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Unofficial World Record Set at WMFC?

The first ever Unofficial World Record Pop Can Wall Event was the culmination of a pop can drive to support student trips. **Dow COP** students collected, sorted, and washed cans for the event. The WMFC Summer Program students developed engineering skills as they devised ways to build



Stacking cans in pursuit of the Unofficial Pop Can Wall World Record!

the strongest, tallest wall that they could at the community event which was held on July 31. A picnic lunch was enjoyed by community members who watched the students work together to create a wall that ultimately included 416 cans bettering the previous record of 171 pop cans in a pyramid configuration. Sponsors for the event included **Arbury Insurance, Chemical Bank, Wolverine**

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STEM, Swim, Health and Fun Dominate Summer Program

West Midland Family Center's (WMFC) 2015 Summer Program took off like a rocket...a bottle rocket that is! All 124 Summer Program participants experienced the fun of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Some learned about lightening and rain cycles, while others concocted slimy creations. The children had loads of fun experiencing STEM, exploring the WMFC woods and outdoor spaces, and splashing around in the pool during their daily swim time.

This summer, WMFC joined forces with **Engineering For Kids** to bring all sorts of exciting engineering

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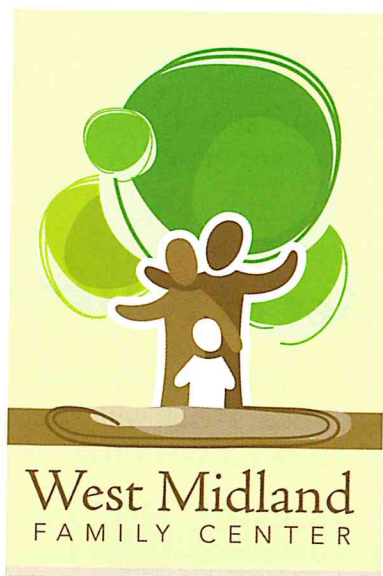


The Dow COP Juniors pass by Frohring Music Hall during a recent tour of Hiram College.

Dow COP Students Broaden Their Horizons

The **Dow College Opportunity Program (Dow COP)** helps enrich students' lives while helping students prepare for college during their high school years. In July, the **Class of 2016** visited colleges on their junior class college tour trip. They met with

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15 Dow COP students paint Fort Mackinac

Dow COP Students

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counselors and advisors at **Grand Valley State University, Hiram College, Wayne State University** and **Spring Arbor College**. They also took in the **Ann Arbor Artists Fair** while touring the **University of Michigan**.

The **Dow COP Classes of 2017 and 2018** had an excellent experience volunteering for the **Mackinac Island State Parks and Mackinac Island Public Schools** during their summer service trip. The primary goal of the trip was to work with the parks department to spruce up the island in ways that would positively impact the enjoyment level of the roughly one million tourists who visit **Mackinac Island** each summer. The students picked up litter on approximately six miles of trails and various tourist stops. They also painted the original rock and mortar of **Fort Mackinac** which will help preserve the historic landmark in the years to come.

In late July, the **Class of 2015** traveled to **Niagara Falls, Boston, and Toronto** for their senior class trip. The students took in as many of the historic, educational, and fun stops that were available to them during the trip. To help fund their senior trip excursion, the students raised monies through a variety of fundraisers. They then planned their trip and activities to fit within their budget.

WMFC to Add an Additional 3's Preschool Classroom in the Fall of 2015

The three-year-old population continues to grow at West Midland Family Center (WMFC). As a result, WMFC will add an additional 3's preschool class in the fall of 2015. This 3's program will provide children with a half-day experience in a school setting that will help prepare them for a full day 4's class the following year.

The 3's preschool program consists of large and small group learning through play, outdoor play and a snack. Each 3's class will enroll 15 children and have three trained staff. Staff members will be trained in early childhood education and will be focused on meeting the needs of each child in the classroom.

Nobel Laureate James Heckman, an economist at the **University of Chicago**, has noted that the longterm impacts of early education on social and emotional development -- the skills that allow people to interact appropriately and effectively with others -- may be the most important takeaways from preschool.

WMFC understands the importance of making a difference in the lives of children. One hundred years from now, we hope to still be making a difference in the lives of children from West Midland County.

Those interested in applying for the 3's preschool program should call Missy Finney at 989-832-3256 or pick up an enrollment form at the WMFC Welcome Center.

"One Hundred Years From Now"

*One hundred years from now
it won't matter
what kind of car I drove
what kind of house I lived in
how much money I had in the bank
nor what my clothes looked like,
BUT
the world may be a little better
because, I was important
in the life of a child.*

*Excerpt from "Within My Power"
by Forest Witcraft*

Unofficial World Record Set at WMFC?

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Bank, MidMichigan Health, Ben Dollard and Ameriprise Financial, Bill and Sally Bowen and Brandle Roofing and Sheet Metal, with prizes donated from **Midland Center for the Arts** and **Little Caesars Pizza**. On-air coverage was provided by **WCFX 95.3 FM**. The Dow COP students earned nearly \$2,000 from the event and a total of 4,500 pop cans were collected to date. In the future, we would like to hear from any organization that breaks our unofficial world record. Dow COP would like to thank their sponsors, everyone who donated cans and all those who came out to support them.



