



COMMUNITY SCHOOL COLLABORATIVE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2020-21, the Community School Collaborative (CSC) once again brought innovative educational activities to Sleeping Giant Middle School (SGMS). As educators and students alike entered the 2020-21 school year it was uncertain what kind of programming could be offered to students, but CSC was able to accomplish moving the program forward by creating innovative, safe and interactive Cougar Friday Clubs. The CSC Board experimented with different programming formats for students, initially delivering virtual clubs which later evolved into in-person clubs as the year progressed. Working closely with the school nurse and administration, these clubs gave the students activities to look forward to and provided the opportunity for SGMS youth to interact safely with peers and adults from their community. Field trips were out but fun was in during such a challenging year.

In addition, the CSC Board formally continued their ongoing relationship with the Livingston Schools by signing a Memorandum of Understanding for the third year in a row. This agreement reflects a unique tradition of cooperation between the Community School Collaborative, a non-profit organization, and the Livingston School District. The MOU's explicit intent is to enrich SGMS students' educational experiences as well as enhance their social and emotional development by engaging the talents, skills and knowledge of community members and organizations. In the MOU this year, Livingston School District employee Stephanie Clewis was identified as the liaison between the District and the CSC. Stephanie was paid by the CSC for her time and was instrumental in the success of the Cougar Friday Clubs in 2020-21.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Although the Community School Collaborative operated on a smaller scale during the 2020-21 school year, the organization was proud to deliver 28 separate Cougar Friday Clubs that met a total of 59 times. Clubs met on Fridays when school was not in-person. Sign-up was voluntary with total club enrollment exceeding 250 students. Fifty-three community volunteers led the clubs and donated a total of 245 hours of time to make Cougar Friday Clubs a reality. Over 1500 of in-kind hours were donated by the CSC Board for program management and administration this fiscal year as well.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Community School Collaborative participated in the Park County Community Foundation's Give-a-Hoot Campaign in 2020. It was exciting to see individuals give during such an unusual and uncertain season. Despite the lack of personal donor contact, the CSC raised \$24,135 during the Give-A-Hoot! Thanks go out to PCCF and the many generous donors who supported CSC and ultimately the SGMS students.

# GIFTS AND GRANTS

Many individuals, businesses and organizations donated time and money to the CSC and are the financial engine behind the Community School Collaborative's success. These individuals and organizations enabled the CSC to continue to deliver high-quality programming to the Livingston community through their generous gifts.

The generous support of the following organizations and foundations have provided CSC the ability to provide the best programming possible with the least financial impact on students. Thank you to the following entities for their support over the past three years.

- AMB West
- Community Closet
- Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation
- Friends of St. Andrews
- Give A Hoot: Park County Community Foundation's Giving Challenge
- Kendeda Fund
- Livingston Ace Hardware
- Livingston Education Foundation
- Montana Matriarch
- Night Owl
- Park County Community Foundation
- Park Electric Educational Grant
- Printing For Less Grant
- Solid Rock Foundation
- STAKE Foundation
- Xanterra Inc.

# PARTNERSHIPS

The Community School Collaborative retained and developed new community partnerships in 2020-21. The CSC defines partnerships as non-financial collaborative relationships formed between two organizations. For example, community partners may provide professional instruction for classes and clubs; open venues and facilities for instruction and presentations; and open business, farming and ranching operations to our students. The following list highlights the Community School Collaborative's community partners in 2020-21.

- Montana Outdoor Science School
- Livingston Center for the Arts
- Farm to School of Park County
- Verge Theater
- Art Room East
- Granite Sports Medicine
- Dan Bailey's
- Livingston-Park County Public Library
- Soundcolor Studios
- Montana Shakespeare in the Parks
- Green Initiative
- Park County Senior Citizens Center
- Livingston 4-H
- USDA NRCS Snow Survey
- SGMS & Park High School Coaching Staff



# PROGRAMMING - COUGAR FRIDAY CLUBS

Cougar Friday Clubs were the backbone of the CSC's programming in 2020-21. The following courses were offered with the assistance of community partnerships:

