



Clifford the Big Red Dog gives Emma Vonesh a hug before school on Wednesday at Wilder Elementary in Grand Forks. Clifford was greeting students as they showed up for school on International Walk to School Day. Grand Forks Herald photo by Lori Weber Menke.

Clifford says slow down: Program brings awareness to pedestrians in school zones

By [Herald Staff Report](#) on Oct 8, 2015 at 6:30 a.m.

Clifford the Big Red Dog's sign said it all: Slow down.

That's the message Grand Forks Public Schools and Safe Kids Grand Forks passed on to parents, children and drivers Wednesday as Wilder and Winship elementary schools participated in the Walk This Way program in conjunction with International Walk to School Day, a campaign aimed at bringing awareness to pedestrians in school zones, according to a news release.

In 2013, 444 children were killed in the U.S. after being hit by vehicles while walking, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Another 16,000, which equates to 44 children per day, were injured.

Staff and student leaders held signs warning drivers of pedestrians crossing streets. Even Clifford stopped by to give children hugs, read his new book, "Clifford Takes A Walk," at Winship, and remind drivers to slow down and be alert.

Winship students in grades K-2 each received a free copy of the book. Other Grand Forks elementary schools who participated in other events before school included Ben Franklin, Century, Lewis & Clark, Kelly and West.

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