



Visit us on the WEB at sandcastleschildrensmuseum.com

Sandcastles, September/October 2010



Fall Hours

Fridays and Saturdays
9:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

September 10—December 18

Admission: \$3.50
Fall Family Memberships: \$35

Playgroup Friday activities for preschoolers
Super Saturday activities for school-age children
See schedule on page 3



What a Wonderful Summer Season at Sandcastles!

We have already had over 13,000 visits to Sandcastles in 2010. We have passed our 2009 mark with 3 months of fall season yet to go. Visitors have come from over 700 different zip codes and 5 other countries. In spite of the visits from families from across the nation, by far the majority of visits have been by families from Ludington and Mason County, followed by Oceana County. We are thrilled that our home town families, as well as our tourist families, find Sandcastles a great place to visit!

As we all remember, the summer of 2009 was cool and rainy. The summer of 2010 was hot and sunny—and we still set record attendance. Thanks to all of you for your support, your positive comments, and your suggestions for next summer. We hope to see you this fall; our fall schedule is on page 3.

A heart-felt thank-you to our Sandcastles volunteers!!! We couldn't do it without you.

In the last newsletter, we featured volunteers who work on exhibits and help to maintain the museum. This month we recognize those volunteers who work shifts during the museum's summer hours of operation.

We strive to make the Sandcastles experience as wonderful for the last visitors of the day as it is for the first. We couldn't do that without our volunteers. Anyone who visits knows that our young visitors find all sorts of creative ways to scatter items all over the museum. Volunteers make sure that everything is back where it belongs for the next group of visitors. They empty the grocery carts, clean paint off chairs, hunt for wooden chicken eggs, disinfect toys, or do anything else needed. While keeping the museum clean and tidy, they also keep an eye out for the children's safety and sometimes need to enforce our two rules, Safety and Respect. The Board depends on our volunteers for suggestions on how we can improve the museum. Our volunteers enjoy their job, and most return year after year.

This year we had 36 scheduled volunteers committing to either every week, every other week or random times. Volunteers tell us that the best part of the job is interacting with children and adults. Parents often remark that they enjoy the volunteers, too. We could not get volunteers without having subs to fill in when needed, and this year we had 13 who subbed. Some of our scheduled volunteers also subbed as well! A big THANK YOU to all scheduled museum workers and subs!!

We can't say it too many times: Sandcastles could not function without museum volunteers!!! If YOU would like to volunteer for next summer, please contact Darlene Ponko at 231-843-3323 or email

Regular Volunteers:

Robin Abrahamson	Marilyn Horrell
Heather Allen	Linda Johnson
Marsha Barter	Connie Josvai
Margie Berend	Lori Kratz
Sandy Bloom	Dru Lyon
Cindy Boerema	Marcia Olmstead
Heather Boerema	Mallory Pehrson
Michal Brody	Carol Pehrson
Rose DeLoof	Christina Purcell
Kim Donley	Kathy Radtke
Nancy DuVall	Stacey Ramsey
Dee Falk	Gig Rose
Chris Fannesbeck	Joanne Sadosty
Peg Gage	Janet Sanders
Kent Gage	Diane Shank
Carol Garneau	Pat Waterchilde
Kathy Hansen	Melissa Weinert
Linda Heimerdinger	Susan Whitenight

Substitute Volunteers:

Joan Archer
Samantha Borashko
Kaleigh Doan
Anne Flutur
Patty Furst
Pam Greb
Betty Karella
Pete Karella
Robin Luke
Mallory Magee
Pete Magee
Kristin Pomorski
Connie Reece
Sandy Sanders

Volunteer Marge Berend



Volunteer Kim Donley



Thanks to Linda Leibole, Doris Gerkowski, and Donna Peterson for planning and preparing the Recognition Celebration for the rest of our volunteers. Sandcastles could not function successfully without those who volunteer for special projects like this. Watch for recognition of others in upcoming newsletters.



What Do Board Members Do? Part II: They Find and Work With Volunteers

Darlene Ponko is our indispensable volunteer coordinator. Over the past 4 years, she has put together a phenomenal group of volunteers who work during the museum season. Dar hosts a training session at the beginning of the season to show the new exhibits and to discuss the challenges of keeping the museum in good shape throughout the day. She schedules regular shifts for many volunteers and occasional days for others. She also finds additional volunteers for special projects (see box above). Darlene stays in touch with the volunteers all season through email.

Buffy Nagle created a special youth volunteer opportunity, the Discovery Guides. Girls and boys in middle school or higher apply in the spring and attend a training session where they learn about the exhibits and their responsibilities. Discovery Guides generally work a few hours a week—interacting with younger children, picking up, and straightening exhibits. They are a big help! We hope their experiences at Sandcastles inspire them to volunteer where they are needed throughout their lives.

Fall Activities at Sandcastles

Activities begin at 10:00

Fri.	Sept. 10	Play Doh
Sat.	Sept. 11	Grandparents Day Experiments with Floating & Sinking
Fri.	Sept. 17	Stories with Mrs. Reed
Sat.	Sept. 18	Make a Model Solar System
Fri.	Sept. 24	Leaf Rubbings
Sat.	Sept. 25	Make a Lava Lamp
Fri.	Oct. 1	Beads
Sat.	Oct. 2	Oktoberfest
Fri.	Oct. 8	Fingerpainting
Sat.	Oct. 9	Making Tornados
Fri.	Oct. 15	Apple Prints
Sat.	Oct. 16	Making Silly Putty
Fri.	Oct. 22	Mrs. Spaniola's Stories and Songs
Sat.	Oct. 23	Halloween Art
Fri.	Oct. 29	Pumpkins!
Sat.	Oct. 30	Halloween Party with Scary Mary Downtown Trick or Treating Open until 3:00 p.m.
Fri.	Nov. 5	Puzzles
Sat.	Nov. 6	Math Magic with Mrs. Ponko
Fri.	Nov. 12	Make a Flag
Sat.	Nov. 13	Chemical Change (Mentos & Diet Coke)
Fri.	Nov. 19	Building Blocks
Sat.	Nov. 20	Constellations
Fri.	Nov. 26	Family day Photographs -have some pictures taken with our exhibits!
Sat.	Nov. 27	Egg in the Bottle Pick up Family Photos
Fri.	Dec. 3	Make a Snowman
Sat.	Dec. 4	Paper Airplanes
Fri.	Dec. 10	Gingerbread Houses
Sat.	Dec. 11	Christmas Party Traditions Around the World
Fri.	Dec. 17	Make an Ornament
Sat.	Dec. 18	Make a Gift Last Day of the Season

2010 Munchkin Mondays and Thrilling Thursdays
 Children and their families enjoyed a great variety of programs!



CFMC Match Day was a Great Success

Thanks again to everyone who contributed to the Community Foundation of Mason County on behalf of Sandcastles. We had the greatest number of donations (almost 100 more than the next highest total). Because so many of you showed your support, we collected the extra \$1,000 prize. The total of donations to Sandcastles on Match Day was **\$32,436!** Donations not earmarked by the donor were deposited in our capital fund within the Community Foundation.

- Sandcastles Board Members
 Kristin Korendyke, President
 Michal LaCombe, Vice President
 Darlene Ponko, Secretary
 Buffy Nagle, Treasurer
 Pat Carney
 Marsha Barter
 Mary Todd
 Mary Ann Ferguson

