Dear Queen Palmer Families,

At Queen Palmer Elementary, our number one priority is the safety of all staff, students, families, and community members. I want to share the research that we calibrated across the nation as to why schools like Queen Palmer are asking families to adhere to our morning and afternoon Hug-and-Go drop off and pick up procedures every day.

A new survey gave Colorado a D rating when it comes to drivers in school zones. Data was collected from more than 125,000 schools nationwide during the month of April last year in 2018. They went state by state, county by county, and school by school to determine ratings. Colorado was ranked 34th in the country for speeding through school zones, distracted driving, double parking, allowing kids to walk across the street alone, not using the crosswalk, road rage in school zones, as well as rapid acceleration, and hard braking.

“Speeding, double parking in the middle of the street, and parents allowing their child to walk across streets that have no school crossing guard in school zones is probably our biggest problems right now,” said Officer K. “Currently, we have given out hundreds of tickets in school zones enforcing the speed limit in April and May alone. Young kids typically don’t pay attention to traffic. They’re a little bit more focused on everything else and that’s the reason we have the reduced speeds, so (drivers) have a little bit more reaction time... We noticed parents are impatient or angry when they have to wait to drop off their child and they will double park or allow their little child to walk across the street on their own without supervision.”

These are several instances in the past year in Colorado where students were hit by a vehicle in school zones.

- In August, a CSU student was hit on his way to school in the morning and the driver ran off. She needed several surgeries to recover from her injuries.
• In September, two students in the St. Vrain School District were injured in separate accidents within days of one another, prompting parents to call for changes to be made to keep kids safe.

• In September, a student was hit and injured outside Side Creek Elementary School. Another child was injured in an accident at Aurora Hills Middle School that same month.

• Most recently, a 14-year-old was hit by a car outside of Orchard Mesa Middle School in October.

This is the reason that the Queen Palmer staff asks parents to have patience and proceed in a single file line in the hug-and-go lane. Pull forward one at a time to the gate. Do not double park on the opposite side of the orange cones for student drop-off. This is dangerous for your child and others. We also ask that you not park along Bonfoy St. and allow your child to walk across the busy street by themselves. We ask all parents and students to use the crosswalk.

Embrace the Queen Palmer Hug-and-GO expectations as well as embrace and respect the teachers when they ask you to adhere to the guidelines and procedures. Safety is number our number one priority.

If you have questions, please stop by and see Mrs. Butcher.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Christina Butcher