



## Community Partners

Soaring Eagle Academy is honored to be awarded a \$10,000 UPS Foundation grant.

On October 13, 2013, we celebrated the completion of the beautiful, newly constructed fence surrounding our outdoor play area, funded by the UPS Foundation, with a check presentation ceremony from UPS corporate representatives, with SEA acknowledging the UPS Foundation and members of the local UPS Chicago Area Consolidation Hub (CACH), Hodgkins group for their generosity.

Volunteers from the UPS Chicago Area Consolidation Hub (CACH) including Charlie Blum, Mike Crawford, Bob Difino, Mike Finnegan and Gregg Glotzbach, worked together to coordinate hours of volunteer work including painting school hallways, constructing outdoor equipment, construction of a wooden stage for student drama, and much more that allowed SEA to receive this UPS Foundation grant for \$10,000, funding the construction of a beautiful wooden fence to house our long awaited outdoor green space area, adjacent to our school building, offering our students a safe open area outdoors, allowing for motor and vocational life skills exploration.



Physical-motor development, recreational and vocational- life skill experiences are critical to whole child development. Soaring Eagle Academy's philosophy of education is that all curriculum and learning be experienced in the contextual environment in order to be meaningful and integrated with a student's prior conceptual knowledge. Students with Autism and related disorders, must be engaged in activities that are experience-based with multi sensory, hands on involvement. Multi sensory experiences lead to meaningful learning which in turn creates better comprehension of material and the ability to stay calm and regulated at school. The construction of the fence for our outdoor green space area, allow our students to experience the outdoors while engaging in physical movement, social interaction, communication and problem solving with peers.



Students will also learn valuable vocational- life skills by planning and managing a garden, giving opportunities to care for living things and exposing them to new science vocabulary, practicing organizational and money skills through the experience of selling their grown items. Students learn best when they are emotionally invested in the learning process and engaged in whole body

learning that activates the physical motor, language and social emotional systems, cognitive thinking and interaction.

UPS Foundation also funded the purchase of the stain with UPS CACH volunteers coming numerous days to stain the fence. SEA thanks the UPS Foundation and the UPS CACH for their continued compassion and generosity to

our school and our mission to serve students faced with the challenges of Autism and related disorders. Their commitment to the community, providing grant awards and volunteer time, to those organizations serving individuals in need, is greatly appreciated.