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November 13, 20004

Mayor Euille and Members of the Alexandria City Council:

As representatives of Mt. Vernon Community School, Ms. Ruth Brannigan's Fourth-Grade Dual Language students say "thank you," in letters to you, for approving the School Board's budget for this year, which included money for improvements to Mt. Vernon Community School's playground:

- new poured rubber surfaces;
- replacements for broken playground equipment;
- cement stairs; and
- tire swings, which are still to come.

4th grader Jonathan Gonzalez wrote,

"Thank you for fixing the old playground. It used to be all dirty and messy. Thanks to you, now the playground looks cooler than before... Now, thanks to you, we can double the fun and hopefully the teachers will let us play more." (an item the School Board plans to address this year.)

Angela Gomez notes that because of the softer surface of the playground, children aren't getting hurt as often, causing the school nurses to be "happier, glad and relaxed."

Chelsea Oliva wrote,

"Mt. Vernon Community School is thankful for the new playground... Students scream of joy... Everyone in the school is proud to have a great City Council... We are the luckiest kids... This great playground is filled with kids every day. Well, not when it's raining..."

And from Daigo Pereira:

"Thank you for everything you've done for our school to make it a better school that people could love and come to the playground so they could have lots and lots of fun so they could know how fun it is to be a child."

Now, 4th-grader **Christopher Gerlach** would like to read his thank you letter to you, then present you with the letters from his classmates.