

April 23, 2019

Dear Vestry,

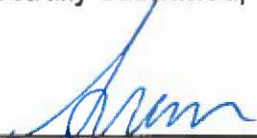
Our current All Saints Church playground installed almost fifteen years ago is in need of complete replacement due to safety issues as well as outdated and aging structures. Our playground is used not only by our Preschool students Monday through Friday, but also by parishioners' children on Sunday mornings. According to Montgomery County safety guidelines for school playgrounds, injuries/accidents have many causes and safety hazards, including but not limited to broken, worn, rusty, or protruding parts and insufficient amount of safety surfacing under play equipment (12 inches of engineered wood fiber or 8 inches of compacted engineered wood fiber is required under all play equipment and play equipment systems). Unfortunately, our playground has several of these unsafe features due to wear and tear over the years. Chief among the safety concerns are the unsecured and broken fence segments with missing bolts and caps along the entire periphery of the playground in addition to large areas of rusted metal on all sides of the fence. Additionally, the wood planking that runs along both sides of the playground is rotten and splintered. On the central play structure, the 2'x4' plastic lattice sheet that serves as protection from falls from the highest level has broken and is secured temporarily with a makeshift series of ties. The ground cover material is worn down and needs total resurfacing.

Our Preschool Director, Lisa Hollingsworth, has convened a Playground Committee consisting of parents, teachers, ASP Board members and friends of our School to shepherd this important project. We are particularly pleased to have on the Committee persons with expertise in landscape design and permitting processes. Currently, Lisa is working with the Committee to envision the new playground and secure bids for the work including a bid for resurfacing and fencing from *Playground Specialists* who did an outstanding job installing our new Tot Lot. Possible ideas for the new playground include a Noah's Ark climbing structure, a child's prayer garden, a natural bush-hedge along the sidewalk, an outdoor play sink and kitchen, a track for trikes, and a small walking labyrinth. The current playground's large sandbox is a popular feature that is in good condition and will likely be kept as is.

In the Building and Grounds document that Charles Fiegl, Jr. Warden presented at our March Vestry meeting, I was happy to see the Playground project already proposed in the 2020 Operations, Maintenance, and Repair section. Ideally, the Playground would be installed in August 2019 when children are out on vacation, thereby creating the least disruption to the school program. God has richly blessed our Preschool with gifted and dedicated teachers and staff as well as beautiful facilities. Our enrollment numbers are ever increasing and the future of our School is bright. An

attractive up-to-date and safe playground will benefit both School and Church for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,



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Susan T. Billington, ASC Vestry Liaison