



Madison Children's Museum
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PRESS RELEASE

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Madison Children's Museum, School District Team Up for Monumental Local History Project

MADISON, Wis (September 23, 2009) — Madison Children's Museum, in cooperation with the Madison Metropolitan School District, is rolling out a new program called "Local Treasures," which introduces kids — third-graders, in particular — to local history.

The school district is incorporating the local history element into its curriculum beginning this fall. A key component of the project is the installation of an 1830s log cabin that was discovered accidentally on Walworth County property donated to the Nature Conservancy when a crew was tearing down a house on the property. The cabin has been donated to be rebuilt alongside the new Madison Children's Museum, which will open at 100 N. Hamilton St. next August.

The kickoff event for Local Treasures is Thursday, Sept. 24, at 11:45 a.m. beginning at the Wisconsin Historical Museum. Here, MMSD students will get an overview of the collaborative project, then at about 12:40 will be split into three groups to begin a rotation through three experiences: a "Thinking Like A Historian" exercise inside the Historical Museum with Beth Lemke and Bobbie Malone; an imaginative walking tour around the Capitol with Ho-Chunk Education Director Forrest Funmaker; and a visit to the Children's Museum's new museum site, where students will see the framework and early stage of construction on the cabin, made of white oak and chinked with clay and hair. Historic restoration specialist Damian Slaske, who has worked at Old World Wisconsin and has restored dozens of similar structures, will talk about the cabin and how students will be involved in restoring it to its glory.

John Robinson, the museum's exhibits developer, says the cabin foundation is in place and should be quite recognizable as a cabin in progress by Thursday.

The cabin is just one component of Local Treasures. In time, the project will evolve with new exhibits that range in nature from geology to culture.

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