

# ROLL INTO FALL



Take steps toward a better way

TV SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

1150 W State St Boise ID 83702

FALL 2015

walkitbikeit.org

TREASURE VALLEY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

## WALK TO SCHOOL DAY: OCTOBER 2015



International Walk to School Day is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. It began in 1997 as a one-day event. Over time, this event has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and a celebration – with record breaking participation – each October.

Today, thousands of schools across America – from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico – participate every October. We attended great events across the valley and enjoyed kicking off the Mayors Walking challenge at Pierce Park where they threw a large celebration including the Idaho Dairy Council, St. Lukes, Blue Cross Foundation and Boise City Council representatives. The celebration allowed all students to run a mile around the schools track to keep the activity going for walk to school day. [See which schools registered and sign up your school for 2016.](#)

Pictured above is the Safe Routes to School Programs very own Neal and Marcus at the new SNOW (slightly north of Washington) Block Alley where we found chalk and a welcoming environment for students walking or biking to school.

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### ENJOY THIS ISSUE?

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who you think may find it useful.

### QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS?

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## GOAT HEADS! OUT OF CONTROL!



## SUPER HEROES NEEDED TO FOIL NOXIOUS WEED

*Tribulus terrestris* L. also known as Puncture Vine or Goat heads have been menacing the sidewalks, alleys and vacant lots for decades. People who use these pathways know the problems they can cause. These plants are more than a nuisance, they are causing unsafe routes for students, and others who walk and bike.

This noxious weed is prolific around the valley and many people will go out of their way to avoid them. When they grow across the crosswalk, sidewalk or encroach into the roadway, it pushes pedestrians and cyclists further into the street or into yards. When seeds get stuck in the bottom of a shoe, they are carried along, further spreading this awful weed.

**How to remove them?** Please take care to pull these weeds and where possible to pick up their seeds. Use gloves and tarps and throw them in the trash. Be careful not to shake the thorny seeds loose from the plant. Seeds can be fertile for up to 20 years.

**Who to call?** Most cities have crews to help tackle the problem, but they need you to help them locate the villain. Let us know if you need help in your neighborhood. The only good offense is a good defense.

(photo taken near North Junior High in Boise)

## IS YOUR TRUCK BIGGER THAN A



## 5TH GRADER?

What is your field of view, and the sight distance around your large vehicle? This photo shows a large truck, which is quite common on our city streets and in the local neighborhoods. Next to the truck is our Safe Routes Coordinator, Neal, who is 6' tall. There were many incidents with students and vehicles over the summer, and many more serious incidents in the short time school has been in session. We cannot stress enough, **look twice, expect the unexpected and slow down.**

Young people don't understand that drivers often don't see them, or the fact that many vehicle operators drive while distracted. Can you see down the sidewalk while backing your truck out of the driveway? Do you realize you are driving in a bike lane, or stopping in the middle of a crosswalk? Contact us today! We can talk to your school, work, or community event. whatever. We have highly trained instructors to teach you.

