

Transportation Tribune



Aug-Sep-Oct
2014

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome Back Drivers & Monitors!

On August 4th and 5th, our drivers and monitors attended their annual Transportation In Service training at Westwood High. Most of the information was a review of policies and procedures and safety training. Guest speakers included Mr. Craig Corner, a psychologist from Spring Valley, who provided some pointers for managing student behavior. Mrs. Cowen, from Operation Life Saver, provided some online training tools to help drivers practice safe railroad crossing procedures. Investigator Griffin, with the RCSD, brought insight and awareness concerning gangs in our area with

enthusiasm and entertaining stories. He took a serious subject matter and added humor to make the lessons memorable. Lunch was provided by various businesses that support our hubs with bus maintenance and equipment. Both the Subway and Scottie's meals were delicious!

The Training Department worked hard to ensure the In Service was informative and according to district protocol. A big "Thank You" to the staff and training crew for all the time and effort! Some much of the planning and behind the scenes tasks are taken for granted but we know YOU make it happen!



Drivers and monitors participate in In Service Training in August

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Welcome Back!
- ✓ Safety/Training
- ✓ Healthy Living
- ✓ Employee Spotlight
- ✓ Upcoming Events

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Weighing in on Bus Driver Health | 2 |
| Sonja Jeffcoat Caught! | 2 |
| Nothing But Net Richland Rivalry | 2 |
| One Morning One Mission | 3 |
| Safety & Training | 3 |
| RSD2 Supporting United Way | 3 |
| Inside Story | 6 |

Driving Towards Excellence

By Erica Branch, Special Needs Transportation

The National School Transportation Association hosted their annual School Bus Driver International Safety Competition on July 19th and 20th, 2014 in historic Charleston, SC. RSD2 Special Needs bus driver,

Erica Branch was one of the 100 drivers from across the country who participated in a written test and road course.

This experience gave me a new outlook on school bus driving. I met people from across the nation

and Canada. I learned a lot from participating but the most important thing I realized was that no matter where we are from, we all drive for the same reason; to safely transport America's future.

Weighing In on Bus Driver Health

By Amy Langfield

Does this bus make me look fat? Chances are, if you are a bus driver, the answer is "Yes!" Time to put the brakes on unhealthy habits! Transportation employees have an obesity rate of 36%,.. They rank the highest among 14 occupations including manufacturing & production workers, installation and repair workers and office workers. A bus driver's job leads to higher rates of medical conditions including diabetes, high blood pressure and carpal tunnel syndrome just to name a few. Just the sedentary nature of the job; sitting much of the day, confined to a seat, always on the

go and few choices for quick meals lead to a driver's demise. Another factor is that the work can be highly stressful and demanding with many of the problems beyond their control: traffic, unruly children, critical parents and little recognition. So what is a driver to do to combat the odds? Eat a healthy breakfast, take a stroll around the hub

with some coworkers between routes, and drink plenty of water. Some pre-planning the night before can reduce your stress and save a few dollars.



Your choices today determine your health tomorrow!

Rest is also an important stress deterrent. Your body needs rest to recover from the day. Laughter is also a stress reducer so take time to enjoy life! You only get one shot at it! Make each day count!

Sonya Jeffcoat of RNE Hub Caught!!

On the first day of school RN # 30 was spotted in a NE neighborhood dropping off elementary students. The driver was caught in the act! The act of doing her job right! Sonya Jeffcoat had two rambunctious little boys anxious to depart the bus and head home. They failed to heed her warning to stop and watch her before crossing the road. She called them back to the service door and again gave the students the pro-

cedures for doing a left side drop off. She then had them demonstrate the drop off again, safely following Ms. Jeffcoat's directions to cross the road. Once they were safely to the other side, she spoke to them from the driver's window, confirming that they had done well. Ms. Jeffcoat demonstrated professionalism and patience. The first days of school are hectic and frustrating. She took the time to do the job right!

"RN #30 was caught in the act during her elementary route in a NE neighborhood."

Nothing But Net Richland Rivalry

On Thursday, October 2nd at 6pm at RNE High School, Richland School District I & II will battle for bragging rights and compete to raise the most money for the Palmetto Health Breast Cancer Walk for Life/Race for Life. Admission is \$5 for ages 6 and up.



Bragging Rights and a Great Cause ONE NIGHT!

If you think you've got what it takes to work your magic on the court, contact Theresa Riley Stephens at 738-3232 or triley@richland2.org. ALL RSD2 employees are encouraged to sign up! It's going to be a great night of fun! There will be

prizes, entertainment, concessions and some unexpected local celebrities! Come out and support your team and support a great cause!

Thursday, October 2nd at 6 PM
RNE High School
Admission \$5 (ages 6 & up)

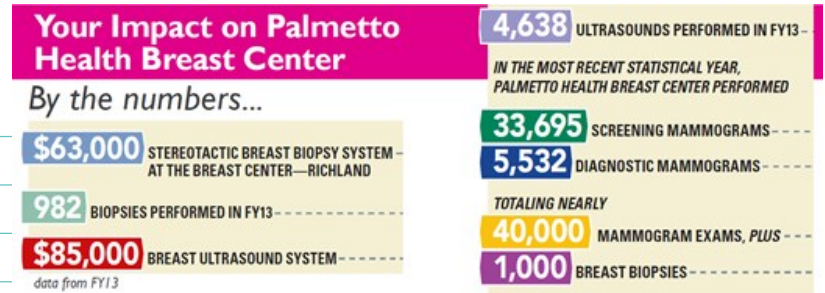
One Morning. One Mission.

