



PROJECT PLAYGROUND FAQ's

How much will the project cost?

The total project cost is estimated to be \$140,000 - \$160,000. This includes the removal of the old structure, materials, installation, site testing and site services, and project management.

Doesn't the Board pay for playgrounds?

Unfortunately, no, there are no funds at the Board level to pay for updating playgrounds. Costs of playgrounds must be borne entirely by the individual school communities

How does the Board support the project?

The Board controls the project (even though the funds are raised by parents) from hiring the consultant to project management. They also assume the maintenance and inspection costs.

Have you chosen a design for the structure? What will it look like? Who is the supplier?

We received quotes from 3 companies last year so that we could understand what sort of cost would be required to replace the structure. The Board will send out RFP's for the replacement of the structures but we will be picking the supplier and structure. We have attached a photo of one of the structures we had quoted. Our hope is to get a structure very similar to this one.

Be sure to attend our Playground Revitalization meeting on **Tuesday April 17th at 6 pm** (prior to the CSPP meeting).

When will it be ready?

If we meet our fundraising targets expected project completion is the end of August, before the school year begins.

What will happen during the construction phase?

Further construction timelines will be provided once we have secured the contractor.

The kindergarten playground seems new. How was that built?

In the summer of 2014, the preceding kindergarten structure was deemed unsafe by Board inspectors. Just prior to the children beginning school, the structure was cordoned off with construction tape. The kindergarten children spent an entire academic year playing “around” it. In that case, we did not have a warning from the Board that the structure was going to be deemed unsafe. Through the course of the year, we raised the necessary funds through the gala and other fundraising initiatives. A small number of families gave very generously to build a new kindergarten play yard, which was ready for fall 2016.

I gave to the school in September. Why am I being asked to give again?

For the past three years, the school has only asked for your direct financial support ONCE per year. We also run additional fundraising events like Funfair and the bi-annual Gala that help support the school. The funds raised from these events support our operating budget (approximately \$50,000 annually). Funds raised over and above our operating budget are held for capital projects like this one.

This year, we are in the extraordinary circumstance of requiring a substantial investment in our outdoor space. In order for the playground not to impact the many programs CSPC funds year over year—things like field trips, instrumental music repair, facility rentals, teacher stipends and Scientist in the School—we need everyone to rally together with additional support.

What happens if we don't meet our \$90,000 goal?

Almost \$17,000 has been committed already from a very small number of families, which is great indicator of parent support and enthusiasm for the project. However, should we be unable to reach our goal of \$90,000, we will have to postpone construction until a future date. The playground will be cordoned off, likely for the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

Who is responsible for ensuring the project proceeds on time and on budget?

The project is scheduled to begin once the majority of funds have been raised. The soil analysis is beginning in the early spring, as soon as the ground is thawed. A deposit has been made with the Board to begin the RFP process and engage a Project Coordinator to oversee the entire project, and be on site from start to finish.

What happens if we exceed our goal?

Well, that will be a nice problem to have. Excess funds will be used to fund additional playground improvements, or will be allocated towards the general CSPC budget.

How much did we raise in 2015 for the turf, which was the school's last major capital improvement project?

In total, we raised \$48,425 from 166 generous families in the Blessed Sacrament community. This was over and above an allocation of \$30,000 from the CSPC, which was given in a similar manner to the \$50,000 allocated to the playground project from the CSPC this year.

In total, for the turf campaign, 94 families gave gifts of \$100 and up and had their names on the tree mural inside the school. 45 families gave gifts of \$500 and up and had their names on the plaque outside. Eight families gave gifts of \$1000 and up.

I want to donate now. What are the next steps?

Parents will have the option to donate online via the cashless system or by cheque payable to Blessed Sacrament Catholic School.

How will I know how close we are to our Fundraising Target?

The Playground Revitalization Committee will be providing weekly updates for the remainder of the year. A visual will be displayed in the main foyer and by all exit doors. Updates and contributions will also be share through our weekly email correspondences.