



August 27, 2014

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The financial crisis in the Philadelphia public schools threatens not only classrooms but also communities. Our neighborhood is no exception.

The grounds surrounding the Penn Alexander School (PAS) are an oasis for the entire neighborhood, not just for pupils of the school. The grounds are open after school hours, on weekends, and during the summer, prompting many to use it as a place to meet and play. The playground in particular is well-used by many of our neighborhood's children, and by local preschools, after-care and summer programs.

The playground is now almost 15 years old, and is in need of upkeep to repair broken equipment and maintain other equipment. The School District, which is responsible for the playground, simply does not have funds to restore it.

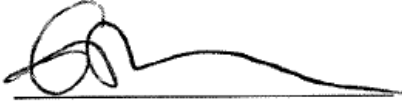
Last summer, Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA) members generously contributed funds to repair a window that was broken after hours at PAS. We are coming to the wider community now with another request. We have received bids on the cost of immediate repair needs and they amount to \$7,000.

You will be joined by others. The under-signed community organizations have formed the PAS Playground Collaborative to engage the neighborhood in an effort to restore and maintain the playground as an accessible and cherished community resource. We are beginning by seeking donations, but will also plan other activities to support both the short- and long-term needs of the playground. We have all committed to making a financial donation in support of this important project. Please join us in pitching in. Your contribution will be tax-deductible (please make check payable to the **Spruce Hill Community Trust**; mailed to or dropped off at the Spruce Hill Center, 257 S 45<sup>th</sup> Street, 19104).

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for the PAS Playground Collaborative, please contact SHCA Education Committee Chair Eric Santoro at

[eric.scott.santoro@gmail.com](mailto:eric.scott.santoro@gmail.com). Thank you for helping to maintain this important urban respite in our neighborhood. University City has long been a great neighborhood to raise children because of its wonderful family-friendly amenities. As a community, let's do what we can to protect these treasured assets.

Sincerely,



Eric Santoro  
Education Committee Chair,  
Spruce Hill Community Association



Monica Calkins  
President,  
Spruce Hill Community Association



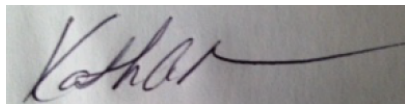
Deb Green  
Executive Director,  
Parent-Infant Center



Andrea Mosko  
Executive Director,  
St. Mary's Nursery School



Noreen Shanfelter  
Executive Director,  
University City Arts League



Kathy Moosbrugger  
President,  
Penn Alexander Home & School Association