

3 Kittredge Court  
Roslindale, MA 02131  
January 30, 2013

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Curley K-8 Schoolyard Committee  
c/o Curley School Parent Council  
41 Pershing Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Dear Members of the Curley K-8 Schoolyard Committee:

My name is Lilian Elizabeth Alvord-Stearns. I am a fourth grader in advanced work at the Curley K-8 School, and I've been thinking a lot about how the school that I love so much can be even better. Have you ever looked out a window and seen a vacant lot so lonely, deserted, and almost as if there are tumble weeds trying to escape? Well this is what we at the Curley K-8 School see from our windows each and every day: a paved and crumbling lot with no purpose. I have a solution. If we make this vacant lot into a playing field with a walking track around it, students can get exercise, students and faculty can develop team building skills through sports, and when school is out people from the community can use the field and walking track for exercise or just to meet and talk.

Students need exercise and right now the school has no specific area for safe play. A playing field will give students an outdoor space that is safe and filled with fresh air. With exercise students can lose weight, get and stay healthy, and get their energy out so they can focus in class. Exercise is an important part of being healthy and a playing field can help us get the exercise we need.

With a playing field, the school can offer team sports during gym class with Mr. R. and Physical Education with Mr. De Palm. The field will also give us a chance to have sports teams for after-school play. Through sports, students and faculty can learn to work together and develop team building skills that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Team sports also help build school spirit and pride.

After school hours and in the summer, community members and school children can play on the field, walk on the walking track or just sit and talk and get to know one another. The playing field can be a community gathering place for the elderly, mothers, fathers, young children and babies – people of all ages, shapes, sizes, and skin colors.

Let's turn the vacant lot behind the Curley School into a playing field. This will allow students to get needed exercise, help students and faculty build important team building skills, and give the community a place to gather and get fit. Let's get started!

Working together, we can make this happen. I can't wait to watch the astonishing transformation of that old, cracked dustbowl into a big, green healthy playing field. Just imagine the results – a Curley community filled with energy, activity and smiles!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lili', with two small heart symbols above the end of the signature.

Lilian Alvord-Stearns