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“PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 1000th SCIENCESTRONG CLASS VISIT”

The Institute’s ScienceStrong Program Brings Science and Nature into Barry County Classrooms

Hastings, MI – Education Director Sara Syswerda marked the 1,000th class visit of her ScienceStrong programming with a preschool teacher training program on Friday, March 6.

Promoting science education is a fundamental component of Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. To build this effort, the Institute launched ScienceStrong in the fall of 2014 with a specific goal in mind: to improve science literacy among area preschool through high school students by providing resources for teachers and expanding learning opportunities for students.

Programming for teachers and students includes field-based learning experiences and opportunities such as students exploring the pumpkin life cycle, the five senses, learning about what animals do during Michigan winters, animal habitats and life requirements, and much more.

According to Syswerda the program opens students’ eyes to the wonder of nature.

“For many students, the program allows them to go outside for a hike, hear a barred owl, go snow shoeing, or see a tadpole for the first time in their lives.”

Syswerda feels the program has been a game changer for the schools in Barry County.

“For many classes who come to the Institute for field trips, we are one of a few learning opportunities they have outside of the classroom,” said Syswerda. “Being able to have supporters who allow us to provide free programs to the schools ensures that all students have the opportunity to learn about science and the environment, regardless of their ability to pay.”

Later this year, the program will reach 30,000 student contacts but during the month of March, the Hastings Public Library has a display marking the 1000th class visit of the ScienceStrong program.

“I want to thank our team of staff and volunteers at the Institute who have helped with so many programs,” said Syswerda. “We could not do this without the entire team working together.”