

Safety Corner

National School Bus Safety Week.

When I was in elementary school many years ago I was riding the bus home from school and pulled the pigtail of a little girl in front of me. From what I remember, that is what little boys do when they have a crush on someone. The bus driver's solution was to make me sit on the steps of the bus next to him, watching the ground whiz by my feet for the rest of the ride home. Nowadays, that would result in the bus driver's termination. Things have certainly changed... for the better.

Last week I was discussing School Bus Safety week with one of our local principals and was told an interesting story. Apparently the bus driver was so distraught over the actions of one incorrigible child on his bus, he was ready to quit unless the principal intervened. When the principal brought the child in to her office and asked what had been going on the child innocently responded that other children were bothering him. Then she asked him if he was aware there was a camera recording his actions on the bus. After reviewing his dangerous and disruptive behavior on the video with him, a now very contrite child rode home on the bus with his principal next to him and was suspended from bus service for several days.

Not all dangerous situations on busses are a result of the passengers; they are but one facet of the many distractions and hazards facing our drivers. The theme for the 2014 School Bus Safety Week is "At My Stop, You Stop". The most dangerous time for students is when they are getting on and off the bus, and according to the National Safety Council children are 172 times safer in a school bus than in the family car. For some safety tips related to school bus travel, go to the [Safe Kids](#) website. Protecting our most precious resource, our children, is the most important thing we do. Please spread the word and observe School Bus Safety week Oct 19-25 at your district.

For any training questions including requests for onsite classes, please contact Kurt Walling, the Loss Prevention Manager for STSIG at kwalling@stsig.org, or 530-221-6444.

And remember: Stay Alert, Stay Alive!