Introducing the Baker Playground Renovation!

The Baker PTA has set our sights on raising funds for a new goal: Renovating the Baker playground! The current playground was built in 1995-1996 school year. In the more than twenty years since then, the playground has had items break, removed, fade, and become otherwise outdated. The Baker PTA has committed to funding the playground for the next two years, in hopes of completing the project by the 2018-2019 school year to help celebrate Baker School’s 50th Anniversary.

The purpose of the Baker School Playground Renovation is not merely to replace an existing space; it is our hope that the renovated playground will be more accessible for all student needs. We want to create a space where every child in our community can play. Over the past 20 years, there have been significant developments in understanding what children need and how play spaces can be more accommodating to the needs of children. The playground is an asset not only for the school, but also for the Upper St. Clair community at large.

We can’t do this without the support from our Baker families! We are looking for a committee to facilitate this 2 year project to completion. We hope to raise at least $40,000 in order to provide the kind of playground that the students of Baker deserve and will enjoy for years to come. The PTA has begun to solicit donations from local businesses. We are excited to announce that our first partner in this process is Extended Day Services, who have committed to donating $4,000 to the renovation. We have also been awarded a $5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Upper Saint Clair to kick start our fundraising goal!

In addition, we have partnered with Upper Saint Clair high school STEAM Design Lab students to help both design the playground to maximize the number of students who can play there and to problem-solve student movement during recess in order to maximize the amount of time the playground can be used. Each year, students from the Design Lab tackle problems from the community and industry, and the Baker Playground renovation was chosen this year.

The team of people we are looking for will help with solicitations from local businesses, help with design, create visual aid for the project, work on grant possibilities, etc. This committee will consist of 4-6 people who can meet quarterly to discuss the progression of the playground renovation. Another way you can help immediately is by making a donation to the Baker Playground Fund! Checks made payable to Baker PTA noting Baker Playground Renovation can be sent to school with your child with attention to Baker PTA Treasurer. All donations to the PTA are tax-deductible and if you would like to make this donation prior to the end of the year or would like to be a part of the committee please contact Kristie Proud at kristieproud@gmail.com. We are hoping to have a committee in place by February, 2017.

Whether by volunteering for the committee or making a financial donation I urge you to participate in this project that will undoubtedly leave a mark with not only Baker Students but also Upper Saint Clair residents for years to come!

Best Regards,

Kristie Proud
Baker PTA President