

LOCKWOOD SCHOOL RECEIVES GRANT FROM EXXONMOBIL FOR NEXT STEPS IN LIONS LAIR/SCHOOL PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT

LOCKWOOD, MT — Lockwood Schools recently received a major grant from ExxonMobil that will be used as part of rejuvenated community effort to rebuild the playground area at the Lions Lair area.

The grant of **\$25,000** will not only help much-needed repairs for playground equipment near the elementary school, but will provide an impetus for other donations.

“The Lion’s Lair has been a staple in the community of Lockwood for a long time. A whole generation of our children have enjoyed the previous structure and we are working to make sure that future generations get to share that experience,” Lockwood Schools Board Chairman Tim Sather reflects. “ExxonMobil continues to be a great neighbor to Lockwood Schools. This donation will help us address our goal of providing a safe, engaging, positive learning environment that contributes to all of our students being successful.”

The Lions Lair area was a focus of community, family and youth activity for nearly 20 years. The huge wooden play area on the western edge of the school campus — built in 1994 by community fundraising and labor — looks like a castle and offered kids of all ages a variety of ways to have fun. Because of safety concerns, however, the playground was closed in August 2012.

The Lockwood Schools Parent-Teacher Association has been working to raise funding to renovate the area and will look to the community and businesses for help in fully removing the old structure and getting a new one built.

The contribution by ExxonMobil demonstrates a dedication by the company and its 260 employees to supporting important community initiatives, its manager said.

“ExxonMobil is committed to advancing math and science education. Physical activity and play are key to building healthy minds, bodies and curiosity in our future scientists and engineers,” said Monica Mainland, manager of the ExxonMobil refinery in Lockwood. “We are excited to support a new outdoor play and learning environment to be enjoyed by the children in our community.”

Funding for this project comes from the ExxonMobil Foundation. The foundation is the primary philanthropic arm of the ExxonMobil Corporation in the United States and engages in a broad range of activities focusing on communities where the corporation has significant operations.

To find out more about the Lions Lair project or are interested in helping out contact Lockwood Schools Facility Director Rob Guzman at 867-6200 or guzmanr@lockwoodschool.org.