“What Did You Do on Summer Vacation?”

MITES students had some very exciting and unusual answers to that question when they return to school this fall. They spent the summer doing everything from conducting CSI investigations to programming robots!

In the C-MITES Summer Program this year students studied immunology, the science behind Harry Potter, geometry, statistics, and food science. They had the opportunity to build bridges, program computers, learn about ancient Rome and the intriguing world of advertising.

There were 31 courses at 17 different sites throughout Pennsylvania. A total of 23 different classes were available to students. Twenty-five classes took place in Allegheny County sites and eight took place in other counties.

Other statistics from the Summer Program:
Number of June classes (17)
Number of July classes (14)
Total number of one-week classes (7)
Total number of two-week classes (24)
Full day classes (2)
Math classes (14)
Science classes (14)
Humanities classes (3)

Total classes available:
For 3rd graders =10
For 4th graders =25
For 5th graders =26
For 6th graders =21
For 7th graders =8
For 8th graders =4
A total of 468 students participated in the C-MITES summer program. Thanks to all the students and teachers who made this experience possible!

C-MITES Fall and Winter Calendar

September
- Weekend Workshops at Carnegie Mellon

October
- Weekend Workshops at Carnegie Mellon

November
- Weekend Workshops at Carnegie Mellon
- 10: Weekend Workshops at Lower Merion
- 30: Early registration deadline for EXPLORE testing

December
- 14: Final registration deadline for January EXPLORE testing
- 10: Weekend Workshops at Lower Merion
- 30: Early registration deadline for February EXPLORE testing

January
- 18: Final registration deadline for February EXPLORE testing
- 26, 27: EXPLORE test dates
- Spring Weekend Workshops brochures and newsletter mailed

February
- 23: EXPLORE test date

A listing of all the good things about C-MITES:
- Challenging
- Motivating
- Intriguing
- Tireless Learning
- Educational
- Super Fun

A Student in Math Olympiad I
C-MITES NEWS

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

- Director: Dr. Ann Lupkowski Shoplik
- Program Coordinator: Pamela J. Piskurich
- Publications Coordinator: Raymond T. Budd
- C-MITES Program Assistant: Barbara J. Dunn
- C-MITES Assistant: Elizabeth Rheinfrank

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The Student Page

Have you written a short story or poem you would like to share with other C-MITES students? Do you have a favorite puzzle or brain teaser you would like our readers to try to solve? Have you always wanted to be published? Well, here’s your chance! Beginning with the next issue of the C-MITES NEWS, we will have a new section called “The Student Page” that will be devoted exclusively to C-MITES students.

We are looking for original work by our students, including, but not limited to, poetry, short stories, mind benders, brain teasers or puzzles. To be considered for the next issue of The C-MITES NEWS, submissions must reach our office by November 1, 2007. Submissions are best sent in a Word document or in the body of an email. Emails of your work should be sent to Ray Budd at budd@andrew.cmu.edu. If you do not have access to a computer, you may mail a hard copy to:

Ray Budd, Publications Coordinator
C-MITES, Carnegie Mellon University
5136 Margaret Morrison St., MMP30
Pittsburgh, PA, 15213

Any work submitted is subject to the approval of the editor and must include contact information for the person submitting the work. We reserve the right to reject any submissions that are inappropriate for our readers.

Thanks to the Summer Program Host Sites!

C-MITES would like to extend a sincere thanks to all of the following sites that served as Summer Program locations:

Aquinas Academy, Greensburg
Bala Cynwyd United Methodist Church, Bala Cynwyd
Bishop Canevin High School, Crafton
The Campus School of Carlow University, Oakland
Carnegie Mellon University, Oakland
Cedarbrook Elementary School, Glenside
Edgeworth Elementary School, Sewickley
The Ellis School, Oakland
Forest Hills High School, Sidman
Linntown Elementary School, Lewisburg
Marshall Middle School, Wexford
Neil Armstrong Middle School, Bethel Park
Penn Hebron Elementary School, Penn Hills
Grace Baptist Church, Monroeville
Trinity East Elementary School, Washington
Wexford Elementary School, Wexford
Winchester Thurston School, Oakland
Thank You for Your Generous Support

Foundations and Corporate Sponsors

C-MITES has received multi-year grants from Dr. Bernard Meisner, Mr. Mark Gelfand and from the Grable Foundation. We are most grateful for their generous support. Their support has provided scholarships for our students as well as operational costs for our Summer Program, Weekend Workshops, August Steppingstones classes, and our Elementary Student Talent Search testing program.

We were delighted to receive a surprise in the mail this spring -- a $5300 check from an anonymous donor. The donation has been used for scholarships, operating costs, and supplies for our classes. Thank you so much!

