

THE EDMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INC.
P.O. Box 1161 Scarsdale, NY 10583

September 5, 2006

Dear Seely Place Parent:

As your family begins the new school year, I would like to bring to your attention some long-standing and difficult traffic problems during morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal, and to ask for your as well as any caregiver's cooperation in trying to improve the situation.

Enrollment at Seely Place has increased steadily over the past ten years, and with it so has the number of vehicles taking children to and from school. In addition, traffic will increase further this year as parents from the Greenridge section, whose children previously were bused to school, will now be required to provide their own transportation. The increased number of vehicles has lengthened drop-off and pick-up lines and created traffic snarls and pedestrian safety issues which over time seem to many in our community to have become increasingly hazardous. The Edgemont Community Council, the umbrella organization for Edgemont's eight civic associations, has and will continue to work with the Town and with the Cotswold, Edgemont and Greenridge Civic Associations to try to address these issues, but there are no easy solutions.

Accordingly, ECC would like to urge everyone to make an effort to carefully observe traffic rules and to exercise a little more consideration towards pedestrians. ECC also encourages residents to consider walking to and from school, particularly in the fall and spring when one is likely to meet friends outside Seely after school begins or at the end of the day. However, for those who drive, ECC would like to suggest the following:

Morning Drop-off

Please use the front entrance to drop off your child at school. This will leave the Henry Street entrance for faculty who park in the area near the back field and for children who walk to school. If you must drop off your child on Henry Street, **do not block the rear driveway, do not pull your vehicle onto the footpath and do discharge your child quickly – this area must be kept clear for pedestrians and for continued traffic flow.**

Please consider dropping off older children (grades 4-6) a little earlier when there is less congestion. Doing so will also give them time to see friends before starting the day.

Afternoon Dismissal

Half-day Kindergarten: No change

End of the Day

This is the most difficult traffic movement to manage, because there is the greatest congestion for the longest period of time. In addition, parking is limited. Besides school parking, some on-street parking is available on Robin Hill Road and on Seely Place, south of the school driveway. The Greenville Church has also been very gracious in making their parking area available to Seely parents.

Please pick up your child at the front entrance of Seely Place. **Please do not park on the footpath on Henry Street** because it is unlawful, (and you may be ticketed) and because you are obstructing a pedestrian walkway thereby creating a safety hazard. The footpath on Henry Street was put in at the request of the Edgemont Association to provide an area for residents to be safely out of the way of cars. It is imperative that it remain free of obstructions. Remember, more walkers mean fewer cars, which means less traffic congestion. It, therefore, is in every driver's interest not to block pedestrian walkways.

If you do pick up your child on Henry Street, plan on arriving shortly after 3pm, so that you can simply pick up your child and continue. Do not park or stand your vehicle. This will help maintain two-way traffic flow.

Please remember that the speed limit in a school area during arrival and departure times is 20mph. ECC respectfully reminds you of this and asks that you comply. This is especially important in areas where there is no sidewalk, such as Seely Place, and pedestrians are forced to share the road with cars and large SUV's.

Traffic, parking and pedestrian safety at Seely Place are issues that affect us as a community, and when possible, we should work as a community to address them. The suggestions offered here are not perfect solutions, but if followed, they should improve traffic and pedestrian safety around Seely Place. I also would encourage you to share any suggestions you may have for improvements with the Edgemont, Cotswold or Greenridge Civic Associations, or with ECC. The civic associations always welcome input from the community in these matters.

Please share this letter with all drivers as well as caregivers in your family. I thank you in advance for your cooperation and wish you and your family a wonderful and successful school year.

Very truly yours,

Michelle McNally, President