

Hidden Valley School's Project Playground's Random Acts of Kindness

Over the course of the past two years, Hidden Valley School Council has been working very hard to raise funds to build a new playground. To date, our school community has raised a total of \$323K out of the \$372K needed for the new school playground.

Collectively, we wanted to share a few random acts of kindness and stories about members of our school community and Hidden Valley residents who have helped us get where we are to date.

Community Heroes – Emily, Mya, Isla & Georgia

Meet friends Emily and Isla (grade 3 HVS students) and their sisters Mya and Georgia. Together this group of friends collected \$100 in donations for our new playground build by offering to hose down students at Valley Creek School following the Thermopylae Mud Run this past spring. They made signs and worked the crowds at the finish line to get people to their hose off by donation station.

Q. Why did you decide to raise money for the school playground?

A. Emily – Because lots of the students at HVS are talking about wanting a new playground and are hoping it happens. When the teachers showed it to us, it looked really good!

A. Mya – Because lots of kids want a new playground and I wanted to help make sure it happens so all the Hidden Valley kids can enjoy it.

A. Isla – Because a new playground would be really fun!

A. Georgia – It was a really fun idea and I wanted to help make money for my little sibling's playground space.

Q. What are you looking forward to the most about a new playground?

A. Emily – I'm looking forward to the spinning wheel and that the community can play with it and have fun.

A. Mya – I like that it's going to be good for people of all ages and abilities and I'm really looking forward to the climbing features.

A. Isla – I'm looking forward to it not being broken and brand new.

A. Georgia – When I was in grade 3, I saw the model ideas for the new playground and it all looked super cool.



Community Hero – Carter

Meet Carter (grade 1 HVS student) who, together with a few neighbourhood friends, went door-to-door after this year's first snow fall selling hot chocolate to neighbours. They earned \$57 which they donated to our playground project.

Q. Why did you decide to raise money for the school playground?

A. Carter – Me and my friends wanted to raise money so that we could help get a new playground. It made us feel good to help and it was fun to make hot chocolate for lots of our neighbours.

Q. What are you looking forward to the most about a new playground?

A. Carter – Going on the monkey bars and bringing my baby sister there on the weekends!



Community Hero – Jasper

A huge thank you needs to go out to HVS student, Jasper, who donated \$56 from his piggy bank towards our new school playground!

What to Expect with Our New Playground!



Providing Access and Playability

The goal of inclusive play is to create a multifaceted, sensory-rich play space where children – regardless of ability, age, needs or preferences – can enjoy unstructured outdoor play. Inclusive play incorporates a broad range of elements into playground design including ground level, elevated, physical, sensory, imaginative, cognitive, and social play components. This combination of experiences maximizes playability and enjoyment for as many users as possible.

Hidden Valley School's new playground has been designed with a variety of needs in mind including mobility, vision, hearing, sensory, communication, social and other needs. A few examples of the inclusive design are:

- Inclusive Orbit – stable rubber surfacing connecting to the entry point will allow people of all abilities ease of access to enjoy the spinning motion of this feature.



- We Spin – the wide, gentle, concave design enables users with limited upper body strength to spin while lying down or sitting and allows for easier access. Hand holds provide extra stability.



- Ramps – provide people of all abilities with access to all parts of the play space.



- Ascender – provides children an introduction to climbing and opportunity to grow gross motor skills.



- Rainbow Buddy Bench - helps foster kindness, inclusion, and compassion on the playground.



- Communication Board – this assistive communication tool uses simple, recognizable images and symbols to foster communication and understanding between people that are nonverbal and those that use spoken language.

