

## Lamar Elementary Celebrated International Walk to School Day

Mirabeau B. Lamar Elementary School joined schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day on Oct. 5.

Approximately 300 students from Lamar Elementary walked and rode to school that day. Student walkers were welcomed at the campus by Lamar Staff including Principal Rachelle Ysquierdo and District 2 City Councilman Scott Sheley. Student participation in this annual event doubled from last year.

The event began at 7 a.m. when kids, parents and younger siblings walked along Pruett Street, North Jones, West Lobit and other neighborhood streets. Walkers arrived at the school escorted by their own parents or parent volunteers wearing safety vests.

In the United States, International Walk to School Day was celebrated at more than 3,500 events at participating schools. Walkers from the United States joined children and adults in 40 countries around the world and 125 schools in Texas.

Walk to School events work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment and building connections between families, schools and the broader community.

Lamar Elementary Family Involvement Coordinator, Ruth Perez, one of the event organizers, stated that Lamar will keep the momentum going with "Walk to School Wednesdays" during the month of October and will partner with the City of Baytown to seek Safe Routes to School grant program funding to expand the Walk to School program.

Lamar Elementary area residents and local businesses and commuters who drive near the school are encouraged to get involved and do their part to provide a safe environment for student who elect to walk or bike to school.

Lamar Principal Rachelle Ysquierdo, her staff, parents, and the City of Baytown organized the event.

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