High Lakes Elementary dedicates playground to late teacher

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New equipment donated in honor of the late Doug Dean, PE Teacher

Community members joined High Lakes Elementary School students, staff and families for the dedication of new playground equipment on Thursday at High Lakes Elementary School in Bend. New playground equipment at Bend's High Lakes Elementary School was dedicated in honor of the late Doug Dean The event was bittersweet for High Lakes principal Steven Hill. â€œThis is more than a playground equipment installation, it is a lasting reminder of a friend, colleague and teacher whose life was tragically cut short by cancer,â€• he said. Hill says new parallel and chin up bars, balance beams, and sit-up boards are being installed on the two playgrounds in honor of the late Doug Dean.â€œDean was an excellent physical education teacher who spent much of his life working to better the health and fitness of every child he taught,â€• says Hill. â€œMuch thanks to his determination, Doug Dean has had a lasting impact in the physical education of thousands of students in our community.â€•Dean taught at Bear Creek Elementary, Kenwood Elementary and High Lakes Elementary schools. He passed away in 2005.Hill thanked students, community members and the Rotary Club of Greater Bend for raising the nearly $3,000 needed to purchase fitness equipment for the two school playgrounds.â€œI think that Doug would be thrilled to see how the community has rallied to make this happen and that his passion for physical fitness is living on in his memory,â€• said Hill.