

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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## Walking to School

*Age-old tradition alive and well*

By Chris Lavin



Crossing guards help guarantee a safe crossing for Lamorinda students.

Photo Chris Lavin

We all heard the stories growing up: “Don’t complain about it! I had to walk 10 miles uphill both ways to get to school when I was your age, through 10 feet of snow!” For many Lamorinda parents, carpooling and hauling kids in the early morning hours is part of the routine, but for

some lucky parents, giving the kids a kiss on the forehead and shoving them out the door is a luxury they can’t beat.

“It’s why we moved here,” said Josh Charlton, dad to Cassie and Sophia, who walk to school together each morning in Moraga. “It’s a great neighborhood, and we can do that here.”

For almost all new families moving to Lamorinda, the proximity to good schools is not just one reason, but the main reason, they pick up roots they have planted elsewhere. And getting to walk to school is simply icing on the cake.

“Some real estate agents say get-

ting close to a school is the main reason that 98 percent of the people want to move here. Others say it’s 99 percent,” said Jason Evans, a Coldwell Banker agent. “They feel that their kids can go to public schools rather than private schools, which allows them to pay higher prices.”

While schools don’t keep statistics on how many students hoof it home, early morning and afternoon commuters see streams of students toting backpacks to and from school. And the commuters are something that one Moraga crossing guard is constantly concerned about.

“Some people just don’t pay any attention to me,” said a guard on Camino Pablo in Moraga who didn’t want his name in the paper. “Sometimes the kids are the same. It’s why they need us out here.” Another perk.

“The first thing people ask me is whether their kids can walk to school, or where the bus stops are,” Evans said. “That’s why it’s almost always the first thing described in the listing.” And while school buses don’t service the high schools, County Connection runs a multitude of special service buses in the mornings and afternoons to cover the gap.

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