- **Acting Up:** Students discover the joy of acting by learning improv, clowning, monologues and performing in short plays.
- **Amazing Anime:** Students discover anime art by working on anime skill-structure and by developing an anime character and storyline.
- **Art Spark:** Students design, build and paint beautiful paper-mache animal heads.
- **Carter's Bridge Bike Ride:** Students ride to the Yellowstone River, throw and skip stones, have lunch and ride back to SGMS.
- **Chopped I, II, III:** Students hone their cooking skills and learn to cook healthy recipes using many novel garden-fish ingredients.
- **Creative Confections:** Students learn baking skills and bring valentine treats to their friends and family.
- **Dancing with the Broadway Stars:** Students discover engaging jazz dance moves, stage presence techniques and dance choreography.
- **Drone Mania:** Students explore drone technology and learn to fly several different types of drones.
- **Explorer's Club:** Students virtually travel the US and learn about the music, culture and food of four distinct regions of our nation.
- **Fish Tails:** Students discover stream entomology, learn to tie flies, and cast a fly rod.
- **Football Fanatics:** Students learn football fundamentals, drills and skills, and play a fast-paced game of flag football with high school football players.
- **Gardens and Greenhouses:** Students learn gardening basics by planting in the SGMS school garden while learning about soil quality, companion plants and direct seeding vs transplanting.
- **Gelli Art:** Students create original artworks using a unique printmaking technique called gel printing.
- **Get Your Game On I, II:** Students have fun playing a variety of board and card games, and develop interpersonal skills, hone fine motor skills (shuffle cards), practice counting skills and learn game technology.
- **Go Green Initiative:** Students learn the ins and outs of sustainability and the environment in a fun club run by Park High School Green Initiative Students.
- **Hoops Group:** Kids shoot hoops and learn new basketball drills and skills with Park High Basketball Coach Neibauer and SGMS Coach Schad.
- **Keep Calm and Yoga On:** Students discover the mind-body connection by learning common yoga poses, breathing exercises and relaxation techniques.
- **Know Your Snow:** Students discover the joy of snowshoeing while learning outdoor survival techniques, avalanche awareness and snow science.
- **Mystery Medicine:** Students learn about both human and canine anatomy and injuries and receive instruction in sports and wilderness medicine and stress reduction techniques.
- **Of Swords and Shakespeare:** Students experience the art of storytelling through stage combat, while deconstructing a scene from Romeo and Juliet.
- **Outdoor Investigators:** Students investigate predator-prey relationships through field observations and engage in fun science experiments.
- **Robotics Club:** Students design, program, build and operate robots.
- **Senior Sweetheart:** Students connect with their community when they make hand-made valentines and write to senior citizen pen pals.
- **Trail Blazers Bike Club:** Students learn bike safety and maintenance skills and explore their community riding the Livingston trails.

# LEAD INSTRUCTORS

Whether in the classroom, or in the field, Cougar Friday Club Lead Instructors were the lifeblood of the programs offered to all SGMS students this past year. These lead instructors brought expertise, enthusiasm, a positive role-model, a love for children and education, and a passion for their chosen field. This program could not deliver the quality education provided if it weren't for these talented individuals. The following outstanding lead instructors provided their expertise during the 2020-21 academic year:

- Kate Britton
- David Matlow
- Chelsey Murphy
- Susannah Robertson
- Thomas Murphy
- Aubrey Johnson
- Lisa Sukut
- Michele Boyd
- Sarah Skofield
- Dave Pettit
- Matt Wilhelm
- Coach Nick Coate
- Julia Reichert
- Alecia Jongeward
- Coach Neibauer
- Coach Schad
- Eric Larson
- Darcy Cook
- Andrew Rathgerber
- Molly Ward
- Ashley Sites
- Rachel Kimmel
- Simon Bishop
- Yvonne Brutger



## INSTRUCTOR SUPPORT AND TEAM BUILDING

Instructor support and team building were extremely challenging due to the pandemic and CSC's commitment to follow Covid protocols. However, CSC found a way to connect with instructors and bring the team of lead instructors together each quarter through Google Classrooms. Stephanie Clewis at Sleeping Giant Middle School helped set-up Google Classrooms for every Cougar Club that was offered. The students registered through the Classrooms, and instructors were able to connect and communicate with their students directly through this virtual environment. In addition, each quarter a Lead Instructor specific Google Classroom page was set-up. This provided a pathway of communication between SGMS, CSC and the lead instructors. Lastly, a ZOOM orientation was led each quarter by Stephanie Clewis specifically for the lead instructors, where they were given important information about the Google Classroom environment, their clubs, discipline, icebreakers, evaluations and more.

