



October 2015

THE LESSON PLAN

OCTOBER 2015

Monthly Theme: MAD SCIENCE

Monthly "Exhibit": Catapult Building

Featured Artist: Stephanie Jones (Stevens Point, WI)

Featured Book: Not All Princesses Dress in Pink

Message From the ED

Reflections and Revelations

After a little over two years on the job, I've been able to take the time to learn about this place we call the Central WI Children's Museum. I've learned about the space, the things in the space, the people who visit, the communities we serve and the industry nationwide. Much like the conversation still happening nationally, I've had my own challenges in truly defining what is a Children's Museum and how do I tell people why they should fall in love with it, like I have.

The truth is...I can't (exactly). I can go on and on about the educational value, I can talk about strengthening families and building community. Those are the bits that I love. But that's not what is special about our Museum. In fact, people can and do come here for many reasons. I've met Moms who come here just to be social with other Moms, dads who want to bond with their children, high achieving children who want to be challenged, children who are struggling and need a boost, babies who just want to take everything in, single moms who want a break and would rather give their child something meaningful to do rather than just plopping them in front of the TV, retired folk who want

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to spend time around children, 13 year olds who want to mentor young children, special needs high school students looking for work experience, Grandparents who want to sing and dance with their grandchildren, teachers wanting to get out of the classroom, community groups looking for a place to meet, artists looking for a space to teach, college students looking to use their skills through an internship and families who just didn't have anything else to do.

The truth is that what makes us special is that this place is ALL of these things and more. It doesn't matter what brought you here, what matters is that you came and that you felt like this is a place where you belong. What matters is that there IS a place for EVERYBODY here in our community. What matters is that we can come together in a place that is meaningful and safe and where our children are valued; where we are all equal, without judgment.

Lately, I've been using the term "Community Center" to describe us. The Museum is at the heart of that but it extends to affording use of our many spaces to community groups and partners, hosting events like the Teen Mom Baby Shower organized by Portage County Health and Human Services, fundraisers for cancer patients, and rehearsal space for a local performance group. On the national level, Children's Museums are engaged in a conversation around defining and redefining who we are. My sense is that as community owned organizations a common definition will be hard to find. What I know is that we are, and will continue to be, what our community needs.

As a "community owned" organization, the \$5 you pay at the door, the \$1 you throw in the donation box, the \$50 or \$100 or \$5000 or \$20000 contribution you send in, the \$.75 you spend at our rummage sale, is an investment in something bigger than a single visit or a new program. It's an investment in a place that is truly meeting the needs of countless populations; meaningful to many people for many reasons; a place that is for everyone, with the well-being of children at the heart of it all and reflective of the communities we serve.

I fell in love with the Central WI Children's Museum because it's a place where children can fall in love with learning and where every child is equal. I fell in love with this place because, at my core, I am a geek and this is a place where geeks can feel they belong. If that helps you care about this place than I'm thrilled. But I know there are hundreds of people with hundreds of reasons why they come here...and THAT is the true magic of CWCM.



Focus on Exhibits

MUSICAL PIPES: We are so excited and thankful to have received an anonymous donation toward the creation of a “Musical Pipes” exhibit. The exhibit will feature pipes of varying sizes which create a variety of musical notes. The exhibit explores the physics of sound through hands-on exploration and programs!!

LITTLE INVENTOR: From October 22nd – 25th look for a special exhibit in conjunction with the WI Science Festival. The Little Inventor exhibit will provide a child safe “Maker’s Space” where kids of all ages can tinker with a wide range of building supplies, hand tools, motors, design software and more!!

Focus on Programs

FAMILY FUN NIGHT: Every 4th Thursday of the month the knowledgeable staff at Galaxy Comics, Games and More bring a wide selection of games for all ages over to the Museum starting at 5:30. At 6 pm we’ll show a family friendly movie related to our theme of the month and often with an eye toward true classics that parents will remember from when they were kids.

AMAZING ART: Throughout October we are diving into the world of robotics through our Amazing Art class. Even very young children can safely begin to explore electronics through the creation of a “Wiggle Bot” – a mini robot which creates masterpieces of art all by itself. Every Friday at 10 am.



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OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Wiggle Bots: Join us Fridays at 10 am to design and build a wiggle bot! Budding scientists will love tinkering with robotics to create their very own working robot! This program is open to all guests!

Mad Machines: Children ages 4-13 are encouraged to get a group of or more together and create a Rube Goldberg machine using household items. Teenagers and adults will build cardboard boats and test them against other groups at Iverson Park in Stevens Point! Prizes will be awarded at both events!

Halloween Hoedown: Friday, October 30, from 4:30 - 8:00 pm. Put on your Halloween costume & join us downtown at the Museum for a night of fun! Trick-or-Treating down Main Street is 4:30 pm-6:30 pm. Healthy Halloween Hoedown features live music, creepy critters, carnival games, mad science experiments, healthy snacks, and every child attending will receive a FREE gift pail with goodies to take home! Tickets are available at the door or order on our website. \$5 per person, infants under 1 year - FREE!

HELPING HANDS

We can't do what we do without your support. Below are some immediate needs. THANK YOU!

Maker's Space Supplies: Broken electronics, old toys, hand tools, nails, screws, wood scraps, fabric scraps and washers.

Art / Exhibit Supplies: construction paper, stickers, flashlights, mason jars.

Volunteer Needs:

Painters/Handy People: We're working on adding color and pizzazz to the museum, fixing some things and maintaining others. Please HELP!!

Healthy Family Night Helpers: Help us dish out a delicious healthy meal for our friends and neighbors who may not be able to otherwise afford it!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesdays, 10am
Baby Play

Wednesdays, 1:30pm
Catapult Building

Thursday, Oct 8
Healthy Family Night

Thursday, October 22
Family Fun Night

October 22-25
Mad Machines

Friday, October 30
Healthy Halloween
Hoedown

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