



PLAYGROUND LEADERSHIP

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Chief Playground Officer: Principal Darin Johnson

I am pleased to report that the 2013-2014 school year is successfully underway. It has been very exciting to see the students fill the hallways and classrooms with smiling faces and youthful enthusiasm. Their energy is so very refreshing!

The start of a new year also provides plenty of opportunities for members of our school community. While students are busy building new friendships with classmates and setting goals for a successful school year, parents and teachers are engaged in ongoing communications regarding the best ways to support the growth and development of each child. As a Turtle Lake staff, we greatly value the relationships we build with our students and their families. The emphasis and importance we place on the home/school partnership supports our goal of providing for each child a personalized educational experience. Our students at Turtle Lake benefit from so many caring members of our school community; Turtle Lake is truly a special place to be!

In addition to the ongoing support given to students by their families and teachers, our Turtle Lake PTA does an amazing job of providing additional opportunities for our children. Community support of past fundraising efforts have provided the resources necessary to provide supplemental learning opportunities such as artist in residence programs and classroom resources which help challenge our students to achieve at high levels. Recently, a more systematic analysis revealed that our students' experience outside the walls of our school could be improved. After two years of researching and planning, the decision was made to proceed in building "A Playground for Everyone." This decision came with exceptional care,

(Letter from Principal continued on next page)

(Letter from the Principal continued)

given the significance and thought of the initiative. We are however, confident that this project can be completed with the collective support of our dedicated community. Providing for our students an extraordinary school experience has been supported by our PTA for years. I have been excited to see the support of our community in providing for students an opportunity to play side-by-side, in an inclusive environment which supports the social development of all children.

In the weeks to come, you will have the opportunity to be a part of something special. Please consider joining those who have already demonstrated their support for inclusive play by making a gift and helping our school community achieve our campaign goal. It is important to note that the playground committee has been busy securing philanthropic support for the project from foundations, businesses and individuals and will continue to pursue all viable funding opportunities. However, this support alone will not allow us to achieve our objective - we need the collective support of our local community and Turtle Lake families to get the playground built. Although there is significant work to be done before we can claim this initiative a success, I am optimistic that our efforts will prove that we care deeply enough to achieve something extraordinary which will be a great source of pride for our community.

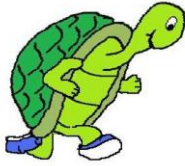
I look forward to our continued partnership in providing for students an exceptional elementary experience both inside and outside the walls of Turtle Lake Elementary School.



*Inclusive Playground
includes:*

- *Solid surfacing*
- *Ramping to highest point*
- *Innovative equipment for all*

<http://turtlelakeplayground.weebly.com>



2nd Annual Let's Play 5K

On June 1, 2012, the PTA hosted the 2nd Annual Let's Play 5K. On a sunny, spring morning, over 250 kids and adults gathered to run either a 1/2 mile fun run or a 5K through the neighborhood. Thanks again to our Platinum Sponsor, Northview Dental, and our other sponsors including Karvonen-Montgomery Basketball, Kids Abilities, Montgomery Orthodontics, Fresh & Natural, and identitystores.com for making this event possible. This event was a great way to promote community involvement, celebrate wellness, and learn more about the playground project. Participants and spectators were given the opportunity to view the playground design boards and learn more about the value of inclusive play and how it will transform play as we know it in this community.

In addition, we announced that a Stewardship Fund Policy has been established. To ensure the proper maintenance of our "Playground for Everyone" investment, we have established a policy that dedicates all proceeds of the Turtle Lake Let's Play 5K for five years to a fund earmarked for maintaining the playground equipment and solid surfacing or for future playground upgrades.

It is important to note that the Mounds View School District facilities management leadership is committed to maintaining the playground at current budget levels. This fund may serve to assist in any additional maintenance required above and beyond these budgeted levels to ensure that the integrity of the play system remains intact. In addition, this fund can also be utilized to provide support to the next playground initiative in the decades to come.

Save the date for our 3rd Annual Let's Play 5K: Saturday, May 31st, 2014.



The Peter & Jennifer Swenson Family



Getting ready for the 5K!

Development News

The playground committee continues to make progress on raising funds in support of "A Playground for Everyone." We have to date secured \$69,380 towards our ambitious goal of \$280,000.

We continue to submit foundation requests with five (5) currently under consideration and another five (5) to be submitted in 2013. It is noteworthy that the majority of these requests, although important, are not representative of the funds still needed to reach our campaign goal.

