



How ClearBakk Water Solutions helped catapult Foothills Alliance School kindergarten students.

When **ClearBakk** engineer Andrew de Wet encouraged his 4.5 year old son Joshua to take the small scale catapult he built to show-and-tell at school, little did he realize he would be involved in helping the children design and build a full scale version.

Joshua attended engineering workshops at the local Panorama Hills Community Centre, where he learnt to build the catapult. Joshua was very proud to show how it worked to his fellow students at show-and-tell the next week, and it was so well received that the teacher, Ms. Sparks, asked parents if they could help build a full-scale version for the class. "The teachers and the children were just enthralled with how it worked, and how wonderfully it could launch a pompom half-way across the room" Ms. Sparks told us; "The children had in mind to build one larger than the school so that they can launch each other, but the contagious enthusiasm had to be toned down a bit to a realisable full-scale catapult."

This is where **ClearBakk** rose to the challenge. Even though the company's main focus is providing packaged industrial water solutions, the engineering and construction team are not easily fazed designing and building innovative systems. Andrew enrolled the help of Jesse Blake, ClearBakk's Construction Manager, and the two set to work making the request a reality. The first step was to scale Joshua's "pilot" catapult to a 1.5m "full scale" version so that it can be safely operated by the children.

Then working with the entire class at Foothills Alliance School, Andrew, Jesse, Joshua and 23 children aged between 4 and 4 years old, built the full-scale catapult one morning right in the foyer and transferred it to the gym hall for the big event.

Attended by fellow-students and teachers, the event showcased how the final catapult can be operated by two children and can launch foam gym balls and teddies halfway across the gym hall.

"This was a fantastic opportunity to teach the children about the practical aspects of engineering, as well as walk them through the design and build phase necessary for any major project" said Andrew after completing the work.

When asked about the project, Joshua, Andrew's son, said "It's an awesome project, I'm really proud that my Dad and Uncle Jesse came to help and teach us. My friends really enjoyed building the catapult and using real tools. We had a lot of fun launching toys in the gym."



Before

After



The succession is guaranteed



Jesse/Joshua/Andrew