

Great News

Our mission: to stimulate learning through creativity, play, and exploration.

There's GREAT STUFF in the Gift Shop!

The Great Stuff Gift Shop has just received a shipment of awesome toys and goodies. Find gooey oozes, putties, and slimes of all kinds, toys that make noise, and building kits for planes and cars. New science toys include Ein-O science kits, Newton's Cradles, and gyroscopes. You can even watch plants grow with our Rootview Farms! We also have a bountiful bunch of bouncing balls: Wizard Balls that glow with misty light; Spring Balls that uncoil and light up when they bounce; and Galaxy Balls that can bounce up to 50 feet! A favorite toy from last summer is back! The Zibbie stuffed animals with their trademark stretchy hair are ready to go home with you! With a variety of animals to choose from, we've got a Zibbie that's just right for everyone. Last but not least...we have "I survived the Touch Tunnel" T-shirts, lighted miner helmets, and flashlights that can be used in the Tunnel. Other fantastic toys will be added to our Great Stuff collection all summer long! Come in and check it out!

**GET YOUR
ZIBBIE PAL
TODAY!**



Summer Camp's Almost Here!

We're gearing up for summer at Great Explorations! Old Northeast's **Patch.com** listed us as one of the Top 5 summer camps in St. Petersburg!

If you were planning on signing up for camp, don't hesitate! Spaces are going fast and some of our camp weeks are already more than half full. The camp staff is incredibly excited to deliver the best summer ever so register today!



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

- May 21** Out of this World: Space
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- June 18** Digging Dinos
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- June 25** Art Studio Opening
10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- July 16** Pirates of Exploration
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

RAYMOND JAMES

SPONSORS THEATER

Great Explorations is deeply grateful to Mr. Tom James and Raymond James Financial, Inc. for joining our corporate sponsors by reserving the naming rights to the Explorations Theater. This exhibit is the staging area in the permanent gallery that is used for daily, interactive group demonstrations ranging from science to music, as well as puppet shows, camp theater performances, and other educational programming. Located at the rear of the Museum, this area will be enhanced over the summer and be officially named the Raymond James Explorations Theater. Thank you, Raymond James!

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, contact the Development Office (727)821-8992 ext 209.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

From the end of December 2010 until April 2011, the Board of Trustees successfully completed a \$100,000 matching gift campaign, Challenge 2011. For the first time, trustees held a phonathon to reconnect with friends and supporters as part of this effort. Generous donor contributions also helped us reach this outstanding achievement.

Many thanks go to those who participated. You gave such a wonderful start to our 25th Anniversary year! To make your tax-deductible donation, contact the Development Office (727) 821-8992 ext 209 or visit our Web site and donate online.

TOUCH TUNNEL: THE NEXT GENERATION

Great Explorations Children's Museum celebrated the grand opening of its newest exhibit with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, April 2. "Since 1987, guests have continually voted the Touch Tunnel as a favorite exhibit at Great Explorations," said Executive Director Alan Kahle.

"Touch Tunnel: The New Generation" provides an immersive experience that heightens senses of touch and hearing. Tactile shapes and surfaces, a layout with twists, turns, inclines, and a rope ladder give the added elements of fun and surprise. Entering the Tunnel, explorers navigate their way using their hands to "see."

Saturday's opening was attended by Museum trustee Scott Wagman, chair emerita Beth Houghton, with son Eric Wagman officially opening the exhibit. "This is one of my best childhood memories," said Wagman. "Rays baseball, the Chattaway, and the Touch Tunnel are what I remember from growing up in St. Petersburg. I am glad we can share this Tunnel with another generation of children."

The exhibit is open to the public at the following times during regular Museum hours: 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Admission is \$1.00 with a paid Museum admission and can also be included in field trip reservations. For more information, contact (727) 821-8992 ext 233.



SILVER CELEBRATION



Twenty-five years ago, a group of community leaders and organizations, to include Hands On! Inc. and the Junior League of St. Petersburg, joined together to celebrate the founding of a children's museum to serve the Tampa Bay area. Today, Great Explorations continues to serve families with interactive exhibits, educational programs, and community outreach for more than 220,000 guests and participants.

