parent volunteers who safely shepherd their charges to and from school by foot.

Even kids who were previously driven to school by a parent prefer this new mode of transportation. "I get to see my friends and we feel special because we know it's good for the environment."

In the US only 13 % of school children walk to school. A study in the UK showed that driving kids to school accounted for 18% of car trips for city dwellers so walking to school does mean less emissions from cars as well as more exercise for kids.

Some communities here are using Safe Routes to School (a national effort to encourage walking or biking) money to set up walking programs. I think a few dedicated parents could do it without money using volunteers. It's a win-win-win situation: healthier kids, less traffic, and a cleaner environment.

IT ARRIVES NEXT MONTH!!!!!! WHAT ARRIVES? THE NEW NEWSLETTER!

WATCH THIS SPACE! IN MAY, 2010 THE ParentKidsRight.com NEWSLETTER WILL HAVE A NEW LOOK.