

October 21, 1987

To: Mr. Long and PTSA  
From: Student Council

As members of Student Council and representing the student body at A.G. Bell we feel it necessary to explain our reasons for allowing bicycles to be ridden to school.

We called the schools near to us to find out if they were allowed to ride bikes. This is the result of that inquiry.

Lakeview	Yes	4-6
Thoreau	Yes	3-6
Sandburg	Yes	4-6
Kirk	Yes	1-6
Rose Hill	Yes	4-6
Twain	Yes	4-6
Juanita	No	
Frost	Yes	4-6

We feel the following reasons should be considered:

- \* good exercise
- \* Teaches the students to be responsible for their bikes
- \* would be fun--not so far to walk
- \* get to school faster (do homework in the morning and still get to school on time)
- \* students ride their bikes up to school now
- \* we have a bike rodeo and talk about bike safety, but we don't ride our bikes

We realize we have a busy street to deal with for some of the students, but we also feel that intermediate students can handle it. Mark Twain has kindly shared their Bicycle Application with us and we feel that it speaks to safety and responsibility. If a Parent does not approve of his/her child riding to school than permission is not given.

We are enclosing all the letters so that you can read them for yourself.

Thank you for considering this matter.

### DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

One of the planks in Student Council President Patrick Dour's campaign platform was obtaining permission for students to ride their bicycles to school. Throughout this winter, he has led the student council in an effective and enthusiastic effort toward accomplishment of this goal.

They researched other schools and then invited me into a presentation of the pros and cons for riding and suggested I survey their parents.

Now the decision has been made, but their work continues. I have granted permission for 4,5,6th graders only to ride their bicycles to school as soon as the bike racks are installed. In the meantime, Patrick and the other officers will work with me developing the guidelines for safety of the riders, security of the bikes, and other responsibilities of the riders.

A letter will be sent home the first of April explaining the guidelines and starting date. An evaluation will be completed in June to determine whether the privilege will be granted in the years to come.

This experience has been an excellent opportunity for the students to see representative government in action. They now realize that change can be accomplished by working cooperatively through the system. I am proud of them for their efforts.