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Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991,
is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Open year-round on weekends – noon to 4pm Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm Sundays.
Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, hours expand to include weekdays from
10am to 4pm. The Center is also open other times, including holidays, by appointment.

MISSION: to provide a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong
learning for all ages by connecting science, history and the arts.

WHERE **SCIENCE****HISTORY****AND****ART** CONNECT

To: Raven Hill friends
From: Cheri
Date: October 14, 2023
Re: *planning forward*

The temperature and colors indicate that fall is here. School has been in session for more than a month. The Smithsonian exhibit has moved on. Raven Hill is now open weekends and other times by appointment. One might assume that things would be rather quiet here at Raven Hill Discovery Center, but the Center shows no sign of slowing down! Staff and volunteers continue to be busy. They are working on upgrading exhibits & facilities; hosting field trips and encouraging teachers in their endeavors.



The fall colors are just starting to show, making the Center's campsite look even more inviting and encouraging thoughts of an old-fashioned bonfire!



It took teamwork to get the Smithsonian Spark! Exhibition quickly and efficiently de-installed and ready to move on to its next destination—Benzonia Public Library. Thank you, Aaron, Adam, Sheri, Cam and Miranda.

Second, this is the time that Raven Hill looks forward, envisioning next year's events, exhibits and programs. Until recently, I thought of it as daydreaming or brainstorming, but it turns out that there is actually a name for this future planning. It is called Mental Time Travel. The other term that is used is EFT or Episodic Future Thinking.

Two things always stand out this time of the year. First, looking back, it is amazing to think of all the teamwork that goes into making Raven Hill what it is. There is an unseen collaboration that goes on between volunteers who may or may not even know of each other's existence. But they all work toward a common goal of making sure that Raven Hill Discovery Center continues to function to the delight of the families, teachers and students who come here to explore and learn.



First and second graders from Mancelona's North Central Academy visited Raven Hill on Thursday and enjoyed exploring indoors and outside.



Thanks to students like Artemis & Jenna, who questioned why there was no Periodic Table of the Elements in their classroom, STEM teacher Sarah Roche now has a Periodic Table for classroom use, compliments of Raven Hill.

Wikipedia defines planning as “the process of thinking regarding the activities required to achieve a desired goal. Planning is based on foresight, the fundamental capacity for mental time travel. The evolution of forethought, the capacity to think ahead, is considered to have been a prime mover in human evolution. Planning is a fundamental property of intelligent behavior. It involves the use of logic and imagination to visualize not only a desired result, but the steps necessary to achieve that result.”

We live in the past, present and future here at Raven Hill! We just said goodbye to the Smithsonian exhibit; spent the rest of the week hosting schools, working on new displays; and have started to plan for “what’s next”!



A new Nemo has joined the crew in the Animal Room at Raven Hill and will be hanging with “Boxer” the shrimp in the small saltwater tank.



Samantha Parkington, the American Girl Doll representing the 1904 Victorian-era is among six American Girl dolls soon to take up residence in the Schoolhouse at Raven Hill. The dolls were donated by Anne Moler and will be on display by the poster showing each of their school desks, books, writing utensils, lunch boxes, etc.

Today was the last **FREE Second Saturday** for 2023. Raven Hill is looking for sponsors to the **2024 FREE Second Saturday** series, which runs from May to October each year. Interested? Call Cheri at 231.536.3369 or email cheri@miravenhill.org



(Left) The partial solar eclipse was visible several times this afternoon as the clouds parted, allowing Raven Hill visitors a chance to see the Moon moving between the Earth and the Sun!

--Photo by Haley Tasiemski

Thanks, everyone, for being an integral part of Raven Hill’s past, present and future as visitors and volunteers!

Cheri