

Chalk Talk

Celebrating West Elementary Pavilion & Outdoor Learning Area

By: Lori Cartwright

After 3 years of planning, working, creating, and learning, the West Elementary Pavilion and Outdoor Learning Area is complete! What began as an idea from Becca Hall, West Elementary teacher, has evolved into a 1/8 mile concrete walking path, outdoor pavilion, and new trees that will provide shade and beauty for many years.

Stage 1 of the Outdoor Learning Area included playground removal, tree planting, and construction of the walking path. Since its completion, West Elementary students have walked hundreds of miles on the path, winning the state "Walk More in 4" contest in both 2014 and 2015. Principal Paulson said, "The walking path has been a great boost for our teachers and kids. Even if it's sprinkling, students still take umbrellas and go outside. They go outside to

walk when it is cold and when it is warm. Most teachers take their students out to walk a few days each week, but teachers like Collete Williams, 4th grade, and Roger Davis, 6th grade, are on the walking path with their kids every day."

Stage 2 of the Outdoor Learning Area included pavilion construction. On May 3, TEF, representatives from Cargill, Superintendent Rogers, Principal Paulson, teachers, staff, students, parents, and West Elementary PTA gathered for a ribbon cutting at the new pavilion. It was an evening to celebrate 3 years of planning and working for a future of learning.



As with most large projects, "it takes a village," or in this case a team of businesses and community members who are dedicated to education in Tooele County. TEF's sustaining partner Cargill, provided funds for the Outdoor Learning Area as well as many hours working with Tooele High School's FFA to remove old playground equipment and plant trees throughout the outdoor area. Thank you Cargill! Also, thank you to Doug Frazer, Nancy Paulson, Steve West, Justin Russell, Ken Christensen, West Elementary PTA and TEF board and staff for their work and dedication to this project.



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