



April 7, 2018

Dear Parents,

We are writing today to talk to you about an important and urgent fundraising and community building initiative at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School.

For over 14 years, the school community has been working to improve our outdoor spaces. In addition to Board-funded projects such as the front entrance, two major parent-driven projects have been completed in the last five years: the kindergarten play yard, which was completely redone in 2014, and the turf field, installed in the summer of 2015. Both the kindergarten yard and the turf were completed with the help of funds raised through CSPC events like Walkathon and Funfair, but also through the direct, generous gifts of Blessed Sacrament families.

Now, the senior (lower) play structure in the main play yard is in need of replacement. The current structure was put in place in 2000 – 18 years ago! While our children have enjoyed many years on the structure, the Board has informed us--and we are well aware ourselves—that the structure is verging on unsafe. While they are still safe for our children to play on for the next few months, the Board has advised us that upon the next inspection, the play structure will be permanently closed off for student use. ***When that happens—which could be as early as June of this year--it will be up to our community to find the funds to replace it.*** The funding of play structure rests entirely on the shoulders of the school community itself.

So we need to act now and Put Play First!

Your CSPC has already put aside \$55,000 to help fund this project—funds which have been carried over from the past two years in anticipation of a capital project like this one. However, we still have a long way to go.

The total cost of purchasing and installing the new play structure is estimated to range from \$140,000- \$160,000.

The families of Blessed Sacrament have been extraordinarily generous in building up our school community, and we know that this campaign will be no different. One family has already contributed a leadership gift of \$10,000, and another at \$5,000. While we hope there will be more who can choose to participate at that extraordinary level, our most fervent hope is that EVERY family participates, at the level that is right for them.

Our goal is to raise \$90,000 from our parent community between now and May 1. To do so, we are organizing a number of fun community-driven events to galvanize the children and parents behind this project. **PUT PLAY FIRST** will help all of us in our community get behind the value of play, and the importance of safe structures for our children.

To encourage our children's participation in this project we will be having "FRIDAY PLAY DAYS" each week. Children can dress down or up in their best play clothes in support of Putting Play First! Additionally each week from April 9th to May 25th we will be encouraging each class to compete in the Pennies for Playground initiative. The class who raises the most money in change will receive a La Diperie event in their classroom!

We will also be asking for participation in our "Putting Play First Envelope Wall". Everyone will be encouraged to fill in at least one envelope from \$1 - \$200. We encourage children to consider donating their allowance to the wall so they feel they will be playing a role in bringing the playground project to life!

We have put together a recognition program to acknowledge those families and local businesses that are able to step up and play a leadership role in funding the playground. However, every family who participates will be acknowledged and given a tax receipt for their contribution, and families who give \$250 and up will receive a special, permanent recognition at the school. You will be able read all about it on the Blessed Sacrament Catholic School website at www.blessedsacramentcs.com.

You will be hearing more about the playground fundraiser in the coming weeks. Thank you for your support of Blessed Sacrament School.

Kind regards,

Wendy Abbott-Serroul & Christin Carmichael Greb

Co-Chairs, Playground Campaign

Richard Walo, Principal

Blessed Sacrament School