

# C-MITES NEWS

Carnegie Mellon Institute for Talented Elementary and Secondary Students

C-MITES; 4902 Forbes Ave., Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Telephone: (412) 268-1629; www.cmu.edu/cmities

Issue #24

Spring 2005

## Thank You to 2005 EXPLORE Test Centers

We would like to thank all of the schools that participated in the Elementary Student Talent Search this year. Approximately 2,000 students in grades 3-6 are registered to take the EXPLORE test in January and February of this year.

We would especially like to thank the following schools for allowing us to use their facilities for testing:

Abington Junior High School (Abington)  
Aquinas Academy (Greensburg)  
Avon Grove Charter School (West Grove)  
Carlow College Campus School (Pittsburgh)  
Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh)  
Center Township Elementary School (Butler)  
Centre County Christian Academy (Bellefonte)  
Charles F. Patton Middle School (Kennett Square)  
Cumberland Valley High School (Mechanicsburg)  
Delahunty Middle School (Hermitage)

East Union Intermediate Center (Russellton)  
Eden Christian Academy (Pittsburgh)  
The Ellis School (Pittsburgh)  
Fairfield Academy (Montoursville)  
French International School (Bala Cynwyd)  
Glenwood Elementary School (Media)  
Hampton High School (Allison Park)  
Harrisburg Area Community College (Harrisburg)  
Hillel Academy (Pittsburgh)  
Holy Child Catholic School (Bridgeville)  
Indian Valley Middle School (Harleysville)  
Lafayette College (Easton)  
Linden Elementary School (Pittsburgh)  
Linntown Elementary School (Lewisburg)  
Linton Middle School (Pittsburgh)  
Marshall Middle School (Wexford)  
McDowell High School (Erie)  
Moon Area Middle School (Moon Twp.)  
New Castle Christian Academy (New Castle)  
North American Martyrs School (Monroeville)  
Penn-Mont Academy (Hollidaysburg)  
Pivik Elementary School (Pittsburgh)  
Pocono Elementary Center (Tannersville)

Richland Christian School (Gibsonia)  
Riverside Middle School (Ellwood City)  
Roberts Elementary School (Wayne)  
Ross Elementary School (Pittsburgh)  
Saint Colman School (Turtle Creek)  
Saint Frances Cabrini School (Fairless Hills)  
Saint Luke School (Erie)  
Saints Peter and Paul School (Beaver)  
Saint Philip School (Pittsburgh)  
South Allegheny Elementary School (Port Vue)  
South Lebanon Elementary School (Lebanon)  
South Side Elementary School (Connellsville)  
Torah Academy of Greater Philadelphia (Ardmore)  
Transfiguration School (Russellton)  
United Hebrew Institute (Kingston)  
Waynesburg Central Elementary School (Waynesburg)  
West Chester Area School District (West Chester)  
Westmont Hilltop Elementary School (Johnstown)  
Wexford Elementary School (Wexford)  
The Wyndcroft School (Pottstown)  
Wyoming Seminary Lower School (Forty Fort)  
Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center (Wyomissing)

## Professional Development Workshops

*C-MITES News* is published by the Carnegie Mellon Institute for Talented Elementary and Secondary Students. C-MITES sponsors a talent search for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders as well as summer and weekend programs for K-9<sup>th</sup> graders throughout Pennsylvania.

- ◆ Director: Dr. Ann Lupkowski Shoplik
  - ◆ Program Coordinator: Pamela J. Piskurich
  - ◆ Talent Search Coordinator: Daniel M. Rosenberg
  - ◆ Publications Coordinator: Raymond T. Budd
  - ◆ Research Specialist: Dr. Mary Ann Swiatek
  - ◆ Program Assistant: Connie J. Herold
  - ◆ C-MITES Assistant: Barbara J. Dunn
- A portion of the funding for C-MITES is provided by the Fisher Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation, Mr. Mark Gelfand, the Grable Foundation, the Tyco Electronics Foundation, the Westinghouse Charitable Giving Program, C-MITES families, and several anonymous donors.

