**Woodbine School Patrols:**

There has been a request to revisit discussions we’ve previously had during various Council Meetings around the recurring concerns regarding traffic issues and parental compliance with drop-off regulations. In light of this, we have taken the initiative to carefully evaluate *Administrative Regulation – 6009 School Safety Patrols* in considering the potential implementation of a School Safety Patrol at Woodbine School.

While we recognize the promising leadership opportunities such a program could offer our students, our primary consideration revolves around the safety and well-being of both our students and staff. As such, we are cautious about introducing young students and our staff into roles that involve managing traffic or enforcing safety regulations, potentially exposing them to unnecessary risks or conflicts.

As always, our paramount priority is to cultivate a safe and nurturing environment for all our students. We firmly believe that there are alternative avenues through which we can nurture leadership skills while upholding their safety as our top priority. We have taken the initiative to create a Pros and Risks list from the school’s point of view to help you navigate these complex considerations when discussing whether or not we re-establish the School Safety Patrol at Woodbine.

**Pros:**

1. **Promotes Responsibility/Leadership Development:** Being a safety patrol instills a sense of responsibility in elementary students as they're entrusted with the safety of their peers.
2. **Promotes Teamwork:** Working as part of a safety patrol team encourages cooperation and collaboration among students.
3. **Positive School Community:** Having student safety patrols fosters a sense of community within the school, with students actively contributing to its well-being.
4. **Encourages Respect for Rules:** Students learn to respect traffic rules and safety regulations firsthand, which can translate to broader respect for rules in other aspects of life.

**Risks:**

1. **The Traffic Safety Training of Students:** Calgary Police Service (CPS) has discontinued their relationship with School Safety Patrols, meaning they no longer provide the rigorous in-person training they’d previously done, or the follow-up inspections, feedback, and guidance. We do not feel the preparation and support is adequate to put our students out on the street patrolling parents and the crosswalks in front of the school.
2. **The Volume of Traffic:** Woodfield Way, the main parental drop-off spot, sees heavy traffic pre and post-school. Despite cones marking crosswalks, some drivers ignore them, others make illegal U-turns, speed, or stop abruptly to drop off kids. Entrusting young students with traffic control roles in that situation raises concerns regarding their capability to manage risky scenarios.
3. **The Complexity of the Crossings and Sidewalk:** One of the marked crosswalks lacks connectivity to the sidewalk across the street, and is on a corner. The issue with the other two marked crosswalks is that parents park along the field side of those crossings, causing a significant line of cars along Woodfield Way during drop-off and pick-up times. This would pose a safety risk for a School Safety Patrol, as they would have to step out between parked cars to make their stop signs visible.
4. **Emotional Impact:** Negative interactions with parents or incidents involving safety infractions could have a detrimental impact on the students' self-esteem, confidence, and levels of anxiety. There have been instances this year where adults have engaged in verbal arguments, using profane language, and acted in inappropriate ways over traffic disagreements – both towards each other and towards Bylaw Enforcement Officers. We have concerns about exposing our students to these kinds of confrontational situations.