

Rochester Museum & Science Center • June 2016

Providing area schools with exceptional learning opportunities

Strasenburgh Planetarium Shows

The Strasenburgh Planetarium has quadrupled the weekend presentations of *The Sky Tonight*, a concise laser-guided tour of current stars, constellations and planets, and audiences are seeking it out. The Planetarium engages adult learners on Wednesday afternoons with a series of astronomy programs.

Thank you for providing an amazing experience for our scholars on May 19. I heard so many stories when they got back from the trip—they were full of joy and excitement! We appreciate all that you do.

- Rochester Prep Elementary
School Teacher Feedback



▲ One of the many school buses on the RMSC campus this spring

Haudenosaunee Days

The Rochester Museum & Science Center presents Haudenosaunee Days, a Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) cultural celebration each fall. The 4-day event takes place in the Museum gallery spaces and features artists, musicians and storytellers, allowing schools and other visitors to meet native artisans and learn about their culture. Trained docent educators lead tours of exhibit halls featuring Haudenosaunee art, culture and history. Collections staff and volunteers display artifacts from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Indian Arts Project and interact with visitors. Traditions represented by artists and performers include woodworking, quill-working, basket-making, language, music, corn husk doll-making, storytelling and silver jewelry making. Docent tours focus on Seneca traditions before and after European contact.



In 2015, 574 students and teachers from 10 schools participated in the program. Both program days booked to capacity within 1 day of announcing the program. The 2016 Haudenosaunee Days is scheduled for November 5-8.

Frogs: A Chorus of Colors Exhibition

The *Frogs: A Chorus of Colors* exhibition was at the RMSC from October 16, 2015–April 10, 2016. More than 10,200 of the total 79,071 attendance for *Frogs* were students visiting in groups. Visiting school districts included Albion, Brockport, Greece, Rush-Henrietta, Churchville-Chili, West Irondequoit, Canandaigua among others. In addition, the RMSC trained more than 40 teachers in preparation for their school visits. The RMSC developed a multi-tiered educational program aligned with the third-grade expeditionary learning module, as frog themes are part of the third-grade curriculum. RMSC trained teachers on frogs and how to study them from different viewpoints—environment, culture, etc. Teachers brought their classes to the RMSC on a field study experience. As a capstone, teachers and students visited the Cumming Nature Center where they collected data on native frog populations, listen to calling frogs, and understand the important role that frogs have in the ecosystem.



Contact the RMSC
www.rmhc.org

Kate Bennett
President
585.697.1972