

Weather threatens playground build

Written by MARK JAEGER

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Before Northern Ozaukee School District students can play on two new playgrounds, some serious work will have to be done.

However, like many outdoor activities scheduled for this soggy spring, Mother Nature may have other plans.

A volunteer effort to build colorful and challenging play structures for Ozaukee Elementary and Ozaukee Middle schools is tentatively planned for this week.

Weather permitting, work on the playgrounds is expected to start on Thursday, May 30.

Monica Gahan, president of the Parent Teacher Resource group that is financing most of the cost of the project, said the first day of work will include digging support holes and other site preparations.

Volunteers, including Ozaukee High School students, are expected to work from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The construction will be supervised by a site foreman from Miller & Associates of Sauk Prairie, which designed the two clusters of play equipment. The durable play structures were made by BCI Burke Co. of Fond du Lac.

On Friday, the district's buildings and grounds crew is expected to tackle the project, again with the help of volunteers.

Gahan said Saturday will be "the big build day," with worker expected on the scene from 6:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Breakfast will be provided by the PTR, and lunch will be served by the school district. Baby sitters will be available starting at 7 a.m. if volunteers have children that need tending.

All of this planning could be put on hold, however, if the season of persistent rain doesn't relent. A decision on whether to go ahead with the intended schedule was to be made Wednesday.

"We are hoping for the best, but I guess we are also preparing for the worst," Gahan said. If the playground area is deemed too wet to work on, a new timetable will be announced.

The estimated value of the two projects — which will feature a variety of climbing apparatuses and slides — is \$53,000, including equipment and installation.

The school district has committed at least \$10,000 toward the project, but the bulk of the expenses will be covered by the PTR.

The largest donation so far has been \$1,750 from Port Washington State Bank.

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