



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Media Information

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Pearson Elementary's Appreciation Assembly for Playground Donations

KELOWNA, BC: A playground is the hub of a child's social life and a source of fun and fitness. When Pearson Elementary School Principal Susan MacNeil was informed that the old playground would need to be torn down because it didn't meet BC safety standards, she knew how it would affect her students. That was the beginning of her mission to ensure that there would be a new playground for students in the upcoming school year.

The PAC at Pearson Elementary School pitched in with creative fundraising ideas and applied for grants. Students lined up to drop their spare pennies in a jar. But all their efforts were not enough. They only had \$15,000—far short of the \$50,000 they needed. An article in a local newspaper about the plight of the school and students got considerable attention. Donations began to pour in. MacNeil noted with emotion that the whole community helped out and one of the largest donations came from people living on the other side of the city.

Today, the students and staff at Pearson Elementary offered a warm thank you to the parents, businesses, community groups and private citizens who contributed a total of \$60,600. The fundraising drive exceeded their goal of \$50,000 (the cost of an adventure playground) allowing them to afford a playground with wheelchair access (\$60,500).



As part of the Pearson Appreciation Assembly, the students sang O' Canada and their rousing school song, then MacNeil introduced more than a dozen guests of honour. Each one was asked to fill in a piece of the "Story of our Playground Puzzle". Next, the Grade 2 students sang a special thank you song followed by several students offering their personal appreciation. "Thank

you for teaching us that anything is possible,” said Kennedy. “Thank you for making our dreams come true,” said Krystal.

A slide show reminded everyone that the playground they had strived so hard to obtain was very much worth the effort.

As a grand finale, the donors were invited to celebrate in the success by releasing balloons. Donors included:

Kelowna Storage	\$ 500
Pearson Staff	\$ 600
United Way	\$ 1,000
Johnson Family	\$ 1,000
Glass Family	\$ 1,000
McDonald Realty	\$ 1,000
Kiwanis	\$ 1,500
Carpet One	\$ 5,000
Tom Budd	\$ 5,000
Wood Gundy CIBC	\$ 5,000
McDonald’s Charity House	\$ 8,000
PAC, Students and Penny Banks	\$ 8,000
Rutland Rotary	\$11,500
Kettle Valley	\$11,500
Total Raised	\$60,600

For comments, please contact:

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