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## Featured Stories

Westgate Elementary needs your help. Click below to view their contest video, which with enough votes will help them be \$5,000 closer to a new, safer playground. To make your vote [click here](#).

### **Westgate community rallies to meet June deadline**



Thu, Mar 11, 2010

Westgate community is working hard to raise money for a new playground at Westgate Elementary School.

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**Westgate students need your help! Please vote for their video!**

Westgate community is working hard to raise money for a new playground at Westgate Elementary School.

They have made a video and entered it in a national contest for playground equipment.

Their entry, asking for "HELP", was selected as a national finalist by the KaBOOM playground network's \$5,000 video contest.

"It was a great community effort," Karen Wolfe-Friz, community organizer, said. "We originally filmed the video during the school day, but due to technical difficulties the video footage was unusable.

"At a moment's notice, more than 25 families came out to reshoot the video on a Sunday afternoon.

"All our hard work paid off. We are now in a position to win \$5,000 in playground equipment."

National voting will occur from March 8 through March 31 on the KaBOOM.org website. People can vote daily (every 24 hours.)

"It has been a great project of our community coming together, and all the students are so excited," Wolfe-Fritz said.

The link to vote for the park

is: "[http://projects.kaboom.org/voting/elections/video\\_2010](http://projects.kaboom.org/voting/elections/video_2010)"[http://projects.kaboom.org/voting/elections/video\\_2010](http://projects.kaboom.org/voting/elections/video_2010).

Westgate playground also serves as the Westgate neighborhood park. The community has been fundraising for a new playground since 2006.

"We have raised \$36,000, and anticipate the city of Edmonds to match \$25,000; however that still puts us at a shortfall of \$29,000 of our \$90,000 fundraising goal," community organizer Candy Gaul said. "It is crucial that we reach this goal by June 2010 because all funds raised will be matched by the Edmonds School District through the 2007 capital levy.

"If we do not raise our goal of \$90,000, then we will not be able to install all the equipment in our plan. "We are fortunate to be receiving matching funds through Edmonds School District and the city of Edmonds; however, it still is a lot of money for one community to raise."

A project of this magnitude cannot happen without the cooperation, teamwork, energy and enthusiasm of all the students, parent group, staff and community leaders. It definitely takes a village!

The Edmonds School District Capital Partnership Program is instrumental in the project; their matching funds are critical to the success of this project.

"The Edmonds School District Capital Partnership Program is allowing projects like Westgate's playground renovation to happen," Westgate Elementary School principal Rob Baumgartner said. "Thanks to voter support of the Edmonds School District Capital Levy."

In addition to the contest, community members are doing "small stuff" such as concessions at all of their school events as well as a bingo/silent auction at the school gym from 6 – 8 p.m. on Friday March 12, and a Community Wine tasting event on May 12 at the Edmonds Senior Center (details TBA).

You can help the cause by voting daily on the KaBOOM.org website. Even more importantly, you can donate directly to the school. All donations are tax-deductable.

Their Parent Staff Organization's website accepts Paypal. [HYPERLINK](#)

<http://www.westgatepsa.org/donate>"<http://www.westgatepsa.org/donate>, or you can send donations to: Westgate School, 9601 220th St. SW, Edmonds, WA 98020, check made out to "Westgate PSA."

For more information and/or questions, you can contact Karen Wolfe-Fritz @ "<mailto:wolfefritz@msn.com>"[wolfefritz@msn.com](mailto:wolfefritz@msn.com).



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