Doull opens Learning Landscape

A playground isn't complete without the large slide, which fifth grader Janeigha Chavira twists down.

Photo by Joshua Cole
Bond allows 14 schools to receive outside learning area

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Cupcakes and cycles, spinners and slides, rock steps and rotating cages were only part of the entertainment for students at Doull Elementary School as the school, near West Yale Avenue and South Sheridan Boulevard, officially opened its Learning Landscape on Sept. 16, a playground and outside learning area with purpose-driven equipment.

Doull is one of 14 schools across the district getting a new Learning Landscape after summer construction due to the bond that voters passed in 2008. In all, 81 schools have gotten Learning Landscapes due to the bond.

A ribbon cutting to open Barrum Elementary School's Learning Landscape was scheduled for Sept. 23. John F. Kennedy and Denver West high schools are two of the four high schools that got a new running track and artificial grass playing field as part of the bond.

Fifth graders Celeste Luna and Lucio Guillermu climb up the plastic rock formation to the main slider area. Most ways to ascend are much different from regular stairs.

Preschooler Dehanna Vialpando pedals along the track in the early childhood playground. The concrete path along the perimeter has all of the letters in the alphabet printed.

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Third grader Jailene Roland-Sanchez swings across the rings, one of a few versions of modern monkey bars.

Troy Garner, Denver Public Schools special programs manager affectionately known as "Mr. T." swings fourth grader Luis Ponce around on an upper-body based modification of the classic merry-go-round.

In July, Doull's Learning Landscape was nothing but dirt and some gray concrete. By the end of the summer, colorful play areas welcomed students to school.

Photos by Joshua Cole

Courtesy photo by Troy Garner/Denver Public Schools