



Fun time: Going to the Rouge was worth the trip for Longacre students, teachers and parent chaperones. Here, Joseph Lucas (far left), Keyara Taylor (front), chaperone Kevin Angerstein (second from right) and Samyuktha Balabhadra (far right) discuss their observations.

Learning's fun at Rouge



Ramblin' kids: In photo above left, Longacre Elementary School pupils (from left) Linnea Anderson, Andrew Saari, Thomas Hamilton, Jordan Weinger and Cissy Zhou enjoy the recent River Rouge Ramble at Shiawassee Park in Farmington were. Above right, second graders Michael Ferriss (left) and Yelena Lesnek collect water.

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The Rouge River runs through Shiawassee Park. And Longacre Elementary School second graders want to learn more about what's in and around it.

Through a pilot program called the "River Rouge Ramble," youngsters in the classrooms of Longacre second grade teachers Patti Lindstrom and Gerrie Pugh recently went down to the winding tributary's edge. They collected water and soil samples, probably to be used for further in-school analysis and discussion.

"With the Rouge River right in our back yard," said Andrea Ferris, one of 13 parent chaperones, "it was a great opportunity to learn about soil, flow of the river and land formations."

Students prepared for the field trip by watching a videotape and taking a pre-test, Lindstrom explained. They also followed the excursion with a test.

"They loved it," said Lindstrom, about the visit. "They enjoyed being outdoors. They enjoyed just exploring the river, really."

Lindstrom said the "River Rouge Ramble" might become a permanent part of the second grade science curriculum, at least at Longacre.

"Hands-on activities are excellent for children at this age level," the teacher explained, adding that youngsters also did plenty of observing with their eyes, too.

"They did some leaf-dropping from a bridge ... to watch how they float down the river," Lindstrom said. "To see if (a leaf) sunk or swirled."

Students didn't just take water samples from the Rouge, they took the river's temperature — both in deep and shallow water. The water was found to be clear and cool at about 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Longacre's science consultant, Carol Hochlinski, also played a role in the exploratory project, which enabled a closer glimpse at how the river plays a part in the erosion of nearby soil.



Go with the flow: Above, (from left) Longacre students Tara Keefner, Matt Kress, Alana Bator and Graham Morrison peer into the water to see which direction the leaves go. The second-grade students are in the classroom of teacher Gerrie Pugh. Left, students looked to see how the Rouge affects nearby soil.

MEDICAL BRIEFS

Urgent care

The urgent care center at Henry Ford Medical Centers in Plymouth and Canton are open and can admit patients to St. Mary Hospital, Livonia; St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor; and Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit. The Plymouth UC is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends (14300 Beck Road). Canton's Urgent Care is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday only (6100 Haggerty Road).

Hatha yoga

Ongoing drop-in Hatha Yoga is offered to relieve stress and improve shape. Wear loose clothing and bring beach towel, yoga mat and a bottle of water. Suitable for all ability levels. Mondays from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, 9:30-11 a.m. at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Rd., Plymouth. No registration required. \$12 a session, \$50 for 5 or more sessions.

La Leche support

La Leche League of Livonia meets monthly for breastfeeding support and information. Babies and children are always wel-

come. Please call for location and/or additional information. Theresa (734) 261-6814, Vicki (313) 937-3011, or Michelle (734) 591-7071.

Hot flash study

Women with a history of breast cancer or who are concerned about taking hormone replacement therapy and have bothersome hot flashes can participate in a research study at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital-Ann Arbor that will help determine whether a low-dose anti-depressant may be effective in reducing or eliminating hot flashes. For information about this study or other cancer treatment and prevention trials, call (734) 712-5558.

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