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Gone are the lazy days of Summer and with the arrival of Fall, comes a fast and furious pace for many families. Children have returned to school, homework, practices and music lessons and many in the house are thinking about that next activity. Activity on and around roads have increased. **ALL** drivers in every town, village, city and neighborhood need to adjust their speed and awareness to make sure **all** kids get safely to and from school.

In keeping with this year's School Bus Safety awareness week theme, "**At My Stop, You Stop,**" the **staff at M.L. Bradley Ltd.**, would like to offer the following safety tips for motorists:

- Never pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing.
- Stop at least two car lengths (20 meters) from a school bus that has its red lights flashing and the stop arm extended.
- Remain stopped until the overhead red lights have stopped flashing and the bus begins to move.
- When meeting a school bus in oncoming traffic, stop far enough away to allow students to cross the road well ahead of the bus bumper.
- Be extra vigilant driving around school hours; assume a child might appear at any moment.
- Be courteous to school bus drivers, give the buses room; and let drivers change lanes when they need to.

The timing for picking up and dropping off children coincides with rush hour traffic. Other drivers are distracted with mobile devices and thoughts of their busy day or evening ahead. All too often we hear reports from our drivers of cars not stopping for the school bus red flashing lights. One of the most important safety lesson you can teach your child is to ***WAIT for the driver to SIGNAL for them to cross the road.***

If you spot a driver who does not stop for a school bus when its red lights are flashing, safely pull over and record the following:

- location, date and time;
- make, model, colour and licence plate;
- description of the driver;
- whether children were boarding or exiting the bus;
- driver passed from the front or from behind the bus; and if you are able, report the incident to police as soon as possible by telephone or in person.

Penalties for not Stopping for school bus lights:

First offence: \$400-\$ 2000 and six demerit points.

Each subsequent offence: \$ 1000 to \$ 4000, six demerit points and possible jail time up to 6 months.

Stop for the law, Stop for a life!!

Encourage your child to take part in our **School Bus Safety Poster Contest.** Details can be found at your school or on our web site at: www.mlbradley.com

