

Lowell Commons Becomes a Reality

On October 20th, Principal Beverly Cann and the students at Lowell Elementary School gathered outside to dedicate “Lowell Commons”, a new brick patio on the northwest corner of the playground, and thank the parents who designed and built it over the summer. The Commons features a recycled brick floor, hand-made cedar benches, planters, and picnic table. A new maple shade tree has been planted in the center and yews added to the planters. It has become a welcomed addition to the school and neighborhood, serving as an outdoor classroom, and a peaceful place to sit and read, talk or play a quiet game. Parents and kids can be seen meeting there after school and on weekends.

The Commons was created this past summer as Lowell parents pooled their resources and skills to improve our local elementary school. Parents who made it possible include Catherine Eagle (project coordinator), Elizabeth Cwik (designer), mason Myron Kebus (mason), Alan Ramsey (carpenter), Brian Busse (metal work), as well as David Cwik, Fred Fass, Marie Jacobson, Patty and Barry Callen, Tim Hansen, Beverly LeBlanc, Katherine Davey, Mary and Dennis Watrud, Chris Vertigo, and Natalia Camblor. Doug Pearson with the school district helped obtain the bricks which were recycled from a project at LaFollette High School and match those on Lowell’s exterior. During the next year, additional planters and seating are planned.

The same parents provided seed money to get the project started. They have since received some donations, but more are appreciated to continue improvements to Lowell Commons and other areas of the school. If you would like to help, there is a cash donation jar in the principal’s office, or send your check to the Lowell Home & School Association at 401 Maple Avenue, Madison, WI 53704. Note ‘Commons’ on the check. Don’t forget to stop and enjoy the new Lowell Commons when walking past the school.

Steve Klafka
SASYNA & Neighborhood Resident