To celebrate our anniversary, we will enjoy a special dinner, music, and live and silent auctions at our annual fundraiser, Great Extravaganza 2011 in November. This year's theme is a silver celebration with ties to the Silver Screen, so watch for details and invitations to come. To join the volunteer committee, donate auction items, or reserve tickets or sponsorships, contact Director of Development Daryl DeBerry at ddeberry@greatex.org or (727) 821-8992, ext. 209.

Meet Davion!



How can you resist a smile like this?

Davion is bubbling over with personality and has a wonderful sense of humor. He would love to have an active family with lots of brothers and sisters. Davion says he is "honest, kind and caring" and wants you to know that he has waited a long time for a "forever family". Like most all teenagers, he loves to play video games. Basketball and football are his favorite sports. When you spend a few moments with Davion he will proudly tell you about the scary time when he was seven years old and saved a kid from drowning! He aspires to be a policeman when he grows up. Sounds like a perfect job for someone who has already rescued a child! Take some time to visit our website and get to know this delightful young man.

To learn more about Davion visit
www.heartgallerykids.org

Zoe's Edible Garden

One of the Museum's Preschool families, Mr. Tyson and Sommer Grant, suffered a terrible loss in 2009 when one of their children, Zoe, passed away due to an undetected heart defect. Since then, the Grants have made it their mission to commemorate Zoe's life: they dedicated a room in the Baby Place at All Children's Hospital and created Zoe's Edible Garden, also on hospital grounds. The Garden provides the hospital with organic ingredients to use in daily meals, and the space offers young patients the opportunity to play outdoors and learn the importance of healthy eating.

The Staff and Board of Great Explorations are supporting the Grants' efforts by volunteering at the All Children's Telethon on Sunday, June 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In addition to volunteering, we are also raising money for the event through selling butterflies crafted by the Preschool, and offering sponsor spots on our Telethon T-shirts to local businesses. If you would like to volunteer at the event or are interested in a sponsor spot, please contact Rachael McCaffrey at 727-821-8992 ext 215.

Meet the new Museum Exploration Guides!

We are pleased to introduce our new **Exploration Guides**! They ensure our guests have a great time, and help them learn a little something too. You will see them conducting science experiments, dancing, playing music, and many other wacky things! Ask one of our Exploration Guides to show you something cool and you'll never know what they might have up their sleeve, or in their pocket!

Mr. Bill has been with the Museum for six years. He loves to entertain our guests and make them smile. Mr. Bill enjoys exploring the outdoors and giving back to his community. He's also a proud Eagle Scout.

Mr. Vaughn has been at the Museum for a year. He has a background in science education, and loves teaching kids. Mr. Vaughn's favorite experiment is the Whoosh Bottle, come check it out!

Mr. Thomas has been with the Museum for almost two years. He started with our AmeriCorps program and has stayed on for his love of puppet shows and dance time. Mr. Thomas will be attending a very special wedding in September – his own!

Mr. Larry has been with the Museum for 19 years. He has a background in theater, is a master story teller, and can count to 5 in Swahili! We commonly refer to him as the bubble master.



Top to Bottom:
Bill, Vaughn, Thomas,
and Larry

We Make a Difference...

My name is Jason Minnis and I'm an application developer based in Brooklyn, NY. I was born and raised in south St. Pete and your museum was very important to my development as a kid. Growing up my mom used to drop me off for the sleep overs and other museum events every 2 weeks. I was always amazed at all the scientific experiments that you guys had. G.E. was one of the few places where I could let my guard down and truly be a "nerd". I can trace my interest in science and technology to my visits at Great Explorations. I still have some of the old toys from the gift shop. I just wanted to drop by and say keep up the good work. Thanks for helping me achieve my goals.

Celebrate your Birthday Party with Us!

