

Monthly Report

February 2023

Summary

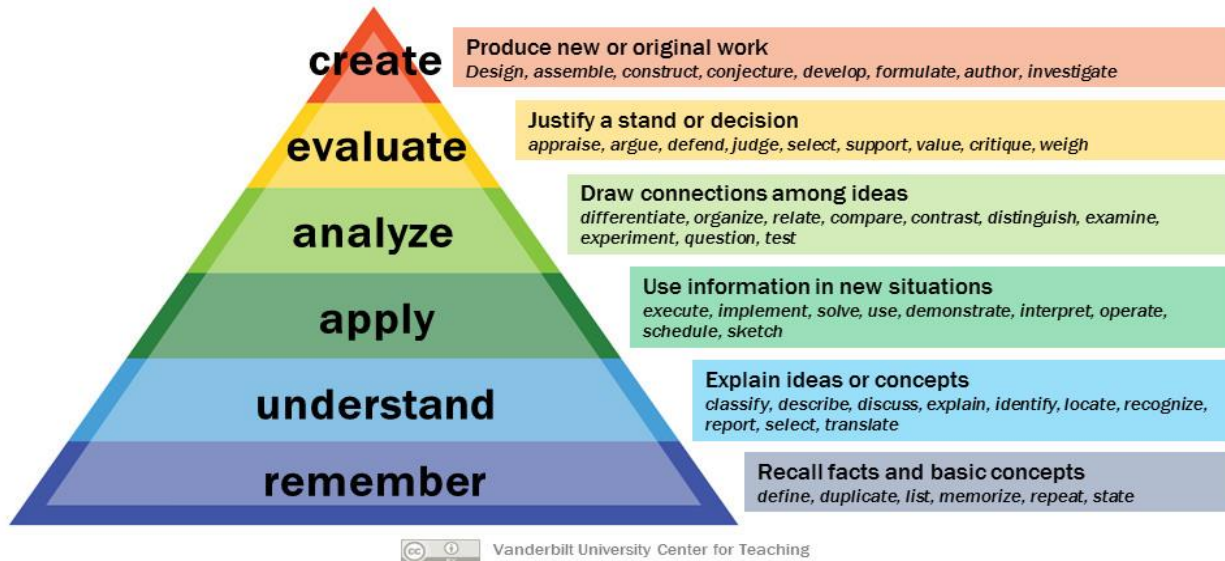
The planetarium ran smoothly throughout February, with relatively small but stable attendance numbers and only a couple of field trips. The work to make things run smoothly was intense though.

I was assisted by my volunteer this month while on vacation, having her run a Saturday without me needing to be present in the museum, which is a good step towards making the planetarium more self-sufficient. In more volunteer related news, I was contacted by a PhD post doc Dr. Kristen Dage, who specializes in black holes and star clusters and will occasionally be in the area, she has said that they want to help out at the planetarium, especially in her own specialized field, just as she did while at Michigan State. Dr. Dage mentioned that she will be continuing her studies over the summer, but we should be able to tap her for assistance in the planetarium, and ideally, have her help develop or present content for Beyond the Stars or other similar events.

Field Trips: While there was only one field trip that went through in February (due to snow days) it was still a bit of a stressful endeavor to prepare for. The main source of my stress was preparing and creating content for the history and geology segments for these fieldtrips. At the start of the month, I knew very little about Alpena's history and geology, having only briefly read up on the subjects, and as a result, I felt as if it was imperative that gain enough information to properly teach the subjects to any groups who might want such information for their field trips or gatherings. In order to reach this level of comprehension with the two topics, I had to not only immerse myself in the topic, but quickly master the subjects enough to teach and create materials/ guides for said topics. If we look at Bloom's Taxonomy specifically, we can see the difficulty involved with this, because being able to create content on a topic lies at the top of the pyramid of understanding. This means for two different subjects, I was essentially required to master these topics in only a couple weeks' time, after previously know very little about them. I did this so that I could ensure that the students coming through were receiving the proper information.

Beyond The Stars:

Bloom's Taxonomy

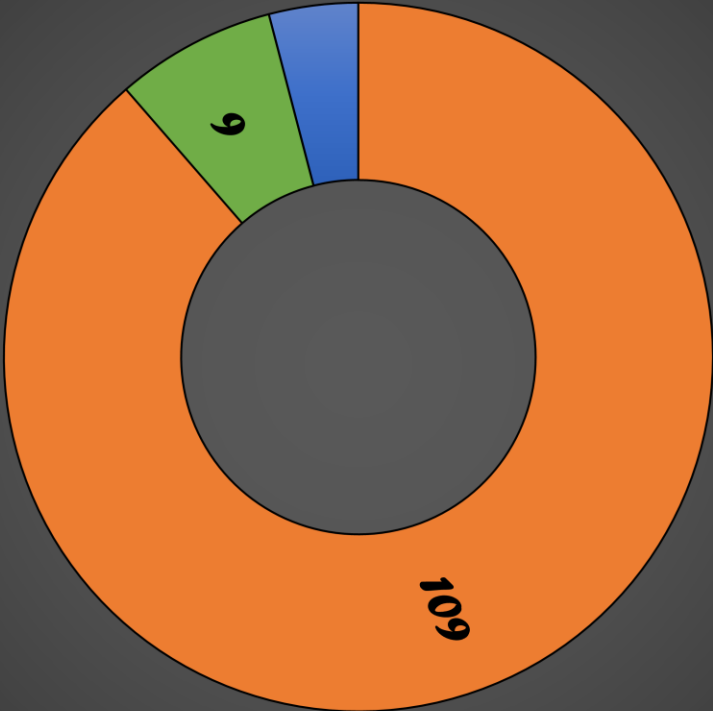


This issue was further strained by my need to do something similar for Beyond the Stars, which was taking place on the same day. Thankfully, there were previous materials for the Geology that Judy Dawley had already created, and Chris, having taught the subject before, was able to instruct our talented volunteer on how to properly engage the kids with this subject. I'm thankful for the help I received from the other museum staff and volunteers, but the whole ordeal was stressful and difficult.

Beyond The Stars: Beyond the stars for February was a subject near and dear to my heart, which made me want to go above and beyond with my show that month. Due to the time constraint of the show I only managed to get through about half the content that I had prepared, which will allow me to carry the material I didn't use for February's show, on into March's program. During the actual show, we had about 20 people show up for the event, but a few had to be turned away due to showing up late, which has inspired me to include information about the time that doors open to the event. Overall, the event went well though, I think it was one of my best performances yet, and even though we went for over an hour, people showed no signs of wanting to wrap things up.

General Attendance: In total there were 123 guests that showed to the planetarium in February, which seems a little high for what is normally such a slow month. It almost feels like more people are coming to the planetarium lately, but it could be any number of factors that have caused this development, so I'll keep my eyes on attendance for the time being and keep everyone up to date as the months go on.

Attendance



Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

