

March 2021

Dear Sharon PTO,

Recess is, for most kids, probably the best part of the day. All day is getting ready to run around and play on the playground, but wouldn't it be kinda disappointing if that playground was falling apart? For the school of Sharon elementary, I believe it would be beneficial, and would show care to have a new playground. After 30 years of wear and tear, our playground is in a bit of disrepair, and many things need to be replaced or taken out. However, a lot of these things cost a lot of money. Yet there are a few things we can do to make Sharon elementary's playground amazing once again.

One way to earn money for the playground is bake sales. Bake sales may not earn the kind of money we need, but they are definitely a start. Having teachers and students make some things like homemade cookies, pies, cupcakes, muffins and brownies would be so fun, and would make the students feel like they are helping out to build the new playground. Even if someone only wants to buy a cookie platter and bring it to school, it will bring the same sense of satisfaction, pride, and community. The bake sales are overall an extremely good option.

Another good way to get some money is a silent auction. I personally have plenty of nice things that I no longer want or need at home, and other people probably do as well. We could bring these things in, and on a weekend, hold a silent auction outdoors. The type of stuff a person would bring in would be trivial stuff like books, stationary, toys, semi-precious stones, and putty. This could rope in plenty of money, as well as rid peoples homes of the things they no longer want. After all, one man's junk is another man's treasure!

A third idea, we could do raffles. Raffles are positively outstanding. They bring in a sense of suspension and excitement. Waiting for the raffle to be picked is terribly fun in the same way getting ready to watch a movie is. My recommendation is cakes made by staff raffled off two bucks per ticket. Something else that could be raffled off is tickets to parks or skiways. There could be a group of sixth graders running the raffles, cashing in dollars and writing names on tickets. Each class would have the chance to get raffle tickets.

The final way of getting money for the playground is asking for donations. It could become some sort of contest, the class that donated the most by a

certain time gets a prize, like a donut party. The requests for donations could be sent out via email, pamphlets that students take home, and posters would help. The posters would be put up all around town, in places like the post office, the trading post, and maybe even the library. This is a good option in Sharon in particular because of how kind the students, parents, and teachers are.

All these are also good side-by-side, we could decide on more than one way to earn money for our amazing new playground. No matter what, I fully trust the supportive parents and teachers will fill the bill in whatever way we choose.

The things named are obviously about raising money, but there are other ways to build a playground other than just fundraise to hire someone else to do it for us. For instance, our P. E. teacher was a carpenter. If we were to say in an email nearing the summer that parents and kids could come and help build the new playground, I'm sure they would want to. Not only does this save money, but it is a great option to get people to connect in these trying times. Not only parents and kids of Sharon Elementary, but also of the highschool and middle school. The Highschoolers I have heard of all seem like they would be simply ecstatic to help out their old school.

Something else we could do is ask for donations of materials. With the ice skating rink, for example people did that, and I bet they could do it again.

All this and more can no doubt build a beautiful, new playground. However, once we raise the money, what should we build? I have interviewed some students, and the list we came up with seems fairly reasonable in my opinion. The first thing we want doesn't take much, logs for building are a fun thing that kids will surely enjoy. In the birch circle students would use the logs to build little houses against the trees there. I had that in my old school and I loved it. Then, we could build a zipline. This is something we could involve people in over summer, for the base and equipment like the thick wire. Next, a tire swing. I saw the base of one already, so all we need is someone's old tractor tire and sturdy rope. During any of those, we could set down new pavement. The pavement we have right now is tremendously bumpy, and not too even. If we were to put down some nicer stuff many kids would be so happy. Following, high monkey bars for the older kids. The monkey bars we have now are short, and when I use them, my feet drag along the ground. I love the monkey bars but I can't use them. If we were to set up some higher ones I would be delighted, along with many others. After, a play house could be fun, for the little kids to imagine in. I know that when I was younger, I loved to play house with my friends, so I don't doubt this will be well put to use. Finally, a climbing pole. I love climbing, so getting one of these

would be a major upgrade. It could be like the one we had many, many years ago before it got so rotten it fell over.

