

# Fisher unveils new playground

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ARLINGTON -- It was four years in the making, but Fisher Elementary School was finally able to unveil its new playground on Thursday.

Friends of the playground project had donated more than \$80,000 over the past four years, and the school was able to turn that money into \$160,000 of playground equipment, according to principal Deanne Lacoste. At the ceremony, Lacoste and superintendent Judy Pullinen revealed a sign displaying the name of the playground: The Fisher Elementary Family Playground.

"Because this project involved so many Fisher families and friends over the past four years, it was pretty easy to decide what we should name our playground. Today, we are grateful to them all," said Lacoste.



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Shown here are Shaw's Supermarket employees presenting a check for \$400 to Fisher Elementary School Principal Deanne Lacoste along with Fisher Kindergarten Teacher Jen Gleason (far right) and her class. Shaw's adopted the school as part of its Point of Purchase program. (Supplied photo)

"Although updating the playground has been discussed for many years, this project began in earnest about four years ago, when a group of Fisher [parent-teacher group] parents decided to make the playground their focus for fundraising." Lacoste said that many parents helped along the way, but specifically thanked Angela Hess, Cindy Granger, Kendall Jennings, Janine Moscarello, Nicol Whalen, and Jenn Wright for their efforts. Lacoste also thanked the members of the Arlington select board and school board for their support.

Lacoste said that the school had received an anonymous \$20,000 donation toward the playground fund after an article about the project ran in the Banner.

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"We are very grateful for that donation, which enabled us to meet a purchasing deadline and, in turn, allowed us to turn the \$80,000 we had raised into \$160,000 worth of equipment," she said. "I want to publicly thank the Bennington Banner for covering our story and helping to make all this happen."

Lacoste also took the time to name some of the businesses who have supported the playground project over the years, including **Mack Molding**, which donated \$10,000 to the project in 2013, the Vermont Country Store, Quadra Tek, and Woodard Construction. The sign for the playground was made by Mark Klauer.

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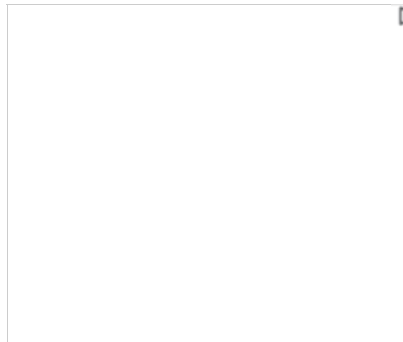
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