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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFER ROUTES TO START THE SCHOOL YEAR

Some children at Curlew Creek Elementary will start the 2010-2011 school year with a weekly plan that encourages physical activity while finding safer routes to school.

On Wednesday, Aug. 25, the school at 3030 Curlew Rd. in Palm Harbor will begin a *Safe Routes to School* effort spearheaded by parents. Each Wednesday, a parent will guide children from Forest Run Park south of Curlew to the school, on the north side. Crossing guards will assist the parent leading the walk across Landmark Dr. and then on an overpass that crosses busy Curlew Rd.

Parents whose children participate will be able to drop off their children at Forest Run Park and the children will then walk to school as a group. For now, the walks will be on Wednesdays, but there are plans to extend the days as the school year gets underway.

EDITORS: Curlew Creek students will begin their Safe Routes to School walk at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 25 at Forest Run Park on the southwest corner of Landmark Dr. and Curlew Rd.

The Pinellas County Health Department's Office of Health Promotions, in partnership with the Florida Department of Health's Communities Putting Prevention to Work initiative, can provide resources to assist other parent groups who want to organize similar walk-to-school programs at their children's schools. For more information, call (727) 820-4114.

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