Every weekend the Museum welcomes groups of excited party-goers coming to celebrate a lucky child's birthday. Our energetic Birthday Hosts thoroughly enjoy making every child's birthday a memorable experience. One of our best and most popular birthday party packages is called ***Birthday With the Trimmings***. This package includes Museum admission for 24 guests and a private party room for an hour. It also comes equipped with plates, cups, cutlery, napkins, and tablecloths in two of your chosen colors. In addition, the ***BWT*** offers one private game, craft, or interactive show presented by either the Birthday Host or one of our Exploration Guides. Guests can also add a Touch Tunnel play package to a ***DIY (Do-It-Yourself)*** party, or it can replace the game, craft, or show in a ***BWT*** party. Birthday guests will have private access to the Touch Tunnel for a full half hour. Other birthday packages include Basic Themes such as dinosaurs or princesses, and Premium Themes for animated characters and movies such as Spider-Man or Toy Story. Ask a Gift Shop associate for more information today!



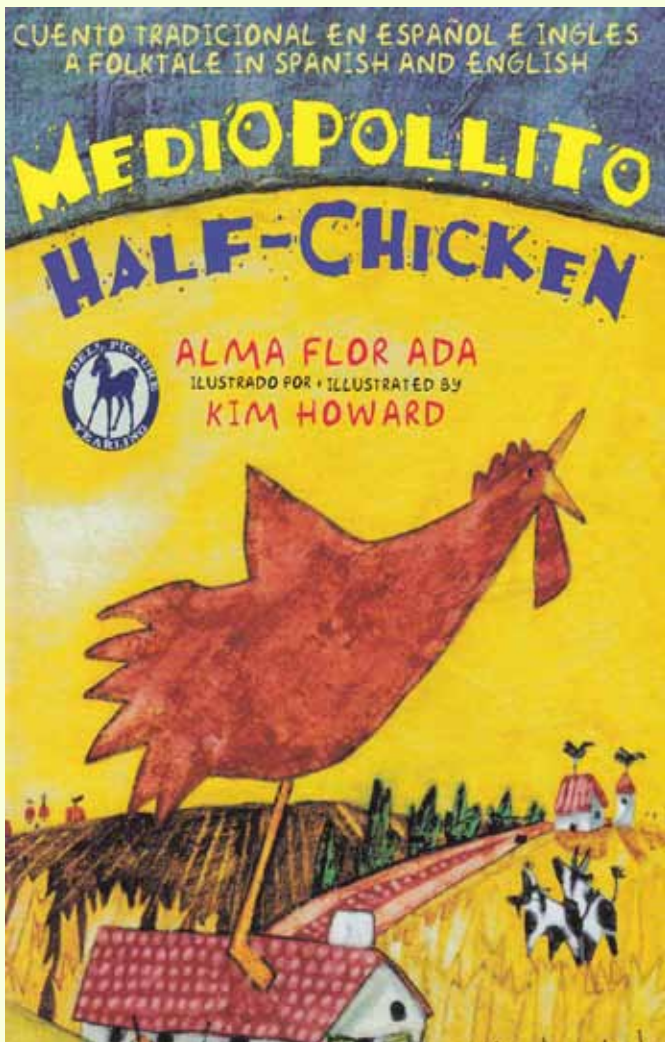
Kate and the Twin Harps

The Laser Harp has recently returned to the Gallery Floor after several repairs. This innovative exhibit features technology that plays music with no strings – instead, there are light beams that make sounds when you move your fingers through them.

Featured in the image is Kate, a harpist whose harp is almost identical to our Laser Harp. During one of her recent visits she performed several beautiful songs. Guests were welcome to “perform” alongside her as they “strummed” the Laser Harp’s light beams.



Celebrating Folktales of the World



A long, long time ago, on a Mexican ranch, a mother hen was sitting on her eggs. One by one, the baby chicks began to hatch, leaving their empty shells behind. One, two, three, four ... twelve chicks had hatched. But the last egg still had not cracked open.

The hen did not know what to do. The chicks were running here and there, and she could not chase after them because she was still sitting on the last egg.

Finally there was a tiny sound. The baby chick was pecking at its egg from the inside. The hen quickly helped it break open the shell and at last the 13th chick came out into the world.

Yet this was no ordinary chick. He had only one wing, only one leg, only one eye, and only half as many feathers as the other chicks.

It was not long before everyone at the ranch knew that a very special chick had been born.

