

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

To: Raven Hill friends

From: Cheri

Date: April 13, 2024

Re: *Interact and Engage!*



Always an "attraction," East Jordan Middle School students explored magnetic force at Raven Hill's Magnet Table during a recent field trip. A total of 120 middle schoolers and their teachers enjoyed the day here last Thursday, *interacting* indoors and outside.

Raven Hill Discovery Center remains an *interactive* science, history and arts museum. It embodies experiential learning by providing users with hands-on activities and exhibits both on site and through outreach programs. Whether at the Center or during traveling programs, participants *engage* directly with exhibits, experiments, and demonstrations, fostering learning through direct experience rather than passive observation. This approach encourages curiosity, exploration, and deeper understanding of scientific, historic and artistic concepts. The hands-on activities and programs at Raven Hill make it a popular destination for groups, families and tourists alike, whether for special viewings of the recent solar eclipse or field trip experiences for schools and scouts.

The Center's traveling outreach programs offer several advantages to users. These programs bring the museum experience to groups that may not have easy access to the onsite programs, making art, history, and science more accessible to a wider audience. Raven Hill Outreach programs feature *interactive* activities and demonstrations, which enhance learning and *engagement* with the Center's mission and themes, whether exploring STEM careers or enjoying the reptiles. By reaching out to schools, libraries, and community centers, Raven Hill builds strong ties with local communities, fostering relationships and promoting cultural appreciation. Traveling programs provide educational opportunities for students outside the traditional classroom setting, offering hands-on learning experiences that complement school curriculums right on the school or library site. Outreach programs help reach new audiences and raise awareness about the Center's offerings, potentially attracting more visitors to Raven Hill itself. Overall, Raven Hill Discovery Center's Outreach programs serve as a valuable tool for fulfilling the mission of providing a place where science, history and art connect, involving diverse audiences and promoting cultural understanding.



Checkers the corn snake is pictured front and center *engaging* with all his new friends at St. Francis Xavier School.



A young mechanical engineer tests a "big wheel" during an exploration of diverse engineering careers during a Raven Hill Outreach Program at St. Francis Xavier School in Petoskey.

Raven Hill is continuously expanding and improving to provide *engaging* experiences for visitors of all ages. The Center offers and **maintains** a diverse range of facilities and exhibits for visitors to explore, from the main Museum to outdoor attractions like the Jurassic Park walkway. This spring has been the season for renovations. From new paint on the outside of the Schoolhouse and inside the Alternative Energy House, to the new border on the Sundial, to the most recent repair of the Jurassic Park walkway, Raven Hill Discovery Center works hard to keep indoor and outdoor exhibits looking their best for visitors.



Tree roots were the perpetrators that buckled the Brussel blocks in the Permian section of Raven Hill's Exploring Beyond Jurassic Park walkway. Volunteer Jackson Brooks' attention to detail was meticulous as he removed the blocks, cut out the offending tree roots, then replaced the sand and Brussel blocks to make the walkway as good as new!

After 33 years, Raven Hill Discovery Center is still a vibrant place where curious minds of all ages embark on a journey through the wonders of science, the tapestry of history, and the palette of the arts. It is a playground for exploration and imagination, where learning becomes a lively *interactive* adventure. Visitors delve into the past, embrace the present, and envision the possibilities of the future as they explore inside; enjoy unique events like the 2024 Solar Eclipse; wander the grounds at Raven Hill or experience one of the Center's Outreach programs.



Despite partly cloudy skies, a dozen or so visitors watched the eclipse from the Steppes along Raven Hill's parking lot, while others chose to watch from the Ancient World's pyramid or near the Center's observatory. One family chose a more private place and watched from the garden bench donated in honor of their loved one. More than 75 people spent time at Raven Hill on Eclipse Day 2024.

There is much to *engage* in at Raven Hill this spring! Get ready to be awed by our **Night Skies Program** with Rod Cortright on Wednesday, April 24 at 7pm. Immerse yourself in **FREE (Families Reaching for Educational Excellence) Second Saturday** fun during May, June and July. Mark your calendars for the grand opening of Raven Hill's coming exhibit, "**Under Michigan and Beyond**—an exploration of rocks and minerals" on Saturday, May 25 from noon to 4pm. If art is your thing, you can unleash your creativity at the **Serendipity Multi-Media Art Workshop** with talented artist Kelly Boyle on June 21 and 22 from 9am to noon both days. Join us for unforgettable experiences and endless inspiration! For questions or to register, email info@miravenhill.org or call Cheri at 231.536.3369 or 231.675.6025.

Raven Hill is currently open to the public on weekends: noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays and then other times by appointment. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Center will be open daily—regular weekend hours plus 10am to 4pm Monday through Friday. Outreach programs are available year round and are often scheduled at local libraries. Call your library to see if they have a Raven Hill program planned. Alternatively, you can call 231.536.3369 or 231.675.6025 for more information on the Center's Outreach programs or to make reservations for off-hour visits onsite at the Center. We invite you to *interact* and *engage* soon with all that Raven Hill has to offer onsite or out in the community.

Cheri