Take steps against Breast Cancer

This year, RSD2 Transportation Thinks Pink will again don our Warrior t-shirts to walk OR run in the Palmetto Health Foundation Walk for Life/Race for Life. You are invited to join the team! For more information and to register call Tammy Rivera or e-mail trivera@richland2.org

Did you know that \$.96 out of every \$1 given to Palmetto Health Foundation supports programs & services of Palmetto Health?

Through September until October 18th, we will be holding various FUNdraising activities to support this worth-while community foundation.



October 18th
Finlay Park Columbia

Safety and Training Information

Important Dates

SDE/CDL class September 8-11th.

Module #2 will be held on September 8th for drivers who missed the August In Service. See the Safe Pupil website in the Assignments Menu if you think you may be required to attend.

Behavior Management class: October 21st 9:30am-1:30pm

Activity Vehicle Recertification: October 22nd 10am-12 noon

Safe Pupil Modules-1st Quarter: Due October 31st

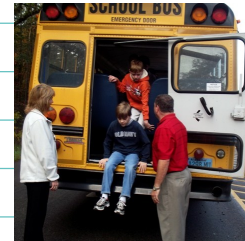
Bus Evacuations: The month of October

**Remember to get your school administrators/teachers to assist.

Driver of the Quarter: October 30-31

Activity Department Reminder:

If you have an upcoming field trip, stop by a day or so in advance to review the Activity Bus & make sure you know where you are going and what time you need to depart.



Bus Evacuations:
Time to review with your students!

RSD2 Supporting United Way

Richland Two Transportation is partnering with other district departments to contribute to the United Way. The United Way funds programs such as the Backpack program for some of our most "at risk" students as well as many afterschool programs that our drivers transport students home from. Each hub will have a "Pack of the Pounds"

Jug to collect your extra pounds of change to make a combined contribution to the United Way. Let's see how many pounds your hub can gain collectively...in change...that is! It's a friendly competition where the



RSD2 United Way campaign
Sept 19-Oct 3

rewards are felt throughout our community! We will collect the jugs on October 3rd. If you have any questions please contact Tammy Rivera, Transportation Operations Officer @ trivera@richland2.org or 736-3774 X 23227


TRANSPORTATION

**Richland School
 District Two**

124 Risdon Way
 Columbia, SC 29223
 Newsletter Submissions:
 Tammy Rivera803-736-3774
 ext 23227
 TRivera@richland2.org



RSD2 Transportation
 Driving America's Future
 Safety-Integrity-Dependability-Teamwork

Mark Your Calendar!

September 25 Elementary/Middle 1/2 day
October 2 Nothing But Net Charity Tournament
October 8-19 SC State Fair
October 16 Student holiday/Teacher workday
October 17 Student holiday/Staff workday
October 18 Palmetto Health Walk/Run for Life
October 31 Elementary/Middle 1/2 day

Ongoing:

Family Night at EdVenture Children's museum
 Every 2nd Tue from 5-8pm \$1 admission
Free Sunday(s) Columbia Museum of Art SC
State Museum 1st Sunday ea. Month \$1 admission
Royal Z Free Bowling
 M-Th 11am-2pm w/meal purchase
Farmers Market Every Thursday 2-7pm May-Nov
 Clemson Extension Sandhills/Clemson Rd
Free Prostate & Diabetes Screenings

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! (Aug-Sep-Oct birthdays)

Activity

8/12 Charles Prophet
 8/16 Allen Rattey
 9/1 Walter Sutton
 9/24 Mark Johnson

Special Needs

8/2 Lekesha. Ody
 8/4 Linda Metze
 8/8 Hilda Lopey
 8/8 Michael Keith
 8/10 Rosa Rosales
 8/10 Roshawnda Simpson
 8/18 Ceconda Goodwin
 8/30 Susan Garner
 9/3 Sylastine Brown
 9/3 Claudette Murray
 9/16 Monyque Littlejohn
 9/16 Edita Samide
 9/19 Raschel LaBrew
 9/22 Tracy McClendon
 9/26 Glen Wilkins
 9/26 Sandy Wolters
 9/29 Zenovia Johnson
 9/30 Cora Fernandez
 10/4 Jade Bailey-Allen
 10/21 Betty Hurst
 10/25 Trista Johnson

RNE

8/7 Pamela Bladen
 8/13 Aurelia Howell
 9/4 William Herring
 9/11 Henrietta Goins
 9/21 Betty Daniels
 10/11 Pamela Able
 10/26 Casper Glenn
 10/28 Stephanie Choate

Killian

8/15 Kandiea Brown B. Foster
 8/21 Adam Easaw Leslie Calloway
 8/20 Janet Tavares Sonja Grant
 George Baroody Catricia Perry
 Leo Fleming 10/1 Robert White
 Dianna Thompson Kwan Scott
 A. Smith Sharon Chisolm
 Doris Reese

****If your name was not listed for these months, please e-mail Tammy with your name, hub, & month/day**

