

Bringing Knowledge to Life in

St. Clair County

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Families learn, grow "From Day One"

St. Clair County MSU Extension partnered with the Economic Opportunity Committee of St. Clair County to provide early childhood programming to families in the East China School District.

The program, called "From Day One," provided parents of children from newborn to age 5 with tools to help their youngsters reach appropriate developmental milestones. The program was available at no cost to all families in the East China School District. The program featured:

- Individualized family visits
- Children's playgroups
- Parent workshops
- Educational speakers
- Developmental milestone screening
- Resource and toy lending library
- Community support services

Two MSU Extension educators made more than 50 home visits and sponsored 23 playgroups. On June 20, the program concluded with a celebration that was attended by about 150 parents and children. Activities included car seat checks, educational games, train rides and a puppet show.

Families learn to make learning fun "From Day One."



4-H members participate in visual letter exchange with China

MSU Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program has been involved with the Children's Art Exchange to China since 1991 in partnership with the city of Binzhou (pronounced Bin Joe), of the Shandong Province.

Shandong is in the eastern part of China and overlooks the Korean Peninsula. With a history of more than 5000 years, it is considered to be one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilization.

Students in after-school programs at Woodrow Wilson, Roosevelt, and Harrison elementary schools had an opportunity to learn about China and draw pictures that communicated something important in their lives, such as friends, family, pets, home, school, sports and holidays. These "visual letter" offer the children a way to communicate with their peers in China that overcomes the language barrier.

Of the hundreds of pictures that were drawn by 4-Hers from across Michigan, about 60 were selected to be sent to China as part of an art exchange.

Four of the visual letters were created by St. Clair County youths. They are Soraya Fernandez and Marques Wheeler from Roosevelt, Daniel Melbourne from Harrison, and Jacob Murphy from Woodrow Wilson Elementary School.

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Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities. Offices in counties across the state link the research of the land-grant university, MSU, to challenges facing communities. Citizens serving on county Extension councils regularly help select focus areas for programming. MSU Extension is funded jointly by county boards of commissioners, the state through Michigan State University and federally through the US Department of Agriculture.



Kids learn sportsmanship, safety “From the Forest to the Table”

Hunting has become a popular pastime among many Michigan residents for generations, though the finer points of field dressing and butchering, gun safety and food safety are often passed down from parent to child.

To help young hunters learn how to safely dress and handle meat, handle firearms and explore hunting etiquette, MSU Extension offered a workshop called “From the Forest to the Table.”

The program included ethics and sportsmanship, shot placement, tracking and camp cooking. Hands-on learning activities focused on archery, shotgun and muzzle-loading stations with certified shooting sports 4-H leaders to guide them, were well attended.

MDNR conservation officer Ben Lasher shared the basic rules of hunting safety and conservation.

“Have fun within the boundaries of the law,” he said.

Lasher told the MSU Extension staff members who helped organize the program, “This was a very good program. Our hunter safety classes are rarely able to go into as much detail as this workshop. I’ve told upwards of 1,000 people over the weekend, what a great program you put on.”



Conservation officer Ben Lasher, right, leads a discussion of white tailed deer hunting.

Committee members provided a wild game meal for participants, including deer, turkey, pheasant and rabbit.

“Let me begin with a warm and grateful thank you for all the work the committee did to put together this workshop,” one participant said. “My children loved the activities, even little Joey, who is four-and-a-half. Personally, I think I had a better time than the kids. The workshop reminded me of just how much I didn’t know and need to continue to learn and sharpen my skills with the activities outdoors.”

“Every aspect of the event was so very well planned and handled,” said 4-H parent Marvin Redlawski. “Please let us know how we can help next year and thank you again for all 4-H does for our children.”

More than 100 youths, parents and leaders attended this workshop hosted by MSU Extension 4-H program staff members, the 4-Square Sportsman Club and a committee of 4-H Shooting Sports leaders.

“This is our first year with 4-H and 4-Square sharing in this very special day”, Lori Warchuck, 4-H program assistant noted. “It is our hope to be back next year with even more young people and families sharing in the experience of wildlife and conservation at its best.”



Luke Redlawski watches a demonstration on dressing a pheasant.