

Playing Outside Essential

To the Editor:

At my undergraduate graduation, one speaker said that every day his mother would ask, "What did you learn in school today?" I vowed that if I ever had children, I would ask the same.

I have learned this is a rather difficult question for first graders to answer; I ask other questions too such as, how was your lunch? How was recess? With whom did you play?

My first grader checks the temperature every morning to see whether he will have outdoor recess. This is a big deal for him lately because there's snow. Yesterday, the morning temperature indicated outdoor recess. We packed his snow gear.

When he arrived home, I found out that students did not go outside. An excavator was digging near the playground area; students were not allowed out.

When the excavator was last there to do "routine checking of the septic system," it was no big deal because the temperature was such that students couldn't go out anyway.

Those who carefully watch what's being done to force Region 14's reconfiguration plan through know that the excavator is there to see if BES' septic system can handle additional students and staff under reconfiguration.

Dr. Joseph Chilton Pearce in "Brain Play" stated "... at age seven, children... want to apply their ideas in concrete ways. And yet at this stage we slap them in desks, don't allow movement, and make them deal with pure abstract information when their bodies are crying out to exercise this great creative capacity within."

Playing outside for recess is essential for children. BES' students have been deprived of this thanks to reconfiguration.

Visit www.saveregion14elementary.com. Find out what you can do to stop Region 14's reconfiguration. This plan has already negatively affected students' well-being. What does the future hold?

Valerie DiLorenzo

Bethlehem