



**FOR RELEASE:
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****BREAKING NEWS****
INNOVATIVE PLAYGROUND TO BE UNVEILED TUESDAY
AT REDMOND'S ONLY AMS-ACCREDITED SCHOOL

REDMOND, WA – Heading out to recess may look like fun at Montessori Children's House new elementary playground – but it's simply an extension of the classroom.

On Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 1:00 p.m., school administrators will unveil the long-awaited elementary playground, specifically designed for the school, its natural landscape – and take what students are learning inside the school to their new outdoor classrooms.

Designed by Head of School, Jennifer Wheelhouse – the daughter of the original founder of MCH -- the revolutionary playground has zero plastic, makes use of recycled materials and pulls in all aspects of learning with sound instruments, 'places of peace' and nature trails strategically built into the space.

"We have put a lot of thought into this playground," says Wheelhouse, who received development direction from Jeremy Weinstein of Meydenbauer Construction. "Our school is very much centered around nature and we wanted something that fit into our space not only visually but educationally as well."

The new playground nestled against a protected forested area and wetland, features a treehouse tower, suspension bridge, and "birdnest" swing. The balance beams are made of downed trees and boulders from the Northwest.

With over five years of thought and six months to build, the project was co-funded by the school and their supportive Parent Association. The PA raised their part of funds through a metal "tree" art sculpture (also on campus) where parents could purchase leaves and branches engraved with students names.

On Tuesday, February 17, students will be surprised with a spontaneous all-school celebration, complete with ribbon-cutting, balloons, refreshments and more.

“I can’t wait to see their faces,” says Wheelhouse. It is the first time the students will be allowed on the playground after watching it be constructed since the first day of school.

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ABOUT MONTESSORI CHILDREN’S HOUSE

Founded in 1987, Montessori Children's House is the only American Montessori Society accredited school in Redmond and Sammamish. MCH is committed to an authentic Montessori education with an emphasis on nature. The serene, five-acre campus in a farm-like setting connects students to their natural environment and encourages individualized learning.

Visit MCHkids.com for virtual classroom tours, videos and the latest school announcements.