

The Buddy Bench Fund

Key Words:

- Anti-Bullying
- Character development
- Student leadership
- Inclusion
- Healthy Active Lifestyles
- Empathy
- Kindness



Project Description

For many students, recess is often the best part of the school day, but for others, it can be a lonely time. That's why the HWDSB Foundation decided to try out a simple project that's growing in popularity around the world. The project is called the "buddy bench." It's an ordinary bench placed in the schoolyard. The idea is that kids who are looking for playmates can sit on the bench to signal they would like someone to come ask them to play. A story last year about a second grader in Pennsylvania who lobbied to get a buddy bench installed in his schoolyard prompted more than 200 other schools in the U.S. and Canada to follow suit.

Recess is an important component to every student's day. Play can support students as they learn to solve problems, share their perspectives and regulate their emotions and behaviors. By providing tools like the buddy bench, the school community is helping students engage in this play and communicate with each other in a positive and productive manner. The bench is more than just a bench, it is a tool to educating children that they have to be inclusive in a world of diversity. We hope the bench will build empathy, reinforce inclusiveness, and act as a constant reminder to kids to be kind to one another. We also hope that one day the bench will be empty during recess.

The Product

- Will be wood, metal or stone with rust resistant hardware
- Benches will be securely fastened by surface mounting or direct burial
- Personalization is encouraged: painting for wood benches, laser cutting form metal
- A plaque in honour of the donation will be mounted: IE "Enbridge Buddy Bench"
- Each bench will cost approximately \$850.00 per bench (includes installation)

How Donors Benefit

- Plaque on bench celebrating donation
- Facebook and Twitter – school + HWSDb Foundation
- School newsletters
- Thank you cards from students
- Charitable tax receipt
- Knowledge that you are supporting a student's education