

27 February 2025

Subject: Intentional Design of Parking Lot Placement for Proposed School

To: Development Services Department, County of Prince Edward

I appreciate the County's input regarding the placement of the parking lot for our proposed nature school and understand the intent behind suggesting a closer location. The decision to locate the parking lot at a distance from both the indoor and outdoor classrooms is designed to create a meaningful nature walk for the students each morning. Research has consistently demonstrated that light physical activity before school has a significant positive impact on children's cognitive function, academic performance, and overall well-being. A study published by the *Cato College of Education* found that students who engaged in morning physical activity exhibited improved focus, higher math test scores, and increased confidence in academic abilities. Additionally, children reported feeling more engaged and prepared for learning after beginning their day with movement ([source](#)).

Further research has shown that students who actively commute to school—whether walking or biking—experience enhanced cognitive performance and academic success. A systematic review in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* found that active commuting positively correlates with improved attention, memory, and classroom behavior ([source](#)).

By designing the school's arrival experience to include a nature walk, we are intentionally incorporating these well-documented benefits into the daily routine of our students. This approach is in alignment with our commitment to fostering both academic success and a deeper connection to the natural world.

I appreciate the County's support in prioritizing student health and academic excellence, and I welcome any further discussion on how we can collaborate to ensure the best possible learning environment for our community's children.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick Sorbara