

The Schoolyard Friends Group grows out of the Schoolyard Committee. A Friends Group is primarily parents, neighbors, representatives from community organizations and local businesses, working closely with the school through the Principal, School Site Council and Parents Council.

The purpose of the Friends group is to support and sustain the Schoolyard and Outdoor Classroom as a resource for school & community. Once schoolyard construction is complete it needs to be cared for to continue to be safe, clean and green.

Opportunities for Friend Groups include:

- Organizing spring & fall clean-ups
- Ongoing SY & OC seasonal maintenance
- Being a watchful eye on the Schoolyard.
- Raising funds to refurbish schoolyard & OC
- Assisting with schoolyard events and activities.
- Community service projects / participate in City wide clean-ups such as Boston Shines (in April)

Clean up activities A clean schoolyard is a safe schoolyard. A well maintained schoolyard shows care and respect for children and expresses the value placed on teaching and learning. Regular trash pick up at the beginning of week is an important way to show respect for the Schoolyard, and the children who will use it during the week week. Schoolyards are the most actively used public spaces in urban areas.

Events after completion of the Schoolyard

Spring Festival Event Examples include: EarthDay Celebration, Field Day, outdoor activity and education day, seed planting, spring clean up, community service projects.

Fall Festival Event Examples include: Autumn Harvest Event (cider pressing, pumpkin carving , games), plant sale, bulb planting activity, outdoor field day, Games day, educational & Community Service activities.

These traditions have been developed in schoolyards throughout Boston. Every Schoolyard Friends Group is different, depending on the ideas and interests of those involved. Groups complement their events with plant sales, bake sales, student musical performances, special T shirts, raffles, creation of artwork, and of course, sharing of food!

Fundraising activities by a schoolyard friends group may include: Bake sales; Raffles / walk-a-thon; T shirt sales; Donations [in kind]; Plant sales.

Friends Group details - name a point person(s) to coordinate activities • establish methods of communication (fliers, phone tree, email lists, etc.) • schedule activities, delegate tasks. • with clear goals, meetings can be kept to one or two to plan the spring and fall events. It is not as difficult as it may sound. • a Schoolyard Friends Group can also be strong advocate for continuing to improve the schoolyard as a place for active use by all in the community • have fun in the process!