C-MITES is continuing to offer its Professional Development series for teachers and administrators who work with gifted students. The sessions for the 2004-2005 school year will be held at Carnegie Mellon University. The topic on October 7, 2004 was Introduction to Gifted Education presented by Deborah Kuntz and Linda Conlon. On November 17, 2004, Dr. Karen Rogers, a nationally-known expert in gifted education, presented Planning a

Program of Services for Gifted Learners Based on Research-Supported Best Practices. The final workshop will be on April 4, 2005 and features a conference-style workshop covering many topics in gifted education by C-MITES staff members. There are still spaces available for the final workshop in April. For more information, see the C-MITES website or contact the office to request a brochure.

### C-MITES Spring Calendar

<i>January</i>	29 and 30: EXPLORE test
<i>February</i>	26: EXPLORE test
<i>March</i>	EXPLORE scores mailed Weekend Workshops
<i>April</i>	Weekend Workshops
<i>May</i>	Weekend Workshops
<i>June</i>	20-July 1: C-MITES Summer Program Session I
<i>July</i>	11-22: C-MITES Summer Program Session II
<i>August</i>	Steppingstones Workshops at Carnegie Mellon University
<i>September</i>	18: C-MITES Awards Ceremony

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## C-MITES Needs Your Help

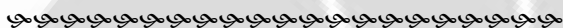
C-MITES is currently experiencing some financial challenges and would really appreciate your help! We are committed to maintaining the same high quality programs that we have offered for the past 13 years. In addition to seeking grants and other funding for our programs, we are trying some other fund-raising ideas.

On the last page of this newsletter is a notice to corporate sponsors. We would really appreciate it if you would take this letter to your employer and request support for a C-MITES activity. We would also appreciate it if you would take this notice to restaurants, stores, or other businesses you frequent. The money we receive from this effort will help pay for scholarships for students who cannot afford C-MITES tuition. Thank you for considering this request.

If your family would like to make a donation to C-MITES, you can do so at any time. We welcome donations of any amount. If you give us permission to do so, we will add your name to the list of donors in our newsletter.

Mail the check (made payable to Carnegie Mellon) to:

C-MITES Scholarships  
4902 Forbes Avenue  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213



### Awards Ceremony

On Sunday, September 12, 2004, C-MITES held the sixth annual Awards Ceremony for students who received outstanding scores on the EXPLORE test administered in January and February of 2004. The ceremony was held at Carnegie Mellon University with Dr. Ann Lupkowski Shoplik, director and founder of C-MITES, serving as the master of ceremonies. Dr. Karen Stump, Director of Undergraduate Studies and Professor of Chemistry, was the keynote speaker.

Almost 2,000 students in grades 3-6 took the EXPLORE test in 2004. To qualify for this test, students had to score at the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on standardized tests at their local schools. One hundred twenty children were recognized at the Awards Ceremony for being among the highest-scoring students on the test in their respective grade levels.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients and their families!

Plans are underway for this year's awards ceremony, which will be held on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at Carnegie Mellon. All students taking the EXPLORE test for the first time this year are eligible for this event. Honorees will be notified by the end of June.

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*"We love this program. It is great to have our daughter attend class with children from all over the area. This, and the class itself, help her grow academically as well as socially. The teachers are great. I cannot say enough positive comments about C-MITES."*

— Parent of an Advertising Edge student

### Check Out Our Website!

The C-MITES website can be found at [www.cmu.edu/cmities](http://www.cmu.edu/cmities). Our website includes:

- Registration information for C-MITES programs for students in kindergarten – 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- "Links" page: This includes links for many topics, including Gifted Education, Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, Academic Programs, and Contests.
- The Kids page has even more links especially for students.
- Previous issues of the newsletter, C-MITES News
- Articles and Research

