More than 100,000 students return to classes in Halton on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

With that in mind, motorists are being reminded to be on heightened alert for increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic around school zones - via Halton Regional Police Service's Project Safe Start.

Now in its 11th year and running from Aug. 27 to Sept. 7, the campaign focuses on education, awareness and high-visibility enforcement of traffic laws in and around school zones throughout Halton.

Motorists are asked to: - Drive at a safe speed. Aggressive driving such as speeding, tailgating and failing to comply with road signs increase the likelihood of a collision. Aggressive driving reduces your reaction time and makes your vehicle movements unpredictable to other drivers.

- Be aware of your sur-



Halton motorists are being reminded to practise caution around school zones with kids returning to school.

roundings when driving. There are three types of distractions: taking your eyes off the road, taking your hands off the wheel and taking your mind off driving. Holding your cellular phone in your hands is an offence, regardless of whether you are talking on it, using the navigation system or changing a song. This is still applicable when stopped at a red light. Did you know that texting while driving increases the risk of a collision by 23 times?

- **Drive responsibly**. Drug-impaired driving and alcohol-impaired driving can result in serious injury or death to you, your loved ones and other road users. Impairment slows your ability to react to changing road conditions. Drinking before driving and any form of drug use will affect your ability to drive.

"All motorists within Halton have a role to play in traffic safety, especially as children return to class at one of the over 160 educational facilities in the region," said Sgt. Ryan Snow of the Traffic Services Unit. "Children are our most vulnerable road users. Regardless of who is at fault, when a vehicle collides with a pedestrian or cyclist, tragic consequences usually result. Motorists are encouraged to slow down, drive sober and avoid using your cellphone at all times when driving. All children deserve to attend school - safely."



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