# THE FUTURE

During the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, CSC will continue to focus on designing and delivering programming for SGMS students, and we're looking forward to a return to larger-scale school events. The goal will be to provide students with enjoyable activities that enrich their education and increase their awareness of the opportunities and careers available to them in their community.

It takes a lot of work and a bit of money to produce fun and engaging activities safely and successfully. The 2021-2022 budget includes \$28,000 for operating and administrative expenses\* and \$26,000 for program expenses\*\*, with \$20,000 budgeted from grants and \$40,000 from individual donations. The remainder of our program expenses are covered by In-Kind volunteer hours and facilities that are donated by generous members of our community. These In-Kind donations are conservatively valued at \$60,000. As we look to the future and to the sustainability of the CSC program, a major goal is also to raise the funds required to employ a program manager. We are once again participating in the Park County Community Foundation's Give-a-Hoot Campaign that runs from 7/1/21 - 7/31/21. The funds raised will enable the CSC to continue to offer free, high quality programming to ALL SGMS students

\* Insurance, legal fees, website, computer, independent contractor for IT services, etc.

\*\* Admission and activity fees, supplies, student food, transportation etc.



# CSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BRIEF BIOSKETCHES

- **Yvonne Brutger**, Board President, is a physician who grew up in Minnesota and practiced Emergency Medicine in the Minneapolis area for 30 years. She worked in a Level 1 Trauma Center and was actively involved in teaching medical students and residents. She started visiting the Paradise Valley area in her early 20's and moved here full time in 2015 when she retired from her Minnesota medical practice. Her interest in mentoring young people and education led her, along with Barbara Prager, to found the Community School Collaborative.
- **Gina Morrison** joined the CSC Board in 2020 and serves as Vice President. Gina supervises program development and delivery and works closely with the Sleeping Giant Middle School Principal, Dorel Hoglund. Gina is a University of Wyoming graduate with a BS degree in secondary science education. Gina started her career in education by teaching life, earth, and physical science at Wood River Middle School in Hailey, Idaho. Gina coordinated a statewide and later, a national water education program for teachers called Project WET. She directed a youth science education program in Cody, Wyoming called Science Kids Cody, where over 400 students annually were reached through creative outdoor science education.
- **Barbara Moore Prager**, Board Secretary-Treasurer, holds a Master's degree and a Doctorate in nutritional sciences from Columbia University. She worked in academia for 15 years and then focused on science policy for the Clinton Administration from 1993-1995. She served for 24 years as president of Shape Up America!, a national nonprofit organization founded by the late U.S. Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop.
- **Don Gimbel** has volunteered with many national and local organizations including CASA, the Blue Slipper, the Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, Counterpoint and the Park County Community Foundation. His goal is to help make our community a better place for all its citizens.
- **Chelsey Murphy** is a Montana native with a passion for education. She is a Montessori Certified Teacher and has worked in the early childhood education field for 16 years. She has been a regular volunteer with CSC and is excited to dive in deeper when it comes to planning, programing, and community involvement. Chelsey adds a younger generation's perspective and connection to the board. She even knows how to use Instagram!!!

## EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

- **Lynne Scalia, Ed.D**, Board Member, graduated from University of Montana with a B.A. in Education, and earned a Master's and Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from MSU. She has experience as a teacher, superintendent and principal in Montana schools and is currently the incoming Superintendent of Livingston Public Schools. Dr. Scalia is the liaison between the CSC and the Livingston School District.
- **Todd Wester**, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Livingston Public Schools

*Respectfully submitted by the CSC Board of Directors*