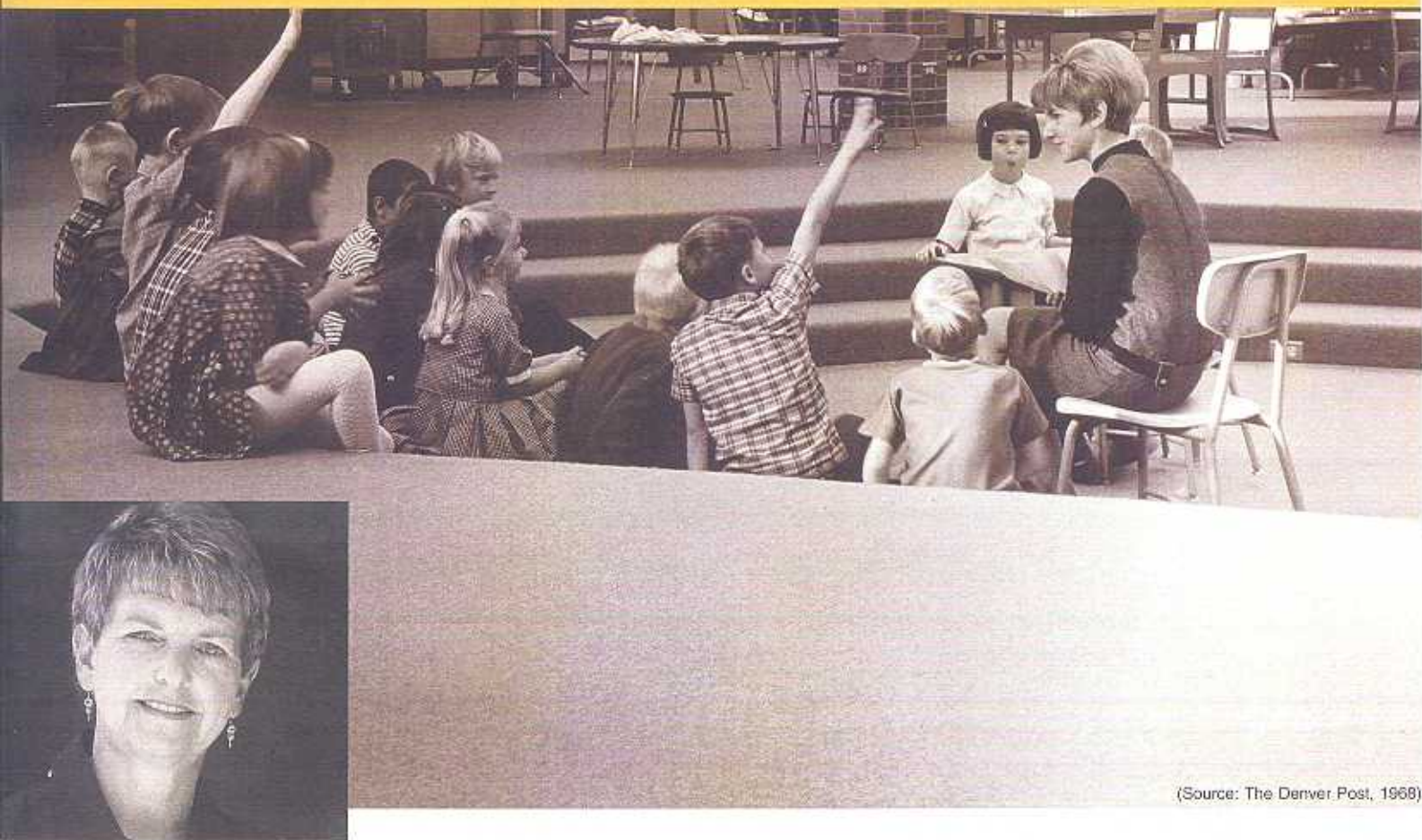


# Prospect Valley Elementary School Took a Walk With Us

35 years ago...and counting.



(Source: The Denver Post, 1968)



ANN RUTKOFSKY

• RETIRED TEACHER, 2001

In 1967, Ann Rutkofsky, a first-year teacher at Prospect Valley Elementary School, used the open floor plan and C&A's Powerbond® as a total learning environment for her students. Last year, Rutkofsky retired, leaving behind her teaching companion of 34 years, C&A's Powerbond.

