

**WALK! BIKE! BROCKPORT!  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013**

**WALK TO SCHOOL DISCUSSION WITH DAN HAWKEN**

We held an enlightening discussion with Dan Hawken on parents walking their children to school. Dan lives on Park Avenue and walks his son and other children to school 2-3 times per week. Typically he departs just after the school bus comes by. By walking he and the children arrive at the school well before the school bus, and the kids walking with him have thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The most children he can handle is six—which is interesting. In Norway, where most children walk to school, either with an adult or in an organized group, the number in the group is typically six. In Dan's case, some of the children start out with him, while others join him in route. Dan has communicated with their parents ahead of time, so they know he will be coming along at a specified time.

In effect, Dan is engaged in the "Walking School Bus" concept—something Walk! Bike! Brockport! wishes to expand.

We asked Dan what he thought were the essential benefits gained from walking compared to riding the bus:

1. The kids are in a better frame of mind when classes begin.
2. They bond with each other; they learn to socialize. Peer group interaction.
3. Obvious health benefits: fresh air, exercise.
4. Playful frame of mind stimulates learning (Rochester's National Museum of Play also emphasizes this point).
5. Safety rules are reinforced when walking.

**HOW TO PROMOTE THE "WALKING SCHOOL BUS" CONCEPT**

Using Dan's experience as a template, we plan to devote our December meeting [Thursday, December 12, 7:00 PM, Village Hall] to further discussion of the "Walking School Bus" concept. Dan will be there—along with other individuals we will invite who have a stake in this game—parents and parent organizations.

**BROCKPORT FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE**

Sunday, December 8, 2013, Begins at 5:00 PM. Meeting Place: the mall by the rotary at East/West Avenue, north of the Erie Canal Bridge. Be there by 4:30. Lauren Lieberman will bring here Conference Bike. Put lights on yourself if possible!

Respectfully submitted by: Raymond Duncan, your Humble Servant.