New C-MITES Site in Ligonier

We have added a new test site at Valley School of Ligonier (located near Ligonier, PA). This site was not included in our original list of Elementary Student Talent Search test sites. Students wanting to register for this site may select either January 26th or February 23rd, 2008. The test site code is 215090. You may register online at www.cmu.edu/cmites or fill in that code number on your paper registration form. Thanks to David Kirkland, test site coordinator at Valley School of Ligonier. We’re glad to have you on the team!

Thanks to Ken Johnson

C-MITES would like to thank Ken Johnson of LEGO® Education for loaning us 10 Mindstorms kits to use in the Mine Mapping and LEGO® Robotics class we offered in Lower Merion in May and in November. In addition, he secured the equipment and the instructor for a new 4th/5th grade robotics class. Thank you so much to Ken and to LEGO® Education.
My Child Has Been Identified as “Gifted.” Now What?
by Ann Lupkowski Shyplik, Ph.D.
Director, C-MITES

This is only one of many questions that parents ask us at C-MITES every day. The C-MITES website contains many resources and links to information that parents of gifted students will find helpful. Below is some other information to help answer a few of the frequently-asked questions about parenting gifted students.

How do I successfully advocate for my child?
First, get objective information. Have your child tested by the school psychologist or a private psychologist. This objective information, in combination with your own personal observations, grades in school, standardized test scores, and teacher observations, will help you and school personnel devise an appropriate program for your child. Read as much as you possibly can about gifted students to become an educated consumer. Keep good records. Save test records and other important documents, but also keep copies of letters you have sent to schools and some work samples (include the date) completed by your child.

Keep the lines of communication with school personnel open. Volunteer in school, visit your child’s classroom, attend open house events, and go to parent conferences. Try always to stay positive with school personnel. Try to remember that you’re both on the same team – you’re both trying to make sure your child is appropriately challenged in school.

For more information about advocacy, see the “Hoagies” website, http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/advocacy.htm. We highly recommend joining the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education (PAGE). Their website (http://www.penngifted.org/) contains detailed information about Chapter 16, which regulates gifted education in Pennsylvania.

How can I challenge my mathematically-talented child?
There are many options for challenging math-talented students. They benefit both from enrichment and acceleration. Talented students can work with a group of talented students, participate in an individualized study of mathematics, skip ahead one or more grades in mathematics, and/or do independent study projects in math. More details about this topic are found in the Spring 2007 issue of this newsletter (http://www.cmu.edu/cmites/ns07.pdf), as well as in the book, Developing Math Talent (by Assouline and Lupkowski-Shopylik, published by Prufrock Press).

We are considering a grade-skip for our child. Where do we start?
There is an overwhelming amount of research available about acceleration and gifted students. The website, www.nationdeceived.org provides two volumes of information (the first book provides a short overview and the second book summarizes 50 years of research) that you can download for free. To help parents and school personnel weigh the options and consider acceleration in an objective manner, consider using the Iowa Acceleration Scale (Assouline, Colangelo, Lupkowski-Shopylik, Lipscomb, and Forstadt, published by Great Potential Press).

Where can I go for more information about gifted students?
The National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented, located at the University of Connecticut, provides a detailed website about research on gifted students (http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/nrcgt/). The Center’s website also includes information written specifically for parents. For example, under the Research-Based Resources, some of the resources for parents include guidelines about nurturing math-talented young children, helping gifted children and their families prepare for college, and what parents and teachers need to know about academic acceleration (http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/nrcgt/resource.html#parent).

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development (www.ditd.org) provides an exceptionally thorough website containing information for parents and teachers of gifted students. Their guidebook, Advocating for Exceptionally Gifted Young People, is available on the site and should be required reading for parents of gifted students.

I live in a rural area. What options do I have?
Learn about the Center for Rural Gifted Education (www.coe.iup.edu/gifted). This center, housed at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, is designed to support schools, families, and communities in rural areas in their education and guidance of high achieving/talented/gifted children and youth. The Center serves as an information and referral service, provides teacher training, provides educational services for parents of gifted students, and provides individual testing for gifted students through the IUP Child Study Center. Continued on page 6
Three Cheers for the Student Assistants!

C-MITES has been very fortunate to have two excellent Carnegie Mellon University students to help with our programs this summer. Each year, C-MITES hires CMU students to help with the tremendous amount of work in the office and conducting the many classes we offer throughout the school year as well as in the summer. These students carry a full academic load at the university as well as working on the workstudy program. This summer we have had two outstanding assistants in Joe Gruber and Vinny Giacalone. Both have not only done anything asked of them, but have also taken the initiative to do many extra things without being told.

