

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

To: Friends of Raven Hill
From: Cheri
Date: January 6, 2024
Re: *awe & wonder*

Sometimes we equate animals with “warm & fuzzy” mammals, especially on the **Twelfth Night of Christmas**, which is the very magical night before the Epiphany on January 6. Some cultures used to believe that animals could speak at midnight on Epiphany Eve. People traditionally gave their animals some extra attention and a special meal or treat on those nights, so the animals would say good things about their caretakers! Even the animals in the forest are said to be able to talk on these special holidays.



Years ago, a piranha lived in the Animal Room and over time, it became a favorite resident. Once, it jumped out of its tank and hit a summer staffer on the head, flip-flopping under one of the benches, where it collected a few “dust bunnies”. We were finally able to scoop it up with a net and return it to its tank, none the worse for wear!

Epiphany should be more than a holiday. It should give us feelings of awe, wonder and hope for the future.

All the animals at Raven Hill join me in wishing you many positive epiphanies in 2024. See you here soon and often!

Cheri



Last summer, a snapping turtle decided to hang out at Raven Hill’s Watershed Model showing off its great camouflage capabilities!

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, epiphany means “an illuminating discovery, realization or disclosure”. At Raven Hill Discovery Center, the animals may not be so warm and fuzzy nor do they talk, but they do provide many opportunities for visitor epiphanies—wonderful insights and discoveries about our natural world. The animals here at the Center are a popular and memorable part of the visitor experience. Whether they are found indoors or outside; are living or preserved; are represented as art or prehistoric fossils, the Center’s animals allow us to discover and appreciate all creatures great and small.

Writer Josie Ortega urges us to “celebrate Epiphany by looking forward”.



Blue frogs lack yellow pigment and yellow frogs lack blue pigment. It takes both yellow and blue pigments to make a frog green! Summer class kids were so excited to discover this guy hanging out in Raven Hill Pond.