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School Business Official  
Samantha Candreva

**Superintendent**  
**Brigid Collins, Ed.D.**

Building Principal  
Chris Aguirre

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the start of summer. I wanted to inform you about an important project underway at Andes Central School.

#### **Playground Closure Notice**

The Andes Central School Playground is currently closed. This closure is necessary to facilitate the removal and replacement of the playground's current loose ground cover. We are transitioning from shredded/recycled rubber mulch to Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) mulch.

#### **What is EWF Mulch?**

EWF mulch is a specialized wood mulch created using only a tree's pulpy interior wood fibers. This material is specifically designed to provide a safer and more environmentally friendly surface for our playground.

#### **Why the Change?**

1. **Safety:** EWF mulch offers comparable shock absorption compared to rubber mulch, which helps reduce the risk of injuries from falls.
2. **Environmental Impact:** EWF is an eco-friendly option, as it is made from natural wood fibers and decomposes over time, unlike rubber mulch, which can take many years to break down.

#### **Project Timeline**

This project will be ongoing throughout the summer. By the end of August, we aim to have the old material removed, the surrounding perimeter raised, and the installation of the new material completed.

We thank you for your patience and understanding while we make this important improvement. We are confident these changes will provide our children with a safer and more enjoyable play environment.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Aguirre".

Chris Aguirre  
Principal  
Andes Central School