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RCSD Students Learn Science Lessons Aboard the *Riverie* Tour Boat on the Genesee River

Who:

Students from Roberto Clemente School No. 8

What:

Students learn science lessons aboard the *Riverie* tour boat on the Genesee River

When:

Friday, June 14, 2024, 11:30 a.m.

Where:

The banks of the Genesee River
280 Exchange Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14608

Details:

On Friday, June 14, students from Roberto Clemente School No. 8 will be boarding the *Riverie*, Corn Hill Navigation’s tour boat on the Genesee River to learn about environmental science and assess the health of the Genesee River.

When these 5th grade students board the boat, they will work in collaboration with student instructors from the Rochester Institute of Technology, the University of Rochester, and St. John Fisher University to do water quality/chemistry science measurements. Over the course of a 90-minute boat ride, students will rotate between three workstations, studying the biological, chemical, and physical characteristics of water.

The opportunity to study the Genesee River has been made possible through the generosity of the Rochester Education Foundation’s (REF) Smile Program, which supports K – 6 schools throughout the District. The Smile Program, created by local philanthropist Dave Beck, funds field trips and experiences that deliver a well-rounded education and put smiles on students’ faces. Through the Smile Program, students have studied inside a 40-foot replica of a life-sized whale, learned about the operation of a hot air balloon, and taken a simulated trip to Mars.

Since May 20, students from Clara Barton School No. 2, George Mather Forbes School No. 4, Virgil I. Grissom School No. 7, Anna Murray-Douglass Academy School No. 12, Enrico Fermi School No. 17, Francis Parker School No. 23, Nathaniel Hawthorne School No. 25, Adlai E. Stevenson School No. 29, Pinnacle School No. 35, Montessori Academy School No. 53, and The Flower City School No. 54 have participated in these boat tours. By Thursday, June 20, students from three additional schools, Roberto Clemente School No. 8, Abelard Reynolds School No. 42, and Rochester International Academy, will have participated in these boat tours. In all, more than 1,500 students will have gone on a total of 72 cruises this school year. For many students, it is their first time on a boat.

Corn Hill Waterfront & Navigation Foundation is the 501(c)3 nonprofit operator of the Sam Patch and Riverie Tour Boats with the mission of fostering the improvement and sustainability of the Erie Canal and Genesee River through education, awareness, and enjoyment. The organization engages people of all ages and backgrounds in on-the-water learning experiences, utilizing our region's waterways to make a number of subject areas come to life, including history and culture, the arts, science and technology, and the environment.

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