

Subject: Grant Application for Playground Development – Gilmore Elementary School

Dear Burnaby Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department,

On behalf of the **Gilmore Elementary School Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**, I am pleased to submit this application for the **Playground Development Grant** to support the enhancement of our school's playground. We appreciate the City of Burnaby's commitment to fostering physical activity and community well-being. Our proposed project aligns with these values by providing an inclusive and enriching outdoor learning environment.

Project Overview

Gilmore Elementary School's playground is a vital community resource that serves not only our students but also children of all ages throughout the neighborhood. Our goal is to expand and improve our outdoor learning opportunities by creating a dedicated **Outdoor Learning Area** that encourages hands-on education and interaction with nature.

Project Description – Outdoor Learning Area

We are planning to develop a designated outdoor learning centre within the school's playground. The exact location is yet to be determined, as the Facilities Department has advised that placement will be finalized at a later date. Several areas of the school grounds are currently under-utilized, and we are exploring options that best accommodate this new space while maintaining the functionality of existing play areas. The new learning space will feature:

- **Seating:** Natural logs, recycled plastic lumber, or rubberized seating arranged in a semi-circle to serve as a seating area where teachers can take their classes outside for instruction. Additional flat-topped boulders will be placed throughout for flexible seating options.
- **Outdoor Chalkboard:** A weather-resistant chalkboard mounted on a sturdy structure to support interactive learning and outdoor lessons.
- **Ground Cover:** Compact gravel or wood chips will be used to provide a stable and low-maintenance surface.

Installation Plan

The installation process will involve:

- **Preparing the Site:** Clearing and leveling the ground, ensuring adequate drainage, and laying the chosen ground cover (compact gravel or wood chips).
- **Installing the Learning Area:**
 - Arranging natural log seating, recycled plastic lumber, or rubberized seating in a semi-circle.
 - Positioning flat-topped boulders for additional seating.
 - Mounting the weather-resistant chalkboard on a sturdy structure.

This carefully planned outdoor environment will support both structured and unstructured learning while promoting creativity, collaboration, and engagement with the natural surroundings. By creating this dedicated space, we aim to enhance the educational experiences of the children who use our school grounds daily.

As a community school, we recognize that our playground is used not only during school hours but also after school, on weekends, and throughout the summer by the broader community. Given our area's continuous growth, these improvements will ensure that all children have access to engaging and developmentally beneficial outdoor activities.

Project Funding & Eligibility

- **Total project cost:** \$10,000-\$12,000
- **Amount raised by PAC:** \$6,000 (additional fundraising is ongoing)
- **Approval from Burnaby School Board:** We have spoken with the district and are awaiting the formal letter of support, which will be provided as soon as it is received.
- **Public Accessibility:** Yes (Playground is open to the public outside school hours)

Conclusion

We are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Burnaby on this important initiative. Your support will help us create a lasting, meaningful outdoor learning space that benefits both Gilmore Elementary students and the broader community for years to come.

We appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to your positive response. Please feel free to contact me at rosita.gcs2018@gmail.com or 604-417-9656 if you require any further details.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosita', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends to the right.

Rosita Morandin

PAC Member, Gilmore Elementary School