The ducks told the turkeys. The turkeys told the pigeons. The pigeons told the swallows. And the swallows flew over the fields, spreading the news to the cows grazing peacefully with their calves, the fierce bulls, and the swift horses.

Soon the hen was surrounded by animals who wanted to see the strange chick.

One of the ducks said, "But he only has one wing!" And one of the turkeys added, "Why, he's only a ... half-chicken!"

From then on, everyone called him Half-Chicken. And Half-Chicken, finding himself at the center of all this attention, became very vain.

One day he overheard the swallows, who traveled a great deal, talking about him: "Not even at the court of the viceroy in Mexico City is there anyone so unique." Then Half-Chicken decided that it was time for him to leave the ranch. Early one morning, he said his farewells, announcing:

"Good-bye, good-bye! I'm off to Mexico City to see the court of the viceroy!" And hip hop hip hop, off he went, hippety-hopping along on his only foot.

Half-Chicken had not walked very far when he found a stream whose waters were blocked by some branches.

"Good morning, Half-Chicken. Would you please move the branches that are blocking my way?" asked the stream.

Half-Chicken moved the branches aside. But when the stream suggested that he stay awhile and take a swim, he answered:

"I have no time to lose. I'm off to Mexico City to see the court of the viceroy!" And hip hop hip hop, off he went, hippety-hopping along on his only foot.

continued on the next page...

A little while later, Half-Chicken found a small fire burning between some rocks. The fire was almost out. "Good morning, Half-Chicken. Please, fan me a little with your wing, for I am about to go out," asked the fire.

Half-Chicken fanned the fire with his wing, and it blazed up again. But when the fire suggested that he stay awhile and warm up, he answered:

"I have no time to lose. I'm off to Mexico City to see the court of the viceroy!" And hip hop hip hop, off he went, hippety-hopping along on his only foot. After he had walked a little farther, Half-Chicken found the wind tangled in some bushes.

"Good morning, Half-Chicken. Would you please untangle me, so that I can go on my way?" asked the wind.

Half-Chicken untangled the branches. But when the wind suggested that he stay and play, and offered to help him fly here and there like a dry leaf, he answered:

"I have no time to lose. I'm off to Mexico City to see the court of the viceroy!" And hip hop hip hop, off he went, hippety-hopping along on his only foot. At last he reached Mexico City.

Half-Chicken crossed the enormous Great Plaza. He passed the stalls laden with meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, cheese, and honey. He passed the Parian, the market where all kinds of beautiful goods were sold. Finally, he reached the gate of the viceroy's palace.

"Good afternoon," said Half-Chicken to the guards in fancy uniforms who stood in front of the palace. "I've come to see the viceroy."

One of the guards began to laugh. The other one said, "You'd better go in around the back and through the kitchen." So Half-Chicken went hip hop hip hop around the palace and to the kitchen door. The cook who saw him said, "What luck! This chicken is just what I need to make a soup for the vicereine." And he threw Half-

Chicken into a kettle of water that was sitting on the fire. When Half-Chicken felt how hot the water was, he said, "Oh, fire, help me! Please, don't burn me!"

The fire answered, "You helped me when I needed help. Now it's my turn to help you. Ask the water to jump on me and put me out."

Then Half-Chicken asked the water, "Oh, water, help me! Please jump on the fire and put him out, so he won't burn me."

And the water answered, "You helped me when I needed help. Now it's my turn to help you." And he jumped on the fire and put him out.

When the cook returned, he saw that the water had spilled and the fire was out.

"This chicken has been more trouble than he's worth!" exclaimed the cook. "Besides, one of the ladies-in-waiting just told me that the vicereine doesn't want any soup. She wants to eat nothing but salad." And he picked Half-Chicken up by his only leg and flung him out the window.

When Half-Chicken was tumbling through the air, he called out: "Oh, wind, help me, please!"

And the wind answered, "You helped me when I needed help. Now it's my turn to help you."

And the wind blew fiercely. He lifted Half-Chicken higher and higher, until the little rooster landed on one of the towers of the palace.

"From there you can see everything you want, Half-Chicken, with no danger of ending up in the cooking pot."

And from that day on, weathercocks have stood on their only leg, seeing everything that happens below, and pointing whichever way their friend the wind blows.

