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# Bonita Elementary students thank Bonita Bay and others for new field

By MARK S. KRZOS

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Originally posted on September 19, 2007

The dirt and weed-covered athletic field at Bonita Springs Elementary School is no more.

On Wednesday morning, the school unveiled its new athletic field complete with a new strand of freshly sodded grass courtesy of Bonita Bay.

Hal Akins, Bonita Bay's director of golf course operations, said the former field was in such bad shape it made it difficult for the students to have a pleasurable experience playing sports during their gym class.

"It was half dirt and half weeds," Akins said. "We had to remove all of that before we were able to lay down the new sod."

Akins said the old turf wasn't maintained properly and the school needed new turf.

"We gave the school a nature tour of our golf course and (Bonita Elementary School) Principal (David) Short asked if we could help," Akins said.

The cost of labor and the 9,000 square feet of sod cost



*Mark S. Krzos/news-press.com*

Bonita Elementary students, Principal David Short and others celebrated the arrival of a new athletic field Wednesday.

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about \$4,000.

"A lot of the work was donated," he said.

Short thanked Bonita Bay for the help shortly after posing for a picture on the new turf.

"We really appreciate all the help and support from Bonita Bay," he said.

Glenn Zakany, president of G to Z Turf Services, said after speaking with Akins about Bonita Elementary's need, he decided to step up and help out.

"If you saw what was here before, it was pretty apparent they needed help," he said.

The new sod is called Bermuda "Celebration" and is quickly becoming a favorite on football fields and golf courses due to its durability.

"it comes from Australia," Zakany said. "It's more shade and drought tolerant and holds up to insects. All of Collier County's schools will be using this grass."

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