

Opinion: Tips for drivers, kids as school resumes

By Chuck Allen

Summer break is ending soon and children will be heading back to school. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office is asking drivers to slow down and be on the alert for children walking to school.

Here are some precautions for drivers:

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods and school zones. Come to a full stop and check both ways at stop signs and red lights.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours.
- Watch for school bus stop signs. When a school bus stops with brake lights flashing or the stop sign raised, motorists from either direction must stop until all children have safely crossed the road.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Remember, using your cellular phone while driving is against the law and a dangerous distraction.

Reminders for your kids:

- Distracted walking can be just as dangerous as distracted driving. Reduce distractions while walking, focus on where you are going, not on your mobile device.
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars.

- Make sure to always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them.
- Refrain from horseplay and remain in a group while waiting for the school bus.

Chuck Allen is sheriff of Washoe County.