



NEWS RELEASE

Unveiling of climbing wall at École André-Piolat: reaching new heights

(Richmond, BC) May 26, 2008. The unveiling of the new climbing wall at École André-Piolat in North Vancouver earlier today was an exciting moment for students, parents and staff. The addition of this new sports facility in the school gymnasium arose out of the wish of parents to complement the school curriculum and to buy into the community's love of climbing and the outdoors. André-Piolat is the first Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF) (Francophone School District, S.D. No 93) school to boast a climbing wall.

The wall is a traversing climbing wall and does not require ropes; the challenge for students is climbing on handholds set in the wall's structure. The wall is three meters high by 14 meters long and has two large overhangs adding to the difficulty of the climb. Furthermore, the handholds can be configured in different ways to vary the routes and increase the level of difficulty. With landing mats and security features, the new sports facility will allow generations of students to experience thrilling adventures within their school environment.

The wall project goes back to the construction of the new school in 2005. At that time the Parent Council of André-Piolat began fund-raising activities, collecting \$10,000. The money was used for developing construction plans and the purchase of handholds. High Performance Climbing Walls of North Vancouver contributed to the project with a design accessible to climbers of all ages.

As the amount collected was insufficient to complete the project, several parents gave up week-ends and evenings to build the wall. Furthermore, Christian La Roche, President of École André-Piolat Parent Council, obtained significant donations of construction material from a few businesses – Arc'teryx Equipment Inc. and Mountain Equipment Co-op – and partners.

"I am very happy to see parents putting so much enthusiasm and energy to improve the school and learning space for our children," stated CSF Chair Ms. Marie Bourgeois. "École André-Piolat has a unique ambiance in North Vancouver and I thank all those involved in the project since they have ensured that our students will be able to take advantage of a top quality sports facility. It is a perfect addition to a school and community that aims high."

"Sports are an important component in student development," explains Interim Superintendent Mario Cyr. "We are proud to be on the receiving end of the dedication and energy of parents wishing to enrich their children's school experience. Thanks to this addition, we will be able to integrate climbing into the curriculum and see our students enjoy using a high quality sports facility which will be the envy of many schools in the area."

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LA FIERTÉ FRANCOPHONE S'APPREND AUSSI À L'ÉCOLE

École André-Piolat is part of a network of 39 French-language schools administered across the province by the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF) (Francophone School District, S.D. No 93). Founded in 1990, the school has an enrolment of 230 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The school offers educational services in French to students on the north shore of Vancouver, from Horseshoe Bay to Deep Cove.

Created in 1995, the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique offers educational programs and services aimed at fostering the growth and cultural identity of the province's Francophone learners. An active partner in the development of British Columbia's Francophone community, the Conseil has presently in its system, and distributed across 78 communities in the province, over 4,000 students and 39 schools, of which 21 are homogeneous schools.

Reference:

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