

New Playground Initiative Breton Downs Elementary

Fall 2010



2008-2009 School Year

- **Issues with rough play, mean behavior, aggression, students not engaged in active play, and students being excluded from games.**
- **Teachers were frustrated because they felt that they did not have an action plan for dealing with these issues effectively.**
- **Students were not transferring the strategies and skills that were being modeled during PE classes and by teachers during recess.**
- **Former Breton Principal, Wendy VanZegeren, introduced Preventing Bullying power point to staff and the School Improvement Team decided on School Behavior Motto: Be Kind, Be Caring, and Be Respectful. Worked with Marcia McEvoy on a pro-active approach to the playground.**

School Improvement Goal

- **Breton Downs School Improvement (Climate and Culture) Goal for 2009-2010 (2-year goal)**
 - **Behavior: All students will feel safe and a sense of belonging while improving their responsible behavior. Decrease incidents of “rough play.”**
 - **All students attend school assemblies and view Bulldog Blitz (bi-weekly news media video created by students on topics related to Breton Downs)**
 - **Conduct class meetings with monthly focus on classroom needs**
 - **Continue to report major and minor offenses following Breton Downs protocol**
 - **Continue to role play and identify responsible behavior (Anti-Bullying, Peace Patrol, Bow-Wow, Silent Mentoring)**

School Improvement Goal

- **Breton Downs School Improvement Goals for 2010-2011**
 - **School Climate and Culture Committee: All students will feel safe and a sense of belonging while improving their responsible behavior. Decrease incidents of “rough play.”**
 - **All students attend school assemblies and view Bulldog Blitz (bi-weekly news media video created by students on topics related to Breton)**
 - **Conduct class meetings with monthly focus on classroom needs**
 - **Continue to report major and minor offenses following Breton Downs protocol**
 - **Continue to role play and identify responsible behavior (Anti-Bullying, Peace Patrol, Bow-Wow, Silent Mentoring)**
 - **Response to Intervention**
 - **Trouble-Free Playground system implemented by Breton Downs staff.**

Trouble-Free Playground

- Five Breton Downs staff members attended a workshop by Dr. Curt Hinson during the 2009-2010 school year and reported the information back to the staff.
- With Wendy VanZegeren's approval, Breton Downs School Improvement Committee went ahead and scheduled him for this fall.
- Funds supported from the PTA.
- During the month of May 2010, staff started introducing new playground games to students.
- Fall of 2010 Dr. Hinson presented to staff and parents
- Spent a day with our students and staff

FAQ about Trouble-Free Playground

1. Are kids able to play the traditional games such as basketball, football, soccer, and kickball?

Yes, students are playing basketball, football, soccer, and kickball. Actually we have more choices this year such as field games, hula hoops, jump ropes, play structure, tire swing, imaginary play, sidewalk chalk, Grab It, Guard the Cookie Jar, West African Jumping,

2. How can you teach these games in a different way?

With the new system, the size of the group is reduced, students have more time playing, and more students are involved. On our big field we have 3 football fields and five soccer fields.

3. Are we trying to get rid of competition?

No, we aren't trying to get rid of competition; we are just trying to have students use it correctly. The key is making the competitive game suitable for cooperation to take place.

4. Are students allowed to keep score?

Yes, students are allowed to keep score.

Summary

- More choices this year
- More active participation
- Decrease in behavior incidents
- Monitoring and making adjustments