

The **AFSZ** is a project of
Real World Foundation

Asthma Free School Zone Newsletter

Asthma Prevention, Environmental Protection & Community Empowerment in a Neighborhood Setting

AFSZ at APHA

131st Annual American
Public Health
Association Meeting

Washington, D.C.
November 6-10, 2004

Built Environment Institute IV

Direct & Indirect Influences
of a School's Built
Environment on Health
& Physical Activity

Roundtable Discussion
Session # 4195.1
Tuesday 11/9/04 @
2:30 PM

AFSZ in the News

*Anti-Idling Program is a
Breath of Fresh Air for Kids*
The Villager, Sept. 1-7, 2004

WKCR 89.9 fm Late City Live
Interview with Nell Geiser
Thursday, 11/23/04

WABC Eyewitness News
September 28, 2004

Stop Idling Day September 24, 2004

AFSZ schools started the school year off right. On *Stop Idling Day*, Friday, September 24, 2004, principals, parent coordinators, PA/PTA members and parents of schools participating in the AFSZ program hit the streets to talk to drivers about the effect of idling.

Armed with Starbucks gift cards and a packet of information on NYC idling laws and the harmful effects of diesel emissions, school members had drivers of school buses sign a pledge stating that they would stop idling permanently. Local police precincts have been alerted of their local AFSZ schools' efforts and have agreed to support the program and will help enforce the NYC idling law.



One month later, parent coordinators at all our schools report that the Stop Idling Campaign worked! Jim Glenn, PC at PS 140 on the Lower East Side says that along with greeting parents and children, he has added to his morning routine reminding drivers to turn off engines. He reports having had "no problems at all!"

New Materials for AFSZ Schools

Beginning this year AFSZ schools will receive new materials to keep students and staff thinking about environmental health. October marked the beginning of the *School Zone News*, a bilingual (E/SP) monthly newsletter for parents and staff that provides seasonal advice related to respiratory health. AFSZ school team leaders are now keeping track of AFSZ events on an AFSZ School Calendar. Later this fall, our schools will receive AFSZ book covers that reinforce and expand on the *Idling Gets You Nowhere* message seen earlier this year on bus shelter posters throughout NYC. The covers are being produced in partnership with the NYC Dept. of Transportation and the Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Asthma Partnership.

Environmental Health Research

How much does the public understand about environmental health? Under a NYC DOHMH grant, focus groups led by AFSZ in Harlem and the Bronx will aim for an answer to this question. The information gathered will serve to strengthen the programs and trainings offered by the AFSZ and other agencies.

AFSZ on the News

On Tuesday, October 28th, Channel 7 Eyewitness News featured the Asthma Free School Zone in a news segment that included interviews with Councilmember Margarita Lopez, sponsor of the proposed AFSZ legislation (0083-2004), and Rebecca Kalin, AFSZ Founding Director. Scenes of *Stop Idling Day* at PS 101 in East Harlem showed the enthusiasm of principal Mr. Alexander Castillo, the PTA president, the parent coordinator and a group of parents and children.



PS 101 PC Maria Torres and daughter Victoria Ruiz on *Stop Idling Day*.