THE END

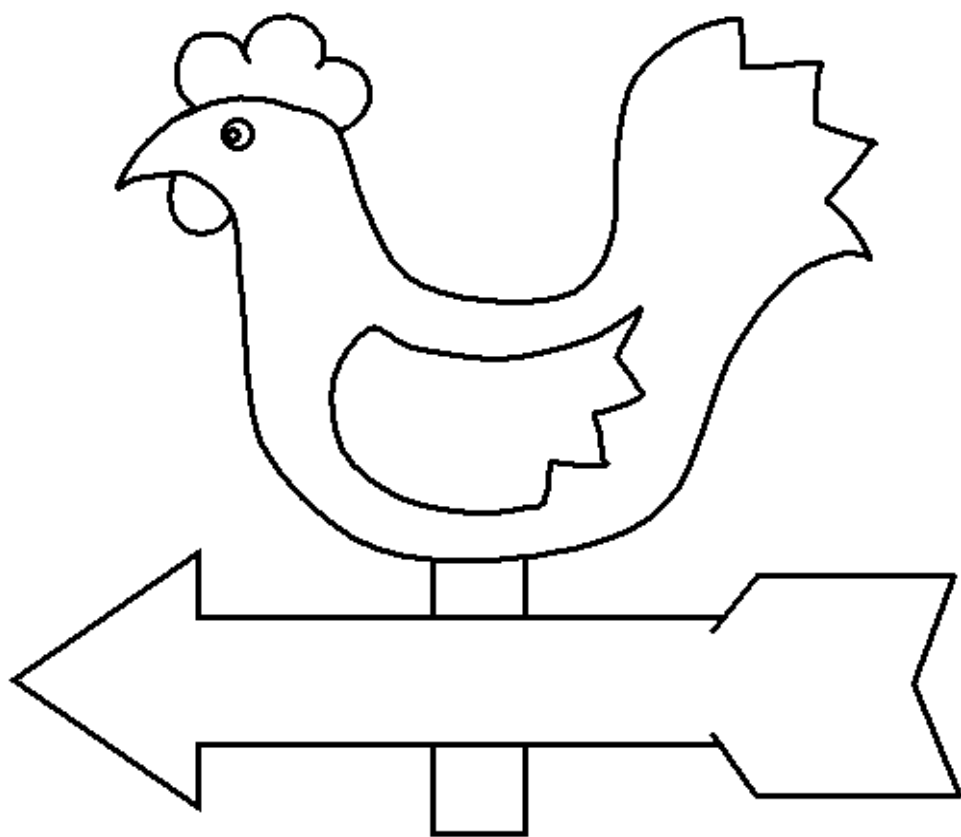


The Weather-Vane

by Evaleen Stein

Turn, turn, when pelting rain
Rushes down the window-pane;
Turn, turn, and turn again
When the sun shines, weather-vane!

Fie! Fie! to always be
Emblem of uncertainty!
Followed by the restless sea,
Changeful moons may wax and wane,
Yet the moons and sea-tides, too,
Constant are compared to you!
Fickle still you must remain
Long as winds blow, weather-vane!



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727-821-8992 x205 akahle@greatex.org

Daryl DeBerry, Development Director
727-821-8992 x209 ddeberry@greatex.org

Rachael McCaffrey, Interim Preschool Director
727-821-8992 x215 rmccaffrey@greatex.org

Shelly Lee, Director of Operations
727-821-8992 x214 slee@greatex.org

Christina Castellana, Grants Manager
727-821-8992 x225 ccastellana@greatex.org

Hannah Blythe, Education Coordinator
727-821-8992 x221 hdahm@greatex.org

Larry Venson, Education Guide
727-821-8992 x224 lvenson@greatex.org

Laurel McComb, Finance Manager
727-821-8992 x228 lmccomb@greatex.org

Marthanne Gillen, Membership & Scheduling Coordinator
727-821-8992 x233 mgillen@greatex.org

Nicole Morelli, Exhibit Manager
727-821-8992 x203 nmorelli@greatex.org



1925 Fourth St. North
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Hours of Operation:
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www.greatex.org

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