Bullock Creek DOW COP student Dani kept track of the official pop can count during the event.

STEM, Swim, Health and Fun Dominate Summer Program

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projects to the 3rd through 5th grade and middle school students. Along with all the fun they had building bridges, catapults and bottle rockets, the children acquired knowledge of potential and kinetic energy, they



Swimming with your group leader is always a highlight

explored gravity, studied weight distributions and how weight affects an aircraft. At the end of the program, from both an enjoyment and a knowledge gained perspective,

the **Engineering for Kids** program was a big hit. Among the students surveyed, there was a 45% increase in understanding what comprises technology and a 47% increase in knowledge of the engineering design process. After participating in the Engineering for Kids program, 40% of the students surveyed expressed higher interest in science and/or engineering.

The Kindergarten through 2nd grade classes teamed up with **MSU Extension's Melissa Coosard**, and learned about food, nutrition, and healthy eating. They read books, played games, and came up with great ideas for creating a healthier lifestyle.

In addition to all the fun activities around the Center this summer,

the 4th and 5th graders participated in the **Mid-Michigan Multisport Racing Club (M3RC) Next Generation Kids Triathlon Camp at Dow High School**. The kids took part in a full day of new experiences. They learned the particulars of swimming, biking and running, and the transition process between each segment of a triathlon. **Chuck McCourt**, of **Recycle-A-Bicycle**, provided bikes for the event that the children got to take home at the end of the day. WMFC would like to thank **Craig Elford** of M3RC and Chuck McCourt for helping to make this event possible and for their support of our children. Overall, the WMFC Summer Program was a great journey filled with laughing children, lots of fun and adventure, and many new, and strengthened, relationships with our families.

Donors Respond to the Need to Help Make Room For Children

WMFC is in the process of perfecting the on-site childcare center and recently re-focused attention toward more developmentally appropriate care. As such, we have implemented the **Creative Curriculum** within the childcare program thereby maintaining consistency with all other WMFC early childhood programs. This curriculum encourages the separation of children of different developmental stages.

Addressing the unique needs of infants and toddlers independently enhances the daily experience for both groups. Having moved forward fully committed to this process WMFC faced several challenges. One of which was the lack of an additional restroom within the childcare wing.

Licensing standards call for staff members to have access to a restroom within the same room in which diapering occurs. Previously

the physical configuration of the childcare wing did not fully meet this standard. This prohibited us from utilizing space to its maximum potential and minimized the number of both infants and toddlers we could serve. With grants from the **Midland Area Community Foundation, Midland Rotary Foundation, Midland Rotary Club and West Midland Auxiliary**. WMFC moved forward to expand the childcare center to better serve children and their families. WMFC is grateful for the professionalism displayed by the entire **Three Rivers Construction** team who handled all phases of the design and construction of this new classroom.

According to **WMFC Childcare Director, Molly Stroh**, "We are thrilled with the new revisions to the childcare center. The improved floor plan provides beneficial space and

added room for our growing program. We anticipate being able to serve many more families because of this renovation. When parents have a high-quality, safe and convenient childcare arrangement for their children, family life becomes less stressful."

To everyone's delight the new childcare wing opened its doors on July 14, 2015 providing another restroom, and 450 square feet of additional space, thus putting an end to the toddler's mantra, "when [can] we go in [the] new 'woom' Miss Molly?"



Lincoln loves his new room!



Boating and fishing at WMFC Family Camp Neyati are highlights of the camp experience!

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Center Hosts Three Family Camps

With financial support from the **Midland Kiwanis Foundation**, WMFC hosted three family camps at **Camp Neyati**. Camp dates were June 19-21, July 18-20 and July 20-22. A total of 40 families participated in the three camps.

"Family camps are a great opportunity for our families to get away together and do activities that they normally wouldn't do," explained **Renee Young, WMFC Family Services Director**.

Activities that the staff members plan during family camp are centered on three goals:

1. Providing the family opportunities to work together to create different projects.

2. Providing the opportunity for families to make memories that they will cherish for years to come.

3. Providing families with opportunities for quality family time.

Family camp was a jam-packed, action filled experience this summer. Families participated in a number of activities including crafts, pool noodle challenges, family sailboat building and racing, boating, swimming, a pool obstacle course and fishing. "One of the highlights this summer was the fish that the kids caught," explained **Sheleigh Nicolai, WMFC Family Liaison**, "two of the kids each caught an 18 inch Largemouth Bass!"

Is it worthwhile to host these camps? Does it

really make a difference in the lives of those we serve? In a thank-you note, one parent wrote: "Thank you so very much for the opportunity to participate in Camp Neyati. It was very obvious how much time and effort goes into creating a memorable time for families, and that is what you have done. Everything was free, we received prizes, meals and got to participate in family-oriented activities. We all had a great time and will keep the memories forever!"



Campfires and smores are favorite WMFC Family Camp Neyati memories!