In 1967, when the Jefferson County School District decided to build an elementary school for the growing community of Wheat Ridge, Colorado, architects and school board officials chose an innovative, open floor plan that would meet the school's changing needs. They also chose a new and unique floorcovering, C&A Floorcoverings' Powerbond®. When Powerbond was installed in Prospect Valley Elementary School, it became the first school in the Jefferson County system to depart from conventional carpet and hard surface vinyl tile. After 35 years of unflinching performance at Prospect Valley, Powerbond has become the floorcovering of choice for Jefferson County schools (over 6 million square feet...and counting). Prospect Valley continues to make history as one of the longest installations of Powerbond in the country.



MARLENE HENDERSON

- PRINCIPAL
- PROSPECT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"The performance of Powerbond has surpassed all expectations. Amazingly, the original installation is still down throughout the school. The durability of Powerbond is incredible and after 35 years, the quality of the product definitely speaks for itself. We had no idea it would last this long."

### REDUCES NOISE LEVELS

Naturally curious, children are easily distracted by even the slightest noise. For 34 years, Ms. Rutkofsky relied on Powerbond to help create a quiet learning environment. The floorcovering made it easier to control the unwanted disturbance of moving chairs, desks, dropped pencils and books, and small feet moving along the hallways, making it easier for Ms. Rutkofsky to keep children on task.

"We depend on the flooring to help decrease noise levels," said Marlene Henderson, principal at Prospect Valley Elementary School. "Children are constantly moving within the building and the Powerbond helps absorb noise and minimize classroom disruption. Thanks to Powerbond, the acoustics are well-controlled."

### ADDS TO THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The cushioned construction of Powerbond provided another benefit for teachers and students. As in most elementary school settings, children are continuously sitting or laying on the floor for daily classroom activities. Soft-surface Powerbond allows the teachers to use the floor as a teaching environment. This would not be possible with other types of hard floorcoverings like vinyl tile, which was the standard in the past.

"The architects and teachers within the Jefferson County school system worked together," Henderson said. "The architects took the teaching methods of the staff and designed a school that would best fit the needs of the students."

### REDUCES LEG AND FOOT FATIGUE

Children aren't the only ones that move across the floor on a regular basis. Teachers spend a majority of their time moving around the classroom. Because of this, leg and foot fatigue are important issues that must be addressed when selecting a floorcovering. Powerbond's closed-cell vinyl cushioned backing actually absorbs foot traffic impact and provides a more comfortable standing surface for teachers. Powerbond also allows for soft landings when children and adults have accidental falls.

REPORT CARD Prospect Valley Elementary School		
NAME: POWERBOND		
Attends With No Exceptions	A+	Perfect Attendance for 35 years
Plays Well With Others	A+	Soft-surface flooring provides comfort under foot
Maintains Neat Appearance	A+	Low maintenance needed to maintain appearance
Participates With Class	A+	Floor serves as optional learning environment
Cleans Up After Others	A+	Impermeable to moisture for easy clean-up of spills
Always Willing To Help Others	A+	Doesn't disrupt indoor air quality



*After more than 35 years of crayons, spills, playtime and learning, C&A's Powerbond remains at the head of the class at Prospect Valley Elementary School.*

### CONTRIBUTES TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

"The benefits of Powerbond from a maintenance standpoint are probably the most measurable," Henderson said. "We have hundreds of feet and hands across our floors on a daily basis. A concern that we face is maintaining the appearance as well as what we call the 'germ carrying factor' of the floorcoverings. Powerbond allows us to clean for health and appearance."

From paint and glue to food and drinks, spills and soiling are everyday occurrences in elementary schools. Powerbond's non-flow-through vinyl cushion backing and impenetrable welded seams provide a complete barrier to spills and other contaminants for easy clean up.

However, the benefits don't end there. According to Facilities Management Executive Director Joe Bolton, Powerbond is considered basically "maintenance free," with virtually no repairs needed, due to abuse, and no unraveling or separated seams in all installations throughout the district.

