

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

To: Raven Hill friends  
From: Cheri  
Date: March 8, 2025  
Re: Live for Life

A child’s wide-eyed wonder can be ignited by the crisp crunch of snow beneath their boots and through Raven Hill’s hands-on indoor explorations—both bring science, history, and art to life. A story unfolds in the snow for those willing to step outside, slow down, and notice the magic in fleeting encounters. It might be the delicate halo around a bobcat track or the quiet refuge of a tree well. The Center’s programs offer their own unexpected discoveries, as children contemplate multiple images of themselves in the kaleidoscope or validate Archimedes’ concept of “center of gravity.” Nurturing a youngster’s innate curiosity and sense of enchantment in the “here and now” creates lasting memories that can profoundly influence all their tomorrows.

Bobcat track



The quiet signature of the elusive hunter is the bobcat’s thick fur brushing against the snow with each step creating a feathery halo.

— Photo by Haley Breniser

Tree well



The dark color of the tree trunk absorbs energy from the sun and helps melt the snow around the base of the tree.

— Photo by Haley Breniser

Just as plants and animals can leave their marks in the snow, children create their own traces of learning and understanding. A floating ping pong ball demonstrates Bernoulli’s Principle. Air pressure “magically” presses up on the plastic square with 14.7 pounds per square inch keeping the water in the goblet. The marimba sends beautiful sound vibrations into the air. For a child, each moment is a step on their own path of discovery. Their faces light up with the same excitement as if they had followed a set of tracks in fresh snow, because every object, every experiment, every hands-on activity reveals something new.

Bernoulli’s Principle



The fast air blowing out of the hair dryer keeps the ping pong ball “floating.” The same principle explains lift that allows birds and airplanes to fly.

### Marimba



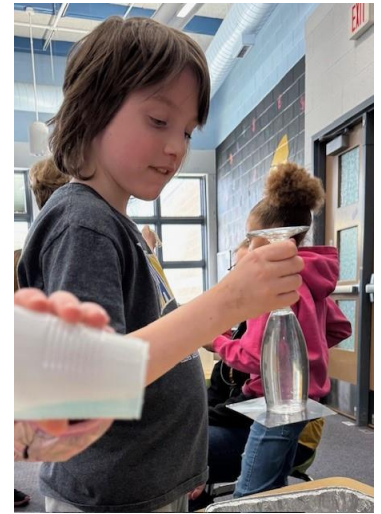
*The marimba shares the science of sound, the history of xylophones and the art of music with visitors!*

### Magic or science?



*It is just a piece of rope with no knots, hooks or anything. How can the rope hold this bottle up? What does the inside of the bottle look like? Is this real magic or science magic? Share your ideas with us next time you visit Raven Hill!*

### Air pressure



*The air pressure from the atmosphere that surrounds our earth weighs on us at 14.7 pounds per square inch (psi). Here the air pressure is pressing UP on the piece of plastic holding it in place with more pressure than the weight of the water inside the goblet is pushing DOWN!*

The third stanza of Jack Jones' song, "Live for Life," captures the essence of any person's sense of awe and amazement. "If you let me, I will lead you through the mystery and wonder of a world you've never known before. Share the splendors to be shared, magic places to explore, dare the dangers to be dared. Life is all of this and more..." The song is a reminder that life is about embracing each moment of wonder, just as children do, when they connect the dots of the world around them. Whether they're learning how light bends and makes rainbows through a diffraction grating, feeling the textures of the bearded dragon's skin, or constructing a solution to the magic glue bottle from their imagination, their joy is immediate, their curiosity boundless.

Whether exploring indoors, outside, at Raven Hill or at a school during one of the Center's outreach programs, winter doesn't mean waiting for discovery. It means embracing wonder everywhere, as learning comes alive through touch, sound, sight, and play. Like the fleeting beauty of tracks in the snow, a child's moment of wonder may be brief, but it leaves an impression that lasts a lifetime.

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This is a great time to visit the Center. Raven Hill is open weekends—noon to 4pm on Saturdays; 2pm to 4pm on Sundays, as well as holidays and other times by appointment. Families and field trip groups can visit and explore both indoors and outside or book a science, history or art class for any age and ability. The Center is a perfect place for scout and 4H activities, birthday parties for youngsters & adults, retreats, weddings and other gatherings. For more information about onsite or outreach programs, email [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org) or call Cheri at 231.536.3369. Until next time...

Cheri