

STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING AT HEATLY SCHOOL

December 19, 2013

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you about an ongoing problem that we have with parking at Heatly School. We have worked very hard for a long time studying the problem, having meetings, drawing up plans and finally even passing a local law to help make things safer for our children. Unfortunately, there are some ignorant and arrogant people who do not care about our children's safety or the safety of the residents of our community. I take that personally because public safety is our number one concern. Effective immediately there will be zero tolerance for anyone parking on a crosswalk, double parking or parking in front of a fire hydrant. I have instructed the Police Department that there is zero tolerance and we will no longer warn or advise violators. They will be ticketed and towed immediately.

Now I will give you a brief description of what took place Wednesday evening during the Christmas concert at the school. I live across the street from the school and when I came home around 6:30 p.m. there were vehicles blocking four crosswalks to the school, a vehicle totally blocking a fire hydrant and extending six feet past the corner onto the intersecting street, three cars in a fire lane and a large truck across a crosswalk and totally blocking northbound traffic. No vehicles could travel north on Hudson Avenue and making a left at Bleecker Street was almost impossible with the car that was blocking the fire hydrant. Any emergency vehicle would have had to back down the entire street. This is totally unacceptable. But it gets even worse. None of the violators were remorseful for their actions. One woman even started hollering gutter language as small children were exiting and entering the school. When I told her to watch her language she just kept on cursing. She said a ticket couldn't be issued because there was no sign saying you can't park on a crosswalk (honestly, I am not making this up). When I told her it is the law and it doesn't need any signage, she just quipped that she had been running late and that is why they had to park there. Really?? She was late so it is OK to endanger every pedestrian trying to cross the street??

For years I would go into the school and ask them to make an announcement to violators to move their vehicles. Those days are gone and it will simply be a ticket and a tow --- NO EXCEPTIONS.

I am usually a pretty reasonable and happy person, but the ignorance, arrogance and total lack of respect for the law and the safety of others has turned me into the Grinch. So, if I have to be the Grinch to get the job done --- so be it. I will NEVER compromise on public safety -- especially with our kids.

So the ball is in your court. If you park responsibly--- you won't have any problems. If you don't --- you will be before the Judge and your wallet will be lighter.

I know a lot of family members from out of town come to games and activities at the school, so it is your job to inform them that we will be strictly enforcing the laws.

While I know there will be a number of people angry about this strict enforcement, I know there will be many more that will be glad that things will be safer for their children.

Sincerely,

Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan
Mayor of the Village of Green Island