

SPECIAL EDITION - APRIL 2023

THE BEACON

John Knox Christian School, Wyoming



New Accessible Playground for JKCS

The Board of Directors of John Knox Christian School is excited to share with the community that we have been provided a grant for a new accessible playground. This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund. The Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) provides funding for projects that make Canadian communities and workplaces more accessible for persons with disabilities. We received a grant of \$68014 and will partner that with our own contributions. Play is such an important part of childhood and we want this playground to be part of the way we meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of our students. We hope this new playground will be welcoming to our neighbours in the local community and a space for them to play, socialize and participate in fitness and physical activity. The new playground will be barrier free and accessible to all; including elements to meet the needs of the children whether through sensory features, imaginative play, or gross motor skills. We thank the Government of Canada for providing us this grant.

Playground cont'd:

As recipients of the grant, JKCS is committed to providing 20% of matching funds. Over the past number of years graduating grade eight classes have left gifts to the students of the school. We are using these funds as well as monies from the Memorial Fund to make our financial commitment to this project. A big thank you must also go out to the Wyoming Community Foundation for providing a \$1500 grant.

The playground is divided into different zones. One zone is a playground with two slides and another is a fitness circuit that includes rings, monkey bars, and a rock-wall. The accessible components of the playground include a snack shop window, u-sway swing, balance beam, and low rings. Also, the small playground includes a transfer platform so individuals can easily access the first slide. The buddy bus rounds out the design, and the staff predict that element will be a student favourite.

Installation is scheduled for this summer and volunteers are integral to this community project. Look for an invitation this summer to help put in this playground and spruce up the JKCS grounds in preparation for the new school year.