**Go online today!**

### Gifted Education Conference for Parents and Teachers

The annual Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education (PAGE) conference will be held in Harrisburg, Pa. on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005. This conference will include many presentations for teachers as well as parents. Nationally renowned speakers include Dr. Joyce Van Tassel-Baska on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, and Dr. Linda Silverman on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. The pre-conference presentations on Thursday, April 14, 2005 will feature strands in Supporting Gifted Kids in the Age of Standards and Opportunities for Gifted Students Through Science. We strongly encourage you to attend! For more information, contact PAGE at 3026 Potshop Road, Norristown, PA 19403 or call the PAGE Helpline at (888) 736-6443. <http://www.pengifted.org>



### Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG)

SENG is a group of parents, teachers, and other professionals dedicated to supporting the unique emotional needs of gifted students. This organization provides adults with guidance, information, resources, and a forum to communicate about raising and educating these children. SENNG brings attention to the unique social and emotional needs of gifted individuals that are often misunderstood or ignored, offers an annual conference, and provides educational opportunities. The SENNG Conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico this year from July 8–10, 2005. For more information, see [www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org).



## C-MITES Summer Program 2005



*C-MITES Featured Teacher - Gena Aitken Kashak*

### Spring 2005 Teacher Feature

The teacher featured in this issue of the C-MITES Newsletter began her involvement with the program in the summer of 1997. Mrs. Gena Aitken Kashak served as a teaching assistant in the Explorations in Science summer course that year. Now, some seven years later, Mrs. Kashak has revamped, revised, and rewritten that course to make it more enjoyable for all of the students who participate! Gena graduated Magna Cum Laude from Kent State University in 1993. She joined C-MITES in 1997 and continues to work weekend and summer programs—oh, except that one summer she took time off to get married!

In Gena's summer class, Explorations in Science, students become paleontologists, geologists, ecologists and medical technicians. They learn the techniques used to prepare fossils and actually prepare their very own fossils. They go on a rock and mineral dig, examining the qualities of their finds in order to properly identify them. One of the really neat activities of the class is dissecting owl pellets and rebuilding the skeleton of the owl's prey. Some of the students commented that doing the fossil reconstruction was "cool" and they "learned a lot" and "had lots of fun" in Mrs. Kashak's class.

Over the years, Gena has also taught the following courses and workshops: Fairy Tale Fun, Fixing Fossils, Rolling Along, Science Discovery Zone, Science Creations, Skeletal Remains, and Think Like an Egyptian. She even helped out in the Amusement Park Physics and Introduction to Flight courses. One thing is for sure—when students take any of Gena's courses they are hands-on and packed with activities (that get them very interested in the subject and very messy)!

When Gena is not teaching in the C-MITES program she is busy teaching sixth grade in the Peters Township School District. Gena is currently decorating and fixing up things around her new house. Chris, Gena's husband, enjoys helping her around the house too!

We are very proud to have Mrs. Kashak as a teacher in our program. She is a "top-notch" teacher. Hey, sign up for one of Gena's classes this spring and enjoy the fun!

As we are preparing this issue of *C-MITES News*, plans are being made for the C-MITES Summer Program. If you have taken the EXPLORE test and you are on the mailing list, your copy of the C-MITES Summer Program application will be mailed to you in February. The information and application also will be available online at <http://www.cmu.edu/cmities>. If you have not taken the EXPLORE test, you will need to provide all of the information listed on the application and pay an additional fee for the courses.

C-MITES courses offer students a hands-on approach to math, science, and the humanities. One- and two-week courses are being planned throughout Pennsylvania for academically talented students in mathematics, science, and humanities.

The tentative sites include: Abington, Butler, Chadds-Ford, Erie, Forty Fort/Wilkes Barre Area, Glen Mills, Harleysville, Hershey, Hollidaysburg, Kennett Square, Lebanon, Lewisburg, Ligonier, Lower Burrell, McDonald, Murrysville, New Castle, Oakdale, Pittsburgh, Pocono Area, Reading, Sandy Lake, Scranton, Sidman/Johnstown Area, State College, and Washington, PA.

