To Childs Elementary Parents & Guardians:

Following Spring Break, we will be back with ‘Walking Wednesdays’ program! This program will include a Walking School Bus (WSB) and physical activity on Wednesday mornings. This program is made possible by the collaboration between IU Health Bloomington, Bloomington Park & Recreation, and MCCSC School Age Care.

A WSB is designed to gather students from local neighborhoods to walk to school together, while accompanied by adults. The goals of the Walking Wednesdays program include: promote alternative transportation, increase physical activity, reduce traffic congestion at the school, and encourage positive social interactions between students of all ages. Research shows students who participate in regular physical activity tend to have higher rates of academic success, as the benefits of physical activity include increased ability to focus, improved executive control, and overall improved brain health.

**New this semester: in addition to the charms students receive for attending the walking school bus, students will have the opportunity to win ‘cash’ to use at the end of the semester to purchase a prize. We will have themes each week and try to ‘guest walkers’ to accompany us on our walk to school.**

- Walking Wednesdays will take place during March 23rd-May 18th
- Those who wish to participate must be enrolled in the Wednesday morning program through MCCSC School Age Care and sign separate waiver for Walking Wednesdays.
  - Please return completed waivers to the front office or Gerard Pannekoek, SAC Site Coordinator for Childs.
- Drop Sites will allow students to be dropped off and gather before walking as a group to the school. Drop sites will begin taking students at 7:55am, and will head towards the school at promptly 8:15am. If students arrive after the WSB have left, the parent/guardian is responsible for transporting their child to the school.
  - Olcott Park Shelter- Walk Jackson Creek Trail to Childs
  - Additional sites will be added as needed.—fill out doodle poll to select preferred site.
    - [http://doodle.com/poll/nvwuvagt8a5pmc2a](http://doodle.com/poll/nvwuvagt8a5pmc2a)
- If raining (exception: Walking Wednesdays will not take place in the case of thunderstorms), we will provide extra umbrellas but expect students to be dressed appropriately for the weather.
- Once the WSB arrives at the school, all SAC students will participate in group physical activity.
- Adults leading the WSB and Physical Activity will be affiliates of IU Health Bloomington and Bloomington Park and Recreation. They will be in attendance at Child’s Meet & Greet, and Open House to meet your family and answer and questions you may have.

We encourage and welcome all parents who would like to participate in the Walking School Bus. Due to safety protocols, parents will not be able to participate in the physical activities once the WSB has reached the school. If you would like to be a volunteer for the entirety of this program, please contact Lisa Greathouse at 812-353-5764, Lgreathouse@iuhealth.org or Cara Wickens 812-353-KIDS (5437), cwickens@iuhealth.org.
Walking School Bus (WSB) & physical activity on Wednesday mornings

Drop off starts at 7:55 am
WSB will leave drop site at 8:15 am

Students will receive prize each Wednesday!

Students must be registered for Wednesday School Age Care to participate
Walking Wednesday Waiver and Release

Student Name:________________________________________

Parent/Guardian/Responsible Person Name:__________________

Waiver and Release

On behalf of myself and on behalf of my child, ward or student for whom I am responsible (hereinafter individually or jointly referred to as “Participant”), I assume any and all risks associated with participating in Walking Wednesday, including but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of weather including high heat, humidity, extreme cold, ice and/or precipitation, and the condition of the roads, paths, walkways, and/or sidewalks, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. I agree to abide by all decisions of the program directors relative to Participant’s ability to safely complete the activities.

Knowing these facts and risks, and in consideration of the Monroe County Community School Corporation (“MCCSC”), IU Health, and the City of Bloomington allowing our participation, I hereby covenant not to sue, and waive, release and discharge for myself, my student, the Participant, my heirs, executors, administrators or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, the Monroe County Community School Corporation (“MCCSC”), IU Health, and the City of Bloomington, and any of their agents, employees, teachers, directors, or volunteers from any and all claims or liability for death, personal injury or property damage of any kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or in the course of, the Participant’s participation in the Walking Wednesday program. This Release and Waiver extends to all claims of every kind or nature whatsoever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown.

The undersigned further grants full permission to all of the persons or entities mentioned in this waiver and/or agents authorized by them to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures recording, or any other record of Walking Wednesday for any purpose.

_____________________________________________Date:_________

Signature of Parent/Guardian