

## Mansion Playground Update

The Mansion Avenue playground project has stalled temporarily because of factors that we can influence, but not control. As the site was first excavated, it was discovered that directly under the asphalt was a solid layer of clay. Heavy rains this summer confirmed that water would not drain through this layer, which would render any further equipment installation unsafe. A test was run and revealed about four feet of this clay, under which is soil which can drain.

Difficulties with one of the early contractors led to the need for a company which could take on at least the removal of the clay. Despite our best efforts, no contractor or company would agree to do the job. **That is why the site has shown no further progress.** Grant money is also involved, which means narrower restrictions on the use of funds. Please understand that we have also provided as much usable space, safely, on what ground has not been disturbed.

I am also happy to report that earlier today Mr. Delengowski, Mr. Rutter, Mrs. Smeltzer and I met with a playground contractor located nearby who will provide a new estimate on the necessary work. As soon as we can report on and approve them, the finishing work will begin. We will provide further updates as needed, but want to reassure our students and families that determined efforts to resolve the situation are ongoing. Please feel free to call my office (856- 547- 7695 Ext 4102) if you have any further questions.

Bob Goldschmidt, Interim Superintendent.