

All work leads to play at Tiogue

Volunteers get new playground up and running

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COVENTRY—Although it took years to raise the funds needed for the new playground structure at Tiogue Elementary School, members of the Parent Teacher Association and the Playground Committee worked hard to ensure it would happen, installing the equipment on Saturday, Oct. 26.

Principal at Tiogue Elementary, Louise Seitsinger explained that she and her staff members are thrilled to have the new structure in place for the students.

Volunteers began digging holes to
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Submitted photo

Parents and volunteers work at Tiogue Elementary School in Coventry on Oct. 26, installing and assembling new playground equipment that, thanks to their efforts, is now available for use by the students.



Submitted photo

Volunteers get together for a group shot after finishing their work on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Tiogue Elementary.

Tiogue school playground product of a group effort

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make way for the new equipment on Oct. 23; three days later they were back at it, putting the pieces together and installing the playground on the property.

Because the cement took a few days to cure and settle, the students weren't able to enjoy the equipment until last Thursday.

"Before they were able to play, we went through what the equipment was with the Physical Education teacher, the classes and other teachers and assistants," said Seitsinger. "We taught them how to use it so they students would understand as well."

She said the students seemed to really appreciate the structure, which builds upper and lower body strength.

When Seitsinger became principal four years ago, she said, her goal was to upgrade the playground area at the school.

After creating the Play-

ground Committee and electing Keri and Ed Bove, that goal became a reality.

The money for the \$12,000 playground was raised entirely by events ran by the PTA and the Boves. There are currently eight people on the committee who work continuously to improve the school grounds for the 400-plus students at Tiogue Elementary School.

"They worked tirelessly to raise funds, coordinate meetings and events, organize volunteers and see this project to completion," she said. "Their efforts and hard work are so appreciated by our entire school community and me."

Through the help of O'Brien and Sons, Inc. the playground was designed with numerous components for students ages five through 12.

Because of the Community Builds event sponsored by O'Brien and Sons, the committee was able to save money. The company was on scene both days to explain the step-by-step process, supervise the

process and provide tools for the construction.

Seitsinger said the school and the playground committee would like to continue expanding the playground area in the future.

"The only thing is, it takes so much money because the equipment is expensive," she added. "But our custodian checks the swings and we update things like that pretty quickly and regularly to make sure it's safe and in good shape for the kids."

The committee was able to paint the older equipment, like the swing sets, to match the color of the new structure.

She explained that once it gets warmer they will also repaint the map, tic-tac-toe and hopscotch games that are currently worn out on the black-top area.

"I'm very happy for the students," she emphasized. "It's something that'll be there for a long time and be used by our students both now and in many years to come."