

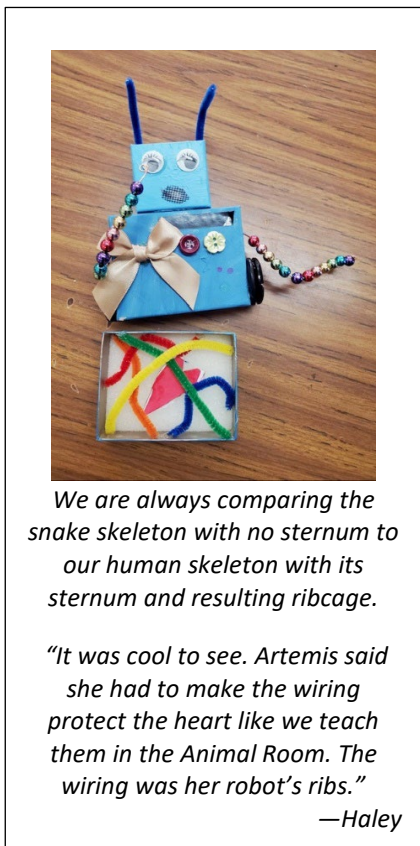
WHERE **SCIENCE****HISTORY****AND****ART** CONNECT

To: Friends of Raven Hill
From: Cheri
Date: August 5, 2023
Re: Summer Fun for Kids

The summer is flying by. Three weeks of **Summer Classes for Kids** remain, as the summer winds down and schools gear up. In addition to seeing everyone try new things during the actual classes, it is also great fun to watch the kids learning on their own in the Main Museum, where they are challenged to work as a team at the Rollaway and build a SLOW ramp for the golf ball or build a tower on the magnet table. And, of course, the animals are always popular.



This past week in the mornings, the kids used their imaginations and had fun making robots. Boxes became bodies and heads for Robot Pals and wooden beads and spools turned into Robot Pendants during the Robot classes.



After lunch, gears shifted to the Japanese art and design of Shibori and Arashi. Both are methods of creating a design on fiber. Authentic Shibori uses stitching to create a pattern. An easier method for children (and adults) is to fold the material and use clothespins for clipping to create a design. An Arashi design traditionally uses bamboo and string to form a puffy pattern. We used a large diameter PVC (polyvinyl chloride) tube and rubber bands to create the “puffs”. With Arashi, the dyes flow in the puffs and simulate the rivulets formed by a hard rain. Although traditional Japanese designs are steam set using a charcoal fire, we used a microwave for easy steaming!



Everyone had access to the same supplies and followed the same instructions, but the Shibori results were as unique as the young artists, who created these beautiful silk handkerchiefs.



Arashi is a Japanese method of creating a design on fiber. It means “rainstorm” and depicts the rivulets made in the sand from a hard rain.



Sheldon tried to make a break for it last weekend. Luckily, we were able to temporarily reinforce and then replace the Plexiglas without injury or escape!

Last weekend, there was much excitement as Sheldon tried to escape. He pushed against the Plexiglas until he popped a piece of the plastic right out. No sooner had we made temporary repairs to that spot, when Sheldon tried to break out at a different location! No one was hurt and by Sunday, new Plexiglas replaced the broken panel with extra reinforcements to keep it from happening again!

Raven Hill is currently open weekdays from 10am to 4pm, as well as being open year-round from noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays. Email info@miravenhill.org or call us at 231.536.3369 to make appointments for other times, including major holidays.

Be sure to mark your calendar and visit Raven Hill on Saturday, August 26, between noon and 4pm. The Center is excited to kick-off its Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit, ***Spark! Places of Innovation*** exhibition. Visit ***Spark!*** for this special opening, get an up-close look at some unique inventions and experience family fun at Raven Hill Discovery Center. Watch a working blacksmith, observe fiber artists in action, see a fly-tying demonstration, observe a 3D printer powered by solar energy and enjoy a Ham radio demonstration. If you can't make it for the kick-off, the exhibit will be at Raven Hill for six weeks—through October 7. Hope to see you at the Center soon for a visit or to help celebrate the Smithsonian OR both!

Cheri