Planned courses include: The Advertising Edge, Amusement Park Physics, CalcuSolve & More, Computers 101, Explorations in Science, Food Science, Fundamentals of French, Fundamental Programming, Informal Geometry, Materials Science, Math Olympiad, Mystery Writing, Observational Astronomy, Robotics, Solve a Murder Mystery, Structures, What Are The Chances?, Work Backwards, and You Make Me Sick: Immunology. **Please Note:** Not all courses will be offered at all sites.

We are currently entertaining the idea of offering full-day programs for our working parents who find it difficult to pick up their children at noon. This afternoon program will only be available at selected sites this summer. We are also considering a non-academic "extended day" program at selected sites.

Selection for the C-MITES Summer Program is competitive. Carefully complete the application. The Summer Program is a commuter program that meets weekdays from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Some sites will offer full-day programs. Financial aid is available. Students who have completed grades 3-8 may apply. The application deadline is April 13, 2005.

Dates: June 20–July 1, 2005  
July 11–July 22, 2005

*"I feel this program is the best my child has participated in. It was very challenging and it really stimulates the brain. It was good for her to be around other children with the same academic talents."*

— Parent of an Informal Geometry student

C-MITES Families: Please give this to your employer and/or other businesses:

## Corporate Sponsors for C-MITES

The Carnegie Mellon Institute for Talented Elementary and Secondary Students (C-MITES) would like to offer you the opportunity to inspire America's future leaders by improving the education of academically talented children.

### What is C-MITES?

C-MITES is a not-for-profit, charitable organization with 501(c)(3) status, dedicated to encouraging the intellectual curiosity and academic development of Pennsylvania's gifted students. For more information about C-MITES, please visit our website at [www.cmu.edu/cmities](http://www.cmu.edu/cmities).

### How Can We Encourage Our Future Leaders?

With appropriate academic challenges now, it is today's gifted students who are most likely to lead the country through the rest of the technologically-oriented 21<sup>st</sup> century. To fulfill their potential, these students need to study advanced material, develop the knowledge, skills, and creativity needed to solve problems, and work in cooperation with others.

### How Can You Help?

We are requesting corporate sponsors to help us nurture these future leaders. C-MITES serves the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Your support of C-MITES not only shapes today's students and tomorrow's workforce, but also promotes the visibility of your business among parents and teachers throughout Pennsylvania.

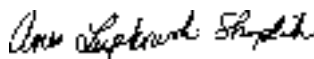
### In exchange for your sponsorship, your company name or logo will be displayed as follows:\*

- \$5,000 Company logo, name, and slogan or motto on the C-MITES homepage, with a link to your company's website, for the period of one year. Our website records approximately 8,500 hits per month.
- \$1,000 Company logo, name, and slogan or motto on the C-MITES t-shirt, which is printed each July and worn by approximately 800 C-MITES students each year (deadline: February 1<sup>st</sup>).
- \$250 Ad (business card size) in *C-MITES News*, our semiannual newsletter, which is sent to approximately 10,000 Pennsylvania families (deadlines: June 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>).
- \$100 Company logo, name and slogan or motto displayed on back cover of *C-MITES Information and Resources* guide, which is sent to approximately 3,000 families in December of each year (deadline: October 1<sup>st</sup>).
- \$50 Company name listed in *C-MITES News* (deadlines: June 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>).
- \$25 Company name listed in the *C-MITES Information and Resources* guide (deadline: October 1<sup>st</sup>).

\*C-MITES reserves the right to limit advertisements.

Sponsorship checks can be made out to Carnegie Mellon University and sent to the address below. Contributions above the \$50 level should be accompanied by **digital** artwork. We hope we can count on your support. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,



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