

Akiba opens new preschool playground

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The Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School held a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration on a recent Sunday afternoon for its new preschool playground.

The playground, which was designed by Landscape architect Juli Ordower and constructed by Clauss Brothers Inc., was created for children from ages 2 to 5 and includes a new play structure, a sand box with a cistern, outdoor musical instruments, logs to sit on or crawl through, large planters, a stage, a large storage area and a quiet reflection corner.

The playground is named "Mike's Place" in memory of Michael Evans, who was a Hyde Parker and alumnus of Akiba, 5235 S. Cornell Ave. Michael Evans, who was a social activist who aided the homeless, died in July 2004. He was 36 years old. Richard and Roberta Evans, Michael's parents, still live in Hyde Park and were in attendance at the ribbon cutting.

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