



## Friends of Roxhill Elementary

*Supporting the education and enrichment of our multicultural public school in Seattle.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New Nonprofit Established to Support Roxhill Elementary School**

*All-volunteer organization receives \$100K Department of Neighborhoods grant to fund new school playground; also to focus on supporting classroom needs*

**SEATTLE, WA**, Dec. 11, 2017 -- In fall 2017, supporters, community members and parents of students at Roxhill Elementary established a new 501 (c)(3) organization, *Friends of Roxhill Elementary* (Friends of Roxhill or FoRE), to support the education and enrichment of the full-service public school along the southwest edge of West Seattle. With Roxhill Elementary relocating to a renovated, historic E.C. Hughes Elementary building in fall 2018, Friends of Roxhill decided to focus first on funding a playground where there was none. In November, FoRE was named a recipient of a Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Community Partnership Fund \$100,000 grant. With this grant, FoRE will purchase and install a playground and mural at the E.C. Hughes site before the move in fall 2018.

"Next fall, on the first day of school, our students will be thrilled to begin the year in the newly updated building. And when they head outside for the first recess of the year, they'll have all-new, modern playground equipment," says Roxhill second-grade teacher and FoRE President Shawna Lystra. "As educators, we know that when we provide an environment children can be proud of, that pride carries over into their learning and their futures. This playground, and this new building, will help our kids feel good about their school and their community."

Friends of Roxhill Elementary is focused on creating equal opportunities for the Roxhill community.

"Ensuring a welcoming and inclusive outdoor environment will provide a soft landing pad for our students, teachers, staff and families as we transition to a new campus," says founding member and treasurer for Friends of Roxhill, Amanda Kay. "FoRE is committed to empowering our community by taking ownership and control of what happens in this large playground space."

Besides the playground and mural, Friends of Roxhill is focused on developing ongoing fundraising efforts in support of the school, as determined by teachers and administrators and as needed by the school community. The organization has led an annual all-school fundraiser, dine-out partnerships with restaurants and on-site community events, such as parents' night out.

"Because the organization is a standalone nonprofit, we can nimbly respond and seek innovative opportunities and ongoing partnerships, says Roxhill parent and FoRe vice president Jenny Rose Ryan. "As an all-volunteer organization with an elected, motivated board, we are driven by a desire to provide fast access to direct support for our school and by a belief in the power of our diverse community to work together for change."

Friends of Roxhill Elementary meets monthly in the Harrison L. Caldwell Library at Roxhill Elementary. Learn more and support FoRE at [friendsofroxbill.org](http://friendsofroxbill.org). Donations are tax deductible.

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#### **ABOUT FRIENDS OF ROXHILL ELEMENTARY**

*Friends of Roxhill Elementary supports the education and enrichment of Roxhill Elementary, a vibrant, multicultural public school in Seattle. Our nonprofit is focused on building equity for students in our underserved neighborhood through fundraising, community building and other projects important to our school. Learn more at [friendsofroxbill.org](http://friendsofroxbill.org) or find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/FriendsofRoxhill](https://facebook.com/FriendsofRoxhill).*