

[PHOTOS AT END OF EMAIL]

**From:** EMILY ENGELAND [mailto:emengeland@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 12:37 PM  
**To:** Alison Steinfeld; Pat Ward  
**Cc:** Youly Diamanti-Karanou 1L; juliejette@gmail.com; Kelly Emmett  
**Subject:** from PTO President of Baker School

Hi Alison and Pat-

Can you please forward to the ZBA committee members (Jesse Geller, Chairman, Jonathan Book and Christopher Hussey) in regards to Hancock Village. As well, please take note of traffic concerns below. I have received many complaints from parents regarding safety around Baker School this Fall. The two most recent ones are listed below and I am cc'ing them so they know I have informed you. As well, I have notified Baker Administration. I am also including several pictures that, Kelly Emmett, Baker parent (cc'd), took last week around the intersection of Independence and Beverly/Russett at 7:45 am on her way to drop off her 3 children. We need help before a child is injured. It only takes one accident to devastate a community. We are now over 825 students. We need more help to keep them safe.

Thank you for your attention to these two emails below from very concerned Baker parents.

Emily Engeland  
Parish Administrator  
St. John's Episcopal Church, JP  
<http://www.stjohns-jp.org>

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PTO President Baker School, Brookline

Dear Baker PTO,

After seeing several kids and parents have near misses on their walk to Baker in the morning, and after experiencing some myself with my kids, I called the police department last week to complain about traffic enforcement in the area in the morning. Sgt. Murphy, with whom I spoke, was sympathetic but basically told me they would get someone there when the can, with no promise or commitment of when or how often that would be.

Is this an issue the PTO can apply some pressure on? I think making the morning arrival safer is going to require more than phone calls from a small handful of concerned parents. In general I am wondering if the PTO had a transportation committee or anything like that. I'm wondering if there are better/safer options for arrival besides having parents individually drop off 800 kids. Also, I was wondering if the PTO has regular general meetings? I was unable to attend the first meeting in September and wondered if there are any others scheduled.

Thanks so much,  
Julie Jette  
Mom of Adam Kvitnitsky in KG

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Hi Emily-

I wanted to share with you a couple of safety concerns related to the school.

### 1. Street safety

#### Problem area 1:

There is a safety problem with kids crossing the parking lot in the back of the school to go to or come from Hancock Village. Cars come in and out right when the kids pass to get to or from school. Mrs. RH told me that, technically, they should not be allowed to cross through a parking lot. But in reality everybody from Hancock Village does it since it is 5 minutes to get to school this way and 15 minutes to walk around to get to the front entrance. If all Hancock Village residents drove (as they would probably do instead of walking) to Beverly, it would be much more crazy than Beverly is right now. Last year we were talking about this with Youngae, Dongwook's mom, and we were thinking that maybe parents (since we have so many of them, especially Hancock Village parents) could volunteer to be crossing guards for kids crossing the parking lot at drop off and pick up. I have been quite scared many times walking through there and seeing kids running into the parking lot as cars were ready to go. I want it to bring this up with you and see what you and the other board members think. If parents took this on, they would have to donate a small amount of their time (20 minutes in the morning and 20 minutes in the afternoon) and each willing parent could do it only once or twice throughout the year, depending on how many volunteers there are.

#### Problem area 2:

Also, the point where the Hancock Village kids cross Gerry road, especially at the end of the school day, is extremely dangerous. Last week, a child ran in front of our car right at that point. Fortunately, my husband was driving extremely slow and he could stop in time. But not everyone is going so slowly or is so alert. What makes things even worse is that some parents come to pick up their kids without leaving their car and they double park exactly at that point where children cross and which is right at a turn. The double parked cars make it even more difficult both for little kids to see if other cars are coming before passing the road and for cars that are coming to see that there is a kid who might cross the road. Mrs. RH said that this is a Brookline Traffic Police issue. But I want it to inform you about it and see if there are any other ideas that ensure the kids' safety. I left a message with the Brookline Police and I am waiting to hear from them. The safest solution would be to have a crossing guard that Brookline offers for that crossing point. Signs that do not allow double parking could also be used but will probably not influence people's behavior. And no matter how much parents pay attention, sometimes kids may still run into the street at the blink of an eye. After that incident with my husband, I have become even more aware of the extreme danger of that turn on Gerry because I realized how easy it is for an accident to occur.

Thank you so much and sorry for the long e-mail!

Youly Diamanti-Karanou





