

Theme/Meaning/Symbolism

A grant proposal for planning was written in 2010, with the focus on the RBBCSC mission statement. The stated mission of the corporation is: *to work in cooperation with the community and families to provide students with an education that promotes responsible citizenship and encourages problem solving and creativity.* This was the theme to interpret. It was chosen to provide a meaningful and inclusive idea for the school community to consider in planning a sculpture. After brainstorming sessions with students, educators, and the community, drawings were created in art classes by third through fifth grade students. While the archive of drawings has been lost from the server, the following photos document student ideas that lead to the final plan.



Derek



Briley



Olivia



Gavin

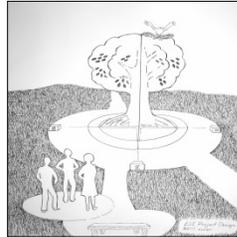


Austin



Sydney

The plan below and the final sculpture are a synthesis of visual and verbal ideas shared by students, educators, and community members. Its central element is a tree. The quotation from Hodding Carter, found above the inner doors of the school's vestibule is also consistent with the symbolism of the sculpture. ("There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots; the other, wings.")



The tree, figures, and eagle are made of steel, with the blocks, bench, and support for the donor plaque cut and carved from native limestone. **The steel work symbolizes the school corporation's mission through an assembled grouping of three people and a tree. Edgewood itself, the community's annual Monroe County Fall Festival, learning, and life, are all represented by the tree. An eagle high in a nest represents both a mascot and each child in the community. The three figures watching the fledgling eaglet are symbolic of the joint responsibilities of parents, educators, and community members who have, are, and will continue to nurture the development of our children. The "lifelines" of good character are cut into the roots of the tree while the trunk and canopy are emblazoned with oak leaves and symbols of learning. Limestone blocks mark the cardinal directions while a stone bench is placed for contemplation, whereby individuals may become part of the grouping.** The stonework grounds us to our local history, (through the Bybee Stone Company and the historic Matthews mill) and consolidates the sculptural grouping to its foundation. **Pathways, actually and metaphorically, allow for the movement of people to and from our schools.**