

Heather's PlayPod is Opening

Thanks to the generosity of the [Heather PTA](#) for funding our Tuff Shed and to [San Carlos Education Foundation](#) for awarding us an Educator's Innovation Grant last year to stock the PlayPod and to provide some professional development, along with the wonderful team of parents who put their heads together to help put it all together, the Heather PlayPod is ready to open!

What is a PlayPod, you ask?

The best way to understand the purpose of a PlayPod is to see one in action.

- First, prime your thinking by watching this 1-minute video, "[Not a Box](#)".
- Next, find 5 minutes to watch at least half of this 10-minute video from the U.K., or maybe all of it: [ScrapStore PlayPod in Action](#).
- Then check out our [Heather PlayPod webpage](#) and see for yourself!
- Watch our [1-minute Heather PlayPod Video](#), Starring, Heather Kids!

We are excited about this new addition to Heather School. Play is a critical part of learning for children. Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. Play is important to healthy brain development.

This new, innovative play environment is designed to:

- Improve creative thinking, problem solving and conflict resolution skills
- Foster imaginative play, as well as social emotional skills during outdoor play time
- Enhance and diversify play
- Provide open-ended play opportunities to be enjoyed independently or collaboratively

We need your help!

We will only be able to open the PlayPod during lunch recess when we have parent volunteers to help with supervision. Please consider getting involved as part of our PlayPod Patrol. Check out the [PlayPod calendar](#), send an email to Pam Jasso who will share the calendar, allowing you to sign up yourself, or ask Pam to sign you up. You will be assisted by a Junior PlayPod Patrol 4th grade helper.

Teachers are facilitating PlayPod orientations this week and the PlayPod will be open for lunch recess starting the week of September 18! Come join us!