

WHERE SCIENCE HISTORY AND ART CONNECT

To: Raven Hill friends

From: Cheri

Date: May 3, 2025

Re: May the Fourth be with you AKA dinosaurs, dragons and droids

This Sunday is May the Fourth, which is celebrated around the world as **Star Wars Day**—a grassroots holiday that honors the legendary science fiction series. The famous line “May the Force be with you” sounds like

“May the Fourth be with you.” Over time, this clever play on words has become a rallying point for fans to celebrate all things Star Wars, like droid-building and costume contests. While not a Star Wars fan, it is an interesting challenge to consider how dinosaurs, dragons and droids (“3Ds”) all align with Raven Hill Discovery Center’s mission to connect science, history, and art through hands-on discovery. Weaving the “3Ds” together is an engaging challenge. Dinosaurs, dragons and droids can represent the intersection of science, history, and art, as well as the past, present and future. Whether Raven Hill visitors are unearthing fossils, exploring ancient legends, or building androids, they’re engaging with the same core questions: What came before? What is happening now? What might occur in the future?

What makes May the fourth special is how it brings people together, blending imagination, technology, storytelling, and science—exactly the same kind of interdisciplinary collaboration that Raven Hill celebrates every day. It’s a perfect opportunity to explore real-world STEM and STEAM through the lens of fiction: building robots, designing dragon habitats, or imagining the historical forensics of dinosaurs.

Droid



*What do you think of this
handsome-looking
Star Wars-style droid pendant?*

Star Wars enthusiasts may celebrate May 4th as a special day, but the day can also celebrate the power of curiosity, creativity and discovery—all helping to shape our future. At Raven Hill Discovery Center, we believe learning happens best when curiosity leads the way—and everything sparks wonder—like dinosaurs from prehistory, dragons of the imagination or droids in a galaxy far, far away.

Dinosaurs



Raven Hill visitors can compare their height to these dinosaurs as they walk the Connections Trail at Raven Hill. —artist Kelly Boyle

Beaverton dragon



With snowplow blades for wings, this 25 foot dragon almost got to come live at Raven Hill—what fun that would have been!

Beaverton dragon



That's Cheri standing next to the Beaverton dragon!

Dinosaurs ground us in Earth's prehistoric past—real proof of ancient life uncovered by science. Dragons are born in the imagination but may connect with those fossil finds, showing how humans throughout history have turned the mystery of dinosaurs into the myth of dragons. As for Star Wars, it's a modern story that fuses futuristic science & technology, ancient hero journeys and the art of storytelling. At Raven Hill, "may the force be with you" as you cultivate curiosity and promote meaningful connections between dinosaurs, dragons and droids right here at the Center.

Summer hours go into effect toward the end of this month, at which time, the Center will be open daily. **Between** Memorial Day and Labor Day for family and friend adventures, weekday hours are 10am to 4pm—Monday through Friday and weekend hours are from noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays. At other times, the Center is open by appointment. Call 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org for reservations.

Papier Mache Dragon



Meet Draco Sequoia Geolwe, forest wyvern—a winged reptilian creature, with snake and bird-like qualities. According to artist Laurie David, mythology would have Draco residing amongst the giant Sequoia trees, but now the papier mache dragon has a permanent home at Raven Hill Discovery Center.

Dragon egg



"This 95 million year-old egg is from a dragon. For 40 million years dragons dominated the Earth. Dragons could breathe fire and fly at 180 miles an hour. They slowly lost their wings and evolved into the dinosaurs that we know today." If dragons were real, their eggs might look like this glass egg created by Jordan Valley Glassworks.

Cheri