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Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: friends and family everywhere
From: Cheri and Raven Hill
Date: October 3, 2020

Greetings to all!

Many thanks to volunteers this week. Ed and Diane Strzelinski continued helping at the Evolving Technology (ET) Building updating displays. Eddie and Pat May did a “mouse run” for the snakes and lizard again, which has come to be a bimonthly trip to the pet store, since early in the pandemic. John Clements fixed the laser and got it back in place in the Periodic Room.

Marian Hanson and her daughter walk the Ancient World almost daily, keeping a sharp eye on things and making sure no grass grows under their feet! Darrell Jacob continues in her quest for artifacts for the Smithsonian **Labor Days: History of Work** exhibit. Meanwhile, Boyne City Community Greenhouse and Ruth Rosinski Milks, are taking good care of the turtles during Raven Hill’s closure, albeit the turtles are helping out by eating all the old lettuce, kale, etc.

There are many people and groups, who help keep Raven Hill Discovery Center running smoothly, in normal times and during these days of COVID uncertainty. Thank you all for being a part of Raven Hill. It really does take a village...



Five thousand volts of electricity light up the noble gases on the Periodic Table of the Elements. The helium-neon laser (top center) uses the light beam to carry radio sound to a lens that feeds into a speaker. When the speaker is turned on, visitors hear the radio. When a hand interrupts the laser beam, there is no sound.



Luella’s camera & the black cloth, which was draped over the camera to keep out unwanted light is on display in the ET Building! Hope you can visit soon!



Jane Seaton, aka Luella Jane Bogardus Seaton, sorted through family photographs and sent some for display alongside the camera belonging to her paternal grandmother and Jane’s namesake, Luella Forden Bogardus, prolific amateur photographer, who took many of the pictures Jane shared.

(Left) Portrait of photographer, Luella Forden, from about 1898. Luella was born in 1874 and died in 1920 as a result of the flu pandemic.

Check out the “Egg in the Bottle” demonstration on Raven Hill’s website (www.MiRavenHill.org)! I wrote up and posted another Learning Opportunity for teachers and parents! (**Note:** this is a demonstration only, due to the use of matches.)

This lesson truly connects science, history and the arts! It is a scientific demonstration of air pressure. This particular activity appeared in a book called *Columbus’ Egg*, which was published in 1890. This was during the Victorian era, so named for Queen Victoria’s reign from 1837 to 1901, in the United Kingdom. Before the advent of radio and television, parlor tricks, like these, were a popular form of entertainment. The old wood engravings or xylographs that illustrated the “Egg in the bottle” were created by carving blocks of wood, which were then inked and, when applied to paper, left an illustration or print. Science, history and the arts linked yet again!

In the introduction to her book, *SECRETS OF 123 CLASSIC SCIENCE TRICKS and EXPERIMENTS*, author, Edi Lanners, says, “Play was generally thought to pave the path to knowledge.” The postscript to her introduction is a question: *Does work come before play or does play come first?* It all fits right in with Raven Hill’s mission: to enhance hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.



(Above) Back in the 1800’s, before the rise of photography and computer illustrations, many German and French xylographs were used to illustrate textbooks and journals.



The incredible edible egg has yet another use. Make sure you use one that is hard boiled and peeled! And let air pressure do the rest!

To borrow a vintage glass milk bottle, so you can try this demonstration yourself, call or text Cheri at 231.675.6025.

Alternatively, you can email cheri@miravenhill.org

Take care of yourself and your family. Stay safe and keep in touch. As I’ve said before, keep on wearing your mask, washing your hands and watching your distance. Email me anytime at info@miravenhill.org or you can text or call my cell—231.675.6025. Would love to hear what you are doing these days!

Hugs,

Cheri