



# BOSTON SCHOOLYARD INITIATIVE

Transforming schoolyards into dynamic centers for recreation, learning, and community life.

## Schoolyard Initiative Wins Lifetime Achievement Award



Superintendent Johnson and members of the Healthy Connections Awards Committee present BSI staff with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Boston Schoolyard Initiative is thrilled to have been honored with a

### In this issue of Schoolyard News:

- [BSI Wins Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
- [3 New Schoolyards Completed!](#)
- [Friendship Revives a Local Schoolyard](#)
- [Good Idea Showcase](#)
- [Upcoming Photo Exhibit](#)
- [SSY Research Study Launch](#)
- [International School Grounds Month](#)
- [MAC Conference](#)
- [Visit Our Blog](#)
- [Share Your Success Stories](#)

Like us on Facebook

**DON'T MISS OUR PHOTO EXHIBIT RECEPTION!**

Be sure to join us at City Hall

Lifetime Achievement Award at the BPS Health and Wellness Summit on April 23. The award honors BSI for its nearly two decades of service and ongoing contributions towards creating healthy school environments for Boston Public Schools' students.

To learn more about how vibrant schoolyards contribute to the health and wellness of BPS students, take a look at our new [video](#).

## Three New Schoolyards Completed!



Third grader Anthony Curioso helps Mayor Menino cut the ribbon for the Henderson School's new outdoor classroom.

BSI is proud to help unveil three new schoolyard projects this month. School communities at the Henderson Inclusion School in Dorchester, Grew Elementary School in Hyde Park, and Harvard-Kent Elementary School in Charlestown are celebrating the completion of their new schoolyards and outdoor classrooms. Many thanks to all of the school staffers, landscape architects, and city officials who helped to build these beautiful spaces. You can learn more about each project on our [website](#).

## The Power of Friendship Helps Revive a Local Schoolyard

**today, May 9** from 4-5:30pm to celebrate our photo exhibit "Learn, Play, Grow." The exhibit will be on display until May 15 in the in the 2nd floor Mayor's Neighborhood Gallery.

---

### SCIENCE IN THE SCHOOLYARD™ RESEARCH STUDY LAUNCHES IN MAY

We're very excited to announce the launch of a research study to evaluate the contribution of Science in the Schoolyard™ to high quality science instruction in Boston Public Schools. All BPS K-5 principals and science teachers will receive an invitation to participate in an online survey late May. Please help us by doing the survey! We look forward to sharing the results of the study, led by the Center for Elementary Mathematics and Science Education (CEMSE) at the University of Chicago with you next fall. Thanks for your help!

---

### CELEBRATE SCHOOLYARDS IN THE MONTH OF MAY

Did you know that May is **International School Grounds Month**? Join schools from around the world in planning schoolyard activities this May. For ideas and resources, or to register your event, visit [www.greenschoolyards.org](http://www.greenschoolyards.org)

---

### MASS AG IN THE CLASSROOM CONFERENCE

Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom is hosting their **annual summer conference on July 18** in Holden MA. All workshops will offer connections from the garden to the





A memorial playscape finds new life at the Henry Grew School.

A play structure built to honor the life of a young local woman has found a new home at the Henry Grew Elementary School. In 2004, students from the Boston University Community Service Center decided to purchase and install a playscape at the Farragut School in Mission Hill in memory of their classmate, deneen zarada. Soon after graduation deneen (who preferred not to capitalize her name) passed away in a tragic car accident. Upon hearing of the Farragut School's closing, Melissa Mueller Serviss, a close friend of deneen's, posted her lament on a social media website. What would become of this special memorial now that the school was empty?

Serendipitously, her post was seen by her old friend and BSI staffer, Maureen White. White was able to share the news that the Grew was moving the playscape to their own school- yard as part of their renovation project. By re-purposing the structure, they were able to save money that went towards other much-needed schoolyard features. Last June the group "Friends of deneen zarada" decided to raise funds for the Boston Schoolyard Initiative to allow even more children to enjoy the gift of play.



Melissa Mueller Serviss in front of a plaque describing the history of the memorial playscape.

classroom. For more information visit their [website](#).

### VISIT OUR BLOG

Teachers, be sure not to miss our [blog](#) about teaching and learning in the schoolyard. If you would like to write a guest blog post, let us know!

### SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORIES

Is your school using your schoolyard or outdoor classroom in interesting ways? Is outdoor play or learning part of your school's recipe for success? If so we want to hear about it! To be part of our Good Idea Showcase, send your schoolyard success story to Maureen White [maureenwhite@schoolyards.org](mailto:maureenwhite@schoolyards.org)



YOUR DONATION HELPS TURN THIS:



INTO THIS:



PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TODAY!

## Good Idea Showcase: Sharing What's Happening in the Trotter

# School's Outdoor Classroom

Send to a Colleague

Join Our Mailing List



Mary Smoyer's bulletin board at the Trotter School.

On a warm, sunny April day, the Boston Schoolyard Initiative visited the Trotter Elementary School in Dorchester to speak to outdoor classroom volunteer Mary Smoyer about her innovative ways of keeping the Trotter community informed about what is going on outdoors.

Although she retired from teaching several years ago, Mary, a self-described gardening enthusiast, still comes to the Trotter a few times a week to check on, maintain, and plant in the school's outdoor classroom. She has had the opportunity to see students and teachers interact with the space since its development ten years ago.

By now, Mary knows the outdoor classroom extremely well and is more than happy to share her knowledge with students and her peers. She regularly updates a colorful bulletin board inside the school, incorporating leaves and plants from the outdoor classroom, related clippings from local newspapers, and various children's books about gardening. The outdoor classroom bulletin board is eye-catching, informative, and interactive, to excite students... [read more.](#)

[Forward this email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe®

Trusted Email from  
**Constant Contact**

Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to maureenwhite@schoolyards.org by [maureenwhite@schoolyards.org](mailto:maureenwhite@schoolyards.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Boston Schoolyard Initiative | One Center Plaza | Suite 350 | Boston | MA | 02108

---