

A palace befitting our community

By Hawk Eye Staff Member Mason Bobrowsky

This school year, our administration took on the challenge of providing the parents with a place where they could become more active members of our community. Parental involvement is an integral part of the learning environment, as any teacher will tell you. Cooperative parents can make or break a student's learning experience.

In an effort to encourage parental involvement, a top-of-the-line parent center was commissioned to "make the parents feel like they're a part of the school." The project came in under budget and afforded us everything from a bank of 15 free-use computers to a sizable flat screen television.

The parent center isn't just for parents, however. As the room is multifunctional, it will also see use by our many programs. Besides schoolwork, the room can also be seen as a general lounge for parents. There is also an outdoors area under construction, which will consist of some tables and chairs complemented by greenery.

"It's not like a classroom. It's more like a living room," says Mr. Sanchez, the coordinator behind the project. There are a few groups of tables, coffee machines, and an area for children to play in. The floor is carpeted, and is a welcome reprieve from the cold linoleum that dominates the school.

The location started as a side room in the cafeteria, and was used only sparsely as a secondary break room for cafeteria workers who graciously gave up their space for the project. Now, it truly feels like a home.

Once complete, the parent center will be overseen by Josh Mendoza. He will be working there full time from 9:00 to 5:00. The center, as of December 17, is nearly complete. The floor plan is visibly laid out, and Josh's desk is already there. It is expected to be complete by January 7th, coming in well under the projected budget.