

Title:
Tale of a Comet

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Abstract:
Anticipating a potential celestial spectacle, our community celebrated the unique sungrazing Comet ISON with all-school assemblies, art exhibits, music events, guest speakers, planetarium shows, a scavenger hunt, viewing with telescopes, social media, lots of dry ice comets, and more. The South Bend Community School Corporation embraced the comet's approach yet recognized science doesn't have preordained outcomes and that the comet may not survive perihelion. Details at www.cometfestival.com

Body of poster:

[bueter-marquee] The Comet Festival in South Bend, IN, celebrated the sungrazing Comet ISON as an opportunity to watch nature unfold and to embrace the uncertainty of science. Though Comet ISON neither survived its encounter with the sun nor put on a visual spectacle, the community shared a collective experience.

Website and social media conveyed the schedule, images, latest news, links, original content, and supporters. More than 70 brief articles are at cometfestival.com. Other media included Twitter, Google+ Hangouts, and a Facebook Group.

[Image: bueter-zoo] Businesses and local institutions created their own angle on the story, from Comet Coma Coffee to Tail End at the Zoo. Signs at the zoo juxtapose tails of animals with tails of comets.

[Image: bueter-dryice] We made over 100 dry ice comets in libraries, all-school assemblies, and special events. The engaging demonstration is a favorite activity that is consistently well-received. Teachers who made comets show off their handiwork at an assembly.

[Image: bueter-art] Thousands of students and dozens of adults created original art. The diverse collection reflects how people think and act innovatively in response to nature's splendor and mystery. The NASA Comet ISON Observing Campaign recognized the South Bend student art collection as its Image of the Week.

[Image: bueter-starlab] Under the dome, visitors could practice finding the starfield where a faint comet would emerge, if at all. In a portable planetarium, a teacher uses a desktop fan to learn how a comet's tail will blow outward in the solar wind.

And the comet went *Poof!*

Events

- Ignite Michiana intermission [video](#)
- Tail End of the Season at Potawatomi Zoo
- [Rare Comet Books Exhibit](#)
- [All-school assemblies](#) in about 30 SBCSC schools
- About 100 [dry ice comets](#), including at
 - Astrofest at Kennedy School
 - St. Vincent de Paul
 - ScienceAlive!
 - Meadows Edge Night
 - SBCSC teacher workshops
 - SBCSC school assemblies
 - St. Pius X Catholic School
 - [YMCA AstroCamp](#)
 - Notre Dame *Sensing the Cosmos* Summer Camp
 - Cleveland Astronomical Society
 - AOI Sorority, Grand Valley State University
 - Prairie Vista University
 - ND Forum VI
 - Andrews University
 - [Experience Michiana](#)
 - Boys & Girls Club of South Bend
- Presentations and demos
 - South Bend Science Cafe
 - Kiwanis of South Bend
 - Annual Michiana Star Party
 - SBCSC Truck Pull and Community Faire
 - EXPO with Michiana Science and Technology Center Inc.
 - National College-South Bend
 - SBCSC Board Meeting
 - Prairie Vista Fifth Grade Camp
- Comet Quest treasure hunt
- Food and beverage specials
- [Google+ Hangouts](#)
 - *A Dirty Snowball's Chance in Hell* with Emily Lakdawalla, Ron Kaitchuck
 - *Burnt Leftovers* with Emily Lakdawalla, Alex Filippenko
 - *Eulogy for a Comet* with Padma Yanamandra-Fisher, Pamela Gay, Karl Battams
- Workshops
 - South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCSC)
 - Michiana Astronomical Society
 - Great Lakes Planetarium Association
- Art
 - Comet Festival Art Exhibit

- Comets in Pastel
- Student Art Exhibit (SBCSC)
- Art 2 Science (JINA)
- 933 Bridge
- Telescope Observing
 - Andrews University
 - Michiana Astronomical Society Telescope Clinic
 - St. Patrick's County Park
- Planetarium programs
 - ETHOS Science Center
 - St. Joseph County Public Library
 - Digital Visualization Theater at Notre Dame
 - PHM Digital Video Theater
 - Kennedy Planetarium (SBCSC)
 - Harris Branch Library
 - Holiday Happenings at Eddy Street Commons
 - *Comet or Bust* with Martin Ratcliffe
- Music
 - Concert at Chicory Cafe
 - Concert at The Pool
- Yoga Under the Stars
- *Comet-gami* with Riverbend Community Math Center
- *2013 Comet Festival on Facebook*
- Website
 - 39 Events articles
 - 12 Comets articles
 - 8 Planning articles
 - 8 Supporters articles
 - Introduction, Comet Quest, Map, Calendar, News Releases