

May 2021 Begbie Teacher Survey – Outdoor Learning Spaces

Who responded?

- 10 Classroom Teachers (10 out of 14 classroom teachers)
- 6 non-enrolling staff (resource/library/prep)
- 3 SSAs

General Overview:

- People for the amphitheater: 1 classroom teacher & 1 SSA
- People for a different outdoor option: 17

Additional Comments:

- Would love to have a covered area to use if it rains.
- outdoor spaces that were grassy and small, would be welcome...less concrete, please
- I have been teaching outdoor education for the past 7 years through the 6 box garden program which includes garden to table with a cooking program. This is what I passionately wish to continue in the new school build. The shed, outdoor water access and garden beds would be needed to continue this program. A nearby table/or seating would be an asset and would allow the community to enjoy the garden.
- I think that the outdoor area should be a place to play and interact with nature. I envision spaces to sit but also spaces to play. Like so big rocks to climb on and logs to sit and climb on. Some garden spaces. Lots of trees to play around etc. I think the slide from kindy area to playground is great.
- Although a few tables would be nice, I think it might attract other people in the neighbourhood to visit the school more. I think seating areas such as rocks or logs can be used instead.
- Maybe a sand area with diggers?
- I think an amphitheater large enough for about 2 classes would be really useful for a variety of activities: meeting with another class to work together (buddies, same grade), do a performance or presentations for an audience, teach a lesson outdoors, kids have seating to work outdoors, etc. In question 4 I'm not sure if that refers to smaller class-sized spaces or small groups. As a primary teacher class sized spaces with an opportunity for smaller break out areas within my sight line would be great. But smaller group areas that I cannot fully monitor if I were alone would not work. Also, a garden area that allows more than one class to have access or take care of would be nice but not sure that we have that much space. An indigenous garden would be amazing - eg salal, salmon berries, sage, etc. I said shade (although a mix of shade and sun is nice too) because if we work outdoors for longer than a few minutes drizzle/rain or sun would become intolerable for most. Depending on the type of coverage it may be possible to use the space even when it's raining. Thank you so much for your interest in our ideas and for all the hard work you put in to make our school better for students, staff, and the whole community. PS I wouldn't mind security cameras or fencing - something to deter those dog owners from coming in and not picking up after their pets. It always saddened me that students had to play in a grass field with waste in it... not to mention the health hazard.
- An outer learning place would be a luxury. However, if funds were limited, I would like to prioritize furniture and technology for the classrooms over an outdoor learning space.