

École Centrale boasts only 'Ridge' in central Canada

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The project was a team effort, said Tracey Dreyer, co-ordinator of École Centrale's playground improvement project.

"We raised \$80,000 in eight months. Truly without the children and their families and the community's support, this wouldn't have happened."

Dreyer said the \$80,000 raised was enough to fund phase one of the two-phase project, which involved a new playground structure as well as a circular tree bench, new limestone pathway, sod repairs and the planting of 10 deciduous trees.

Due to the early arrival of winter, the trees and pathway will be added next spring.

"It was something that was long overdue. It's very innovative and new," said Dreyer.

"To actually see (the Ridge) every day, it's just climbing when you think about it, but for the kids, it's so much imagination.

École Centrale students Emily Dreyer, daughter of Tracey, and Logan Kaiser, said all of the students look forward to each and every recess and lunch hour.

"I love it. It's very active, lots of people can play on it, especially the Ridge," said seven-year-old Emily.

"I can climb on there and there's fossils."

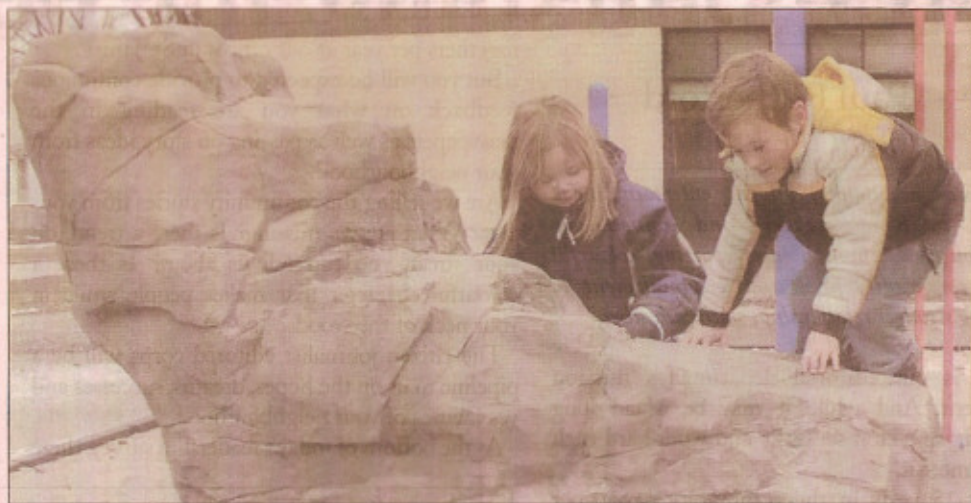


Photo by Bernice Fontanille

École Centrale students Emily Dreyer and Logan Kaiser on the new play structure.

Emily said she is proud of her mom's work on the project and is happy when she hears other children speak of the new play structure from their journal entries.

Six-year-old Logan said his favorite part of the new play structure is the corkscrew climber and the stationary bicycle.

"We hang onto it. It's like a bike and we move our feet and our hands - off the ground!" he said.

Project two, which is being spearheaded by

a new parent committee, is focused on fundraising for the west side of the school, on Day Street.

This project reflects the history of Transcona, with a climbing teepee, representing Aboriginal and Métis heritage, and a train, representing the area's the industrial roots.

Their first fundraising event for project two is a Sisters of the Holy Rock concert on Nov. 21. Tickets can be purchased by calling the school.