

CountyLine

The Community Magazine for Johns Creek & South Forsyth

Sharon Elementary Opens Outdoor Learning Area



The Grand Opening celebration of DIGS

On May 15th, Sharon Elementary opened their outdoor learning area called DIGS, which is an acronym for Discover, Inspire, Grow, Succeed. DIGS is a state-of-the-art educational area that was designed to integrate outdoor learning with classroom curriculum and the school's science lab that opened last fall.

DIGS was transformed on an area of land between two of the school's buildings that was not being used. In about a year, this land went

from not being utilized to an exciting outdoor educational project. Filled with over 50,000 tons of boulders, rocks and stones, students will use these to study native geology. There are raised and ground level beds for the students to grow vegetable



Principal Amy Bartlett thanks those whose contributions made DIGS a reality.

and herb gardens and water their gardens with water they get by using a working hand pump. The Forsyth County Parks and Recreation Department donated a wooden shed built with reclaimed barn wood and tin roofing, which is the cornerstone of the project. The shed will provide a viewing area for antique farming implements donated by the Historical Society of Forsyth County. Located on the roof of one of the buildings bordering DIGS is a WeatherBug Weather Station with a digital system that

communicates with the science lab. A butterfly garden, 55-year-old red oak tree stump, a picnic area with a pergola, and an amphitheater are but a few of the other points of interest contained in DIGS.



Superintendent Dr. Buster Evans and Principal Amy Bartlett cut the ribbon to officially

The project, valued at over \$100,000, was a collaborative effort between administrators, staff, students, the PTA, parent volunteers, and local businesses and organizations. Parent volunteer, Kimberly Cooper, summed up the spirit of the incredible outdoor learning project by saying, "We're here every day because we love it. We love watching the children get excited about science!"