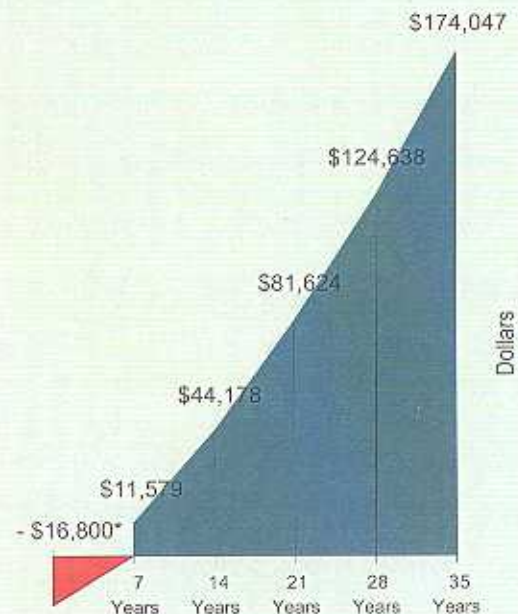
### SAVES MONEY

Powerbond has proven to cost significantly less to maintain than conventional flow-through carpet and 40% less to maintain than VCT.

After seeing the performance of Powerbond firsthand, Henderson highly recommends it to other educational facilities. "The floorcovering in our facility has outlasted almost 6 elementary school matriculations. Because we haven't had to install new floorcoverings in 35 years, our district has seen an enormous cost savings, which can be reallocated toward other pressing issues."

Bolton agrees. "Powerbond continues to hold up under rigorous wear and tear. Long term, the selection of Powerbond has actually saved money for the district due to its extended life."

**Prospect Valley Elementary  
Cumulated Savings Over 35 Years**



**Typical Broadloom Replacement Years**

\*Initial Powerbond Investment



(Source: Ginger Wolf, Junior, Wheat Ridge High School, 2002)

**JOE BOLTON**

- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
- JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"I would recommend Powerbond to other school districts and any other organization considering carpet replacement. Powerbond has been tried and tested in Jefferson County Public Schools. We will continue to install it based on its quality and durability alone."

**NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

Jefferson County Public Schools received the 2001 Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Excellence Award and the 2002 Energy Star Award for Excellence in Energy Management. Both of these recognitions were awarded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for commitment to quality indoor air and the environment.

"Floorcovering is a very important component for good indoor air quality," Bolton said. "The characteristics of carpet, such as adhesives and manufacturing compounds, impact the indoor air quality. By standardizing on Powerbond, with a factory-applied peel-and-stick adhesive, the district can install floorcovering that exceeds

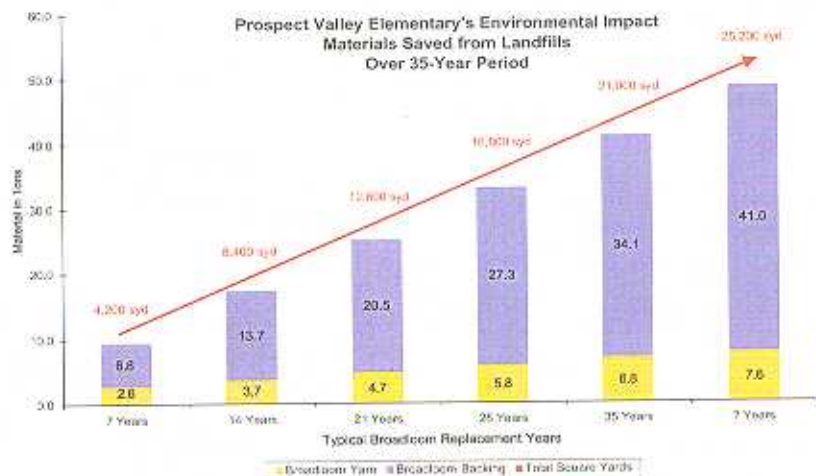
established minimums for adhesive and emission standards."

**SUSTAINABILITY**

"We expect major remodeling at Prospect Valley in the near future and, at that time, all interior finishes are likely to be replaced," Bolton said. "Powerbond will be the preferred material."

When the renovation begins, the 35-year-old Powerbond currently installed at Prospect Valley can be returned to C&A for recycling, which will prevent the old floorcovering from being dumped in a landfill, incinerated or waste-to-energy incinerated.

"With all the benefits Powerbond has offered, we couldn't replace it with anything else," said Bolton.



**JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

FACILITY	COUNT	TOTAL FT <sup>2</sup>
Elementary	98	4.4 million ft <sup>2</sup>
Middle	19	2.0 million ft <sup>2</sup>
High School	17	3.3 million ft <sup>2</sup>
Other	79	1.1 million ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>		<b>87,832</b>



**FLOORCOVERINGS**

a different walk

A TANDUS™ GROUP COMPANY

1.800.248.2678

www.powerbond.com