With just over 7 months remaining until the April 1st deadline, we are excited to announce we are prepared to begin receiving support from the Turtle Lake community.

The families and the community will soon be receiving information on the "A Playground for Everyone" campaign. We hope when this information is received, families and community members will take the time to consider making a meaningful contribution to this project.

We would like to thank those who have already demonstrated their commitment with their financial contributions.

A "Playground for Everyone" offers us each the opportunity to provide an extraordinary experience for our kids and will leave a lasting tribute to the generosity of this community. Collectively we can accomplish our goal and complete this project by the summer of 2014.

*"The results of philanthropy are
always beyond calculation."
~ Miriam Beard*

Honor Roll

Anonymous

City of Shoreview

Thomas & Kathleen Diffley

The Fallgatter Family

Robert Foster

Nevin Husted Foundation

Matt & Katie Johnson

Dave Kroona

*Tim, Heather, & Kieran
Meyer*

*Mounds View School District
#621*

Troy and Melisa Priem

*Jeff, Shelly, Rachel and
Michael Rhein*

Brian and Emily Schwieters

The Sprain Family

The Stire Family

*Curtis and Sharon Wall
Family Fund of the
Minneapolis Foundation*

We are pleased to present "A Playground for Everyone"

Donor Recognition Monument Conceptual Design



An investment in "A Playground For Everyone" provides those who invest \$250.00 or more with the opportunity to have their name displayed on our donor recognition board - a permanent on-site monument that will honor the philanthropic spirit of our community.



DONOR PANEL
4' x 5'
Digital Print Applied
Header letter height: 1 1/2"

DONOR NAMES
1" Letter Height
3M White Vinyl

Community Outreach Update

We are committed to educating those in the community about this transformational project and the benefits that it will bring to families and residents of the north metro.


- In collaboration with the Shoreview for the Ages project, we took part in a video that helps demonstrate the value that "A Playground for Everyone" can bring to this community. Shoreview for the Ages project is supported by the City of Shoreview with funding from Ecumen. We understand that this video will be linked to their website and streamed on cable access.
- We had the opportunity to present to the Arden Hills/Shoreview Rotary Club.

<http://turtlelakeplayground.weebly.com>

AMBASSADORS

Amy Alvarez
Erin Apel
Laura Bandt
Sally Brown
Sandi Cariveau
Heike Chervany
Jodi Coler
Bill & Sarah Conlin
Michelle Dove
Roxanne Eggen
Heather Erickson
Christina Freeman
Andrew Gamson
Lisa Ganske
Kathy Goldman
Ann Haws
Kristen Kirk
Tim & Joy Nasseff
Elizabeth Nelson
John & Sunanee Murphy
Tracy Plum
Stephanie Poppler
Liv Rosin
Beth Sabby
Kim Sacay
Sarah Schavee
Kelly Sokolowski
Taimi Thomsen
Stephanie Zumbolo

Where We Have Been & Where We Are Going?

Spring 2011	PTA began to looking into playground improvements.
Fall 2011	Inspired by a Turtle Lake family, began to consider an inclusively designed playground.
Winter 2011/12	Design Advisory Board established. Researched vendors and defined vision.
Spring 2012	Researched like projects. Developed a strategic plan to support a project of this magnitude.
Summer 2012	Presented to Shoreview City Council. Researched surfacing and drainage issues. Began website development. Developed communication materials.
Fall 2012	Finalized design and budget.
Winter 2012/13	Received approval from the district to proceed with our ambitious plan. Presented to North Oaks Home Owners' Association and North Oaks City Council. Produced first Annual Report. Hosted design unveiling. Began submitting funding proposals.
Spring 2013	Engaged community business leader. Received letters of support from both the City of Shoreview and North Oaks Home Owners' Association. Presented to the Special Education Parent and Professional Advisory Council (SEPPAC). Began collaborating with the City of Shoreview and the "Shoreview for the Ages" initiative.
Summer 2013	Finalized conceptual design for onsite recognition. Continued development of resources.
Fall 2013	Kick off "A Playground for Everyone" Campaign.
	
Winter 2013/14	Assessment of funds secured towards goal. Consider additional fundraisers.
Spring 2014	Anticipated completion of campaign - April 1, 2014
Summer 2014	Community Build! Celebration! Donor Recognition Event.