

# Marblehead students celebrate Bike, Walk & Roll day

**By Staff Report**

Posted May 3, 2019 at 9:20 PM

Updated May 3, 2019 at 9:20 PM

It was cloudy but clear Wednesday, May 1st when dozens of kids hit the streets for Massachusetts Bike, Walk and Roll to School Day.

Marblehead parents Kim Hutchinson and Pat Milner, founders of Bike Marblehead, each led a group of kids on bikes.

“There’s plenty of data showing physical activity before school helps students develop resilience, independence, problem solving, a sense of personal accomplishment. Plus biking is fun,” said Hutchinson who promoted the day through Sustainable Marblehead.

The day is a flagship event sponsored by Massachusetts Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program, which works to increase safe biking and walking among elementary and middle school students. SRTS uses a collaborative, community-focused approach that bridges the gap between health and transportation. Held every May, many of the state’s partnered 285 schools participate. Locally, about 40 percent of Marblehead Charter and Tower School took part in the fun.

Milner, a Tower parent, got the word out at her school as well as to public schools, PTOs and preschools encouraging town-wide participation.

“Bike-Walk Day aligns with our hope to create a safer community for pedestrian and bike travel,” she said. “A town that is safe for children to bike and walk to school in, is a town that is safe for everyone.”

With crossing guard and police support, families noticed increased driver awareness and calmer traffic at intersections. But, Marblehead can do more through SRTS to improve safety around schools according to Sustainable

Marblehead's Judith Black. SRTS Outreach Director Judith Crocker visited Marblehead Charter Wednesday and welcomed the over 96 walkers, bikers and students who carpooled. In an all-school meeting, she congratulated students for their participation and imparted a few safety tips.

"Looks like we will need more bike racks," said Hutchinson, "which is a good problem to have."