



A Playground for Everyone

D R E A M . I N V E S T . B U I L D .



Playground Newsletter

December 2013

PLAYGROUND LEADERSHIP

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Chief Playground Officer: Principal Darin Johnson

Over the past months, numerous dedicated project volunteers have been hard at work, informing the Turtle Lake School community about this amazing project. Countless hours have gone into providing important stakeholders with information regarding the concept of inclusive play and what a new playground would mean to our school and community. As our work continues, our focus shifts to identifying funding sources to help make our dream become a reality for the students of Turtle Lake Elementary School. Extensive research and grant writing has been completed in an effort to contact potential financial supporters, and I am very thankful for the efforts of our dedicated team thus far.

Running a capital fundraising campaign is somewhat uncharted territory for a metro area public school. In particular, work of this nature is unprecedented for Turtle Lake Elementary School and the Mounds View Public School District. However, as I have stated in the past, this is a special project for a very unique cause. Please remember that our inclusively designed playground structure will benefit all children, and replaces a playground structure that currently does not offer the opportunity for all children to play together side by side. As an additional point of clarification, the funds directed towards this project will not take away from any of the great things that are currently happening or are planned for inside the walls of our classrooms. “A Playground for Everyone” will only enhance the educational experiences which are already taking place at our great school.

(Letter from the Principal, continued on next page)

(Letter from the Principal, continued)

I am excited to offer this philanthropic opportunity to our community and have been pleased by the show of support we have received thus far, but we still have work to do to reach our goal. If you are intending to make a gift to this campaign, please consider making or pledging a gift by the end of the year in order to receive the maximum tax benefit allowed by law. I am very appreciative of your consideration of this request, and remain very thankful for the generosity already demonstrated by Turtle Lake and surrounding communities. Together we will be able to bring something special to our children, allowing them the opportunity to experience a world of play that is engaging, unique, and truly transformational!



“You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.”

~ Plato

Rock’n Ship Glider – One of the features of the proposed new playground. Not only is this an accessible place for kids to “hang out,” it also offers sensory stimulation as it provides a gentle swaying motion. Ship theme and treasure map encourages imaginative play.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAMILY FUN DAY!



Determined staff members ready for competition at the start of the trike race

The Turtle Lake Elementary PTA hosted a Family Fun Day on behalf of “A Playground for Everyone” on September 7th. It was a hot and muggy day with temperatures soaring above 90 degrees, but we had a great turnout of families. Activities included “Get to Know You Bingo,” face painting, chalk drawing, a kickball game, and limbo. Several of the Turtle Lake staff joined in a tricycle race which was won by newcomer, Mr. Gort!

Families were provided with an update on the playground project. Design boards and a sample of the surfacing material were on display. Shoreview City Councilmember Emy Johnson demonstrated her support with a few words on the impact this playground can have in the community. We were also honored to have Ramsey County Commissioner Blake Huffman in attendance.

The event ended with a splash as Principal Johnson climbed into a dunk tank. He had the opportunity to be cooled off several times over as several children won the chance to dunk him.

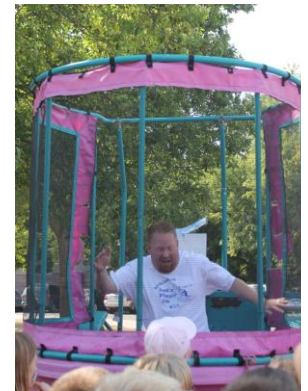
Thanks to all the volunteers and staff who helped make this event fun and enjoyable for all and to the families that decided to share their Saturday afternoon with friends at school!



Awaiting first pitch



Lined up waiting for a turn at kickball



Going down!

Development News

We are excited to share that the campaign to support "A Playground for Everyone" is well underway and receiving generous support from throughout our community. As of December 8, we have raised \$110,290 which represents 39.4% of our \$280,000 goal. We are slowly making our way to the halfway point, which can be an inspiring stage of a capital campaign.

We appreciate the generosity of those Turtle Lake families who have made a contribution to the campaign and look forward to other families participating in the project in the weeks to come. We continue our efforts to educate and inspire families to support this project. It is noteworthy that only 6% of the Turtle Lake families have contributed to the campaign - we believe the participation rate has room for growth.

We have recently received commitments from Edina Realty - North Suburban Office and the North Oaks Community Foundation. We are optimistic that our "Give the Gift of Play" Holiday Giving Program will provide additional support for our campaign. In addition, we are proud to report we have secured a significant investment from the Paul Adelman Children with Disabilities Endowment Fund. Their \$20,000 gift is a vote of confidence within the foundation community and could serve to inspire other foundations to invest in our vision of inclusive play.

The next few months will prove critical in our fundraising efforts as we look to raise the remaining funds needed by April 1st, 2014. Securing the necessary resources by this date will enable our committee to adequately plan for the summer construction and installation of the solid surfacing and new equipment. Ultimately this project's success relies on the spirit of community and the power of philanthropy - how extraordinary it will be to celebrate these values and the completion of the campaign next summer!

AMBASSADORS

Amy Alvarez

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Laura Bandt

Sally Brown

Sandi Cariveau

Heike Chervany

Jodi Coler

Bill & Sarah Conlin

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Beth Sabby

Kim Sacay

Sarah Schavee

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Taimi Thomsen

Stephanie Zumbolo

Donor Profile:

Edina Realty-North Suburban Office

Edina Realty – Invests in “A Playground for Everyone”

We are proud to honor Edina Realty’s generous support of “A Playground for Everyone.” For Edina Realty, corporate philanthropy is more than the allocation of financial resources. It is about investing in projects that enhance the quality of life of communities - the very same communities in which their agents and associates live with their families and do business.

Edina Realty recognizes that the real estate industry is linked to the strength of the local public school system. Notably, one of the reasons families choose to purchase homes in our community is because of the reputation of the Mounds View school district and schools like Turtle Lake Elementary. The playground project is a shining example of what Mounds View schools aspire to provide students – an extraordinary experience both inside and outside the classroom.

“We believe strongly in the power of enriching the lives of families and that is why when we learned of Turtle Lake’s ‘A Playground for Everyone’ project we were happy to support such a special initiative. ‘A Playground for Everyone’ embodies the importance of inclusion, diversity, empathy and relationships – many of the qualities that Edina Realty fosters in the workplace. In addition, playgrounds should be a place for all kids to foster friendships and experience the joy of play and that is what this project will do for this community.” – Lance Fellman – Shoreview Realtor, Edina Realty

We have spent the better part of the last two years researching and planning for “A Playground for Everyone.” Thanks in part to the support of Edina Realty, our vision of bringing the power of inclusive play to our community is growing closer each day. Thank you Edina Realty for your generosity and your support of “A Playground for Everyone.”

“A Playground for Everyone” Donors

We would like to thank our donors who have made or pledged a gift to “A Playground for Everyone” **as of 12/08/13**. Your generosity will help us reach our goal of providing a place where children and their caregivers can experience play without boundaries.

Paul Adelman Children with Disabilities
Endowment Fund

Ayesha Ahmed

Courtney Anderson-Ewald

Mark Asch

Anonymous (3)

Laura Bandt

Kelly Barkve

Berger Transfer

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Gloria & Mark Bosshard

Patrick & Julia Boyum

Annie Bullert

Teresa Boyer & Curt Carlson

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Sandra Fallgatter

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Jamalee Desmond

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THANK YOU!