

I've Been Thinking About..

An editorial by Milan Vivanco

I've been thinking about....the new "drop-off" policy at Janney.

This new policy is supposed to ensure a steady flow of traffic on Albemarle and 42nd Streets when parents drive their children to school in the mornings.

It means that:

(1) No parking is allowed on the Janney side of Albemarle.

(2) A designated drop-off area is identified by cones and a Safety Patrol staff is on duty from 8:25-8:40am to assist students exiting from cars.

(3) Parents are not allowed to get out of their cars.

(4) Students must be ready to exit.. from the passenger side of the car before the car stops.

I think this policy is causing many hardships on Janney students and their families.

For example, there is no chance for students getting out of cars to hug and say goodbye to their parents. And, for the younger kids, the parents aren't able to walk them to class. This may scare some kids who have to go into the school without a parent.

Also, not many parking places are available on Albemarle or 42nd Streets in the morning. So even if parents do find a space to park, some students may still have to cross the road by themselves.

As a Safety Patrol sergeant, I know that drivers don't always respect the "STOP" signs that we hold up. They sometimes come zooming up Albemarle to get onto Wisconsin because they are probably in a hurry to get to work.

But why weren't we, the students of Janney Elementary School, consulted about this new drop-off policy? According to the Janney Newsletter, the principal consulted only with "...several parents, our safety patrol leader and a representative from DC Department of Transportation."

But NOT with us!

We may not be the most important people to consult with about the drop-off policy, but we do have experience with it -- and we can contribute. After all, we are the students who are dropped off .

Do you think this new drop-off policy is working well? I don't.

In a recent PTA newsletter, the school says that the new policy "is working very smoothly."

But I have observed that the only major thing that the policy has done is slow down traffic! I think it makes more parents force their kids to walk to school instead of riding. If more students have to walk or parents cannot get out of the car when they drop their children off, then it puts more stress on everybody.

The policy also states that a Safety Patrol person can walk children to class, but that's not the same as a parent.

Students, I'm interested in your opinions because you are just as important as anybody who was consulted. Please leave your written thoughts in The Jaguar Journal box in the office. (Anyone may write to the newspaper at thejaguarjournal@gmail.com).



The winning entries in the first Jaguar Journal art contest came from fifth grader Sue Phua (above), first grader Abby Adigun (below), and kindergartener Emily Mulderig (bottom). The theme was "Dreams." The student artists were asked to show what "dreams" meant to them. The Journal 's contest supervisors, Jana Cohen and Emma Buzbee, thank all those who entered.