That concludes my ideas for what to get, but we also have so many things already, we should definitely keep some. The ones I have noticed are in heavy use are the structure, swings, gaga pit, and the basket ball hoops. If there is space, we could keep the other things as well, but I don't think there is.

These are all the different ways I have thought of to fix up our playground. All this can only be done with teamwork. Only together, we can do this, together we can make our ageing, rotting playground new and beautiful once again. If we all pitch in, by donating money and time, we *will* get this done.

Sincerely,
Omi Malin-Stremlau

March 17, 2021

Dear Sharon Elementary School PTO,

What would your dream playground be? What would it have on it? Probably some fun things. I heard from one person about what is their one dream thing you would have on your playground. Lets see what they think. Omi said "One dream thing I would want on my dream playground would be a zip line." Very interesting to me. In Sharon Elementary School we have a playground that has been here for 30 years. It needs to be fixed and there should be some better play things to be put. I think nearly 150 kids would love for that to happen. There are a few things that I think we should have and improve.

In the playground there are some things that we should keep. Some people like some of the things on the playground so we keep some of the pieces that you can play on . Here are the things that I think we should keep on the playground:

- Gaga pit
- Play structure but it depends because if we do put a treehouse then we might have to take down the play structure.
- Swings
- Dome monkey bars
- Soccer field
- Baseball/ball field
- The wall near the preschool
- The tar
- The sledding hill

Those were some things that we should keep because a lot of the kids here play with it. We could probably get rid of everything else. Just so we can put new things in their places.

One thing that I really want on the playground is a Ninja warrior course. It is basically a course that you go through. I love doing them. I have

done them before. We could probably put it on the side of the soccer field. It does not have to be that hard. Almost all ages and grades could go on it. People would have fun with it too. I say that 3rd grade to 6th grade could use it. If you want ages instead of grades then ages 8 to 12. Just to keep it safe.

Another thing I want is a zip line. This would be bunches of fun. It can either be long or short but it depends how safe you want it to be. We could put a post at one side of the soccer field and another post at the other side of the field. Only one at a time can use it. Ages should be 9 to 12. A teacher has to be monitoring at all times or you can not use the zip line.

The last thing I want is a treehouse. We either build it out of scratch or we can put it up in a tree. The tree I was thinking of was the one in the middle of the structure and the swings. If we make it out of scratch then we probably put in the soccer field. Off to the side though. We still need a soccer field though. There should only be a certain number of people in the treehouse at a time. It depends on the size of the treehouse.

Those were some things that I think we should have and improve. I think as a school we should pick at least one of these to make the playground better. Let's see if we can make a better playground.

Sincerely,

Eva Lily Lothian

March 17th 2021-2022

By:Lyla Rae Lyman

Dear Sharon Elementary PTO,

Did you know that the Sharon Elementary School has had the same playground as it did 33 years ago when my dad was a student here? Sharon Elementary School has one central playground with about 160 kids in K-6 sharing it at different times. The playground has some swings (that are really old and rusty and pinch you a lot), a gaga pit, monkeybars, soccer field, ice rink in the winter, kickball/baseball field, and a small play structure. Kids are bored and need new options.

One thing I want on the playground is a rock wall . I think we should put it where the igloo bar is. We should put it there because nobody uses that igloo bar thing any more. I think it would be great for all of the kids.

The second thing I want on the playground is a trampoline. I think we should put the trampoline where the second piece of blacktop (tar) is near the Pre-K building. I think we should get a trampoline because the kids would enjoy bouncing on something to get their energy out.

The third thing I want on the playground is a Ninja warrior course. The ninja warrior course should be where the fence starts on the other side of the school. I think we need a ninja warrior course because most of the

some on →
the rock

kids like obstacles to play on.

The final thing I want on the playground is a new play structure. The old play structure is no fun anymore; it is too old and rusty like the swings. The new play structure should be where the old play structure is.

Our school needs new playground materials. Hope you like my ideas have a GREAT day.

Lyla Lyman

5th grade

Sharon Elementary School