Joe Gruber has worked for C-MITES for two academic years and three summers. Joe is majoring in English and has a great interest in creative writing. He has been a great help in the office. He has also been a Teacher’s Assistant as well as a teacher in some Weekend Workshops. Joe has been an invaluable addition to our staff.

This was Vinny Giacalone’s first summer with C-MITES but hopefully it won’t be his last. Vinny is majoring in History and is on the football team at Carnegie Mellon playing tight end. Although he will be very busy this fall with football and his studies, Vinny will be helping out in the office and we will definitely be looking forward to working with him again next spring and summer.

All of the office staff here at C-MITES would like to take this opportunity to say “Three cheers for Joe and Vinny” and thanks for all the fine help you have given us.

Teacher Feature

The teacher featured in this issue of the C-MITES Newsletter began teaching with the program in the summer of 1998. Mr. Mike Shoplik began as a Robotics instructor that summer. Now, nine years later, Mike has created, revamped, revised, and rewritten numerous robotics courses to make them more enjoyable for all of the students who participate!

In Mike’s summer class, students learn about robots and discover how to design and program them to perform a variety of tasks. For example, one of the challenges requires the students to use an infrared sensor to see a black line and then program the robot to follow that line. In another challenge, students maneuver robots up an inclined plane and later make the robot drop a ping pong ball into a soda pop can!

Over the years, Mike has taught numerous students both in the summer program and in the weekend programs. Mike has seen approximately 1,400 C-MITES students in his career as an instructor. Some have even taken his Build a Robot weekend class two or three times!

Mike received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. He worked as a field engineer before joining the C-MITES instructional staff. Besides teaching for the C-MITES program, he enjoys watching the Steelers with his family Ann, Helena and Anthony. When he’s in the C-MITES office he gets put to work hanging shelves, putting together desks and moving boxes and other supplies. Similar to the things he does around his own house in his spare “non-C-MITES” time!

Mike is truly an outstanding C-MITES teacher and we are very thankful and proud to have him as an instructor in our program. He is a wonderful person and the husband of our Director!

I want to thank you for all of the time and effort you put into the C-MITES program. It is so rewarding for the participants. I saw 10 smiling, enthusiastic kids at my daughter’s end of class party and skit for ‘Advertising Edge’ on Friday. My own daughter cheerfully did her homework and couldn’t wait to get back to class each day. The teacher, Mrs. __, was tremendous--so full of energy and ideas--I wish I could have taken her class! C-MITES is a wonderful enrichment program for the kids!

Parent of a student in “Advertising Edge”
My Child Has Been Identified as “Gifted”

Continued from page 4

Distance learning is another excellent option for gifted students in rural areas and elsewhere. Distance learning provides students the opportunity to study material at an appropriate level and pace, regardless of their placement in school or where they live. The Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University provides distance learning for students in kindergarten through 12th grade: http://cty.jhu.edu/cde/. Stanford University’s Education Program for Gifted Youth (http://epgy.stanford.edu/) offers online courses year-round from kindergarten through advanced undergraduate level.

My child is too old for C-MITES. What do I do next?

There are many wonderful options for academically talented students. Consider summer programs as well as internships during the school year. Check with your high school guidance counselor for information about additional opportunities. The Hoagies website has a long list of opportunities: http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/summer.htm

Residents of Pennsylvania need to check out the Pennsylvania Governor’s Schools of Excellence, a series of summer residential programs for academically or artistically talented high school students. Students live on a college campus for 5 weeks in the summer and participate in high-level courses and other opportunities. This is a free program available to talented students throughout Pennsylvania. Governor’s Schools are available at a number of universities throughout the state. For example, the Governor’s School for Information, Society & Technology is offered at Drexel University (Philadelphia), the Governor’s School for the Sciences is at Carnegie Mellon University, and the Governor’s School for Teaching is at Millersville University. See www.pgse.org for more information.

Davidson Fellow Scholarships

Davidson Institute Seeks Extraordinary Achievers to Receive $50,000, $25,000, and $10,000 Scholarships

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is offering high achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named as 2008 Davidson Fellows, an honor accompanied by a $50,000, $25,000 or $10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy or Outside the Box.

To be eligible, applicants must be under the age of 18 as of Oct. 1, 2008, and a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident residing in the United States. There is no minimum age for eligibility.

The deadline to apply is March 26, 2008. Applicants must submit an original piece of work recognized by experts in the field as significant and it must have the potential to make a positive contribution to society.

The scholarship must be used at an accredited institute of learning. For more information on the Davidson Fellows scholarship, or to download an application, please visit www.DavidsonFellows.org.

Weekend Workshops at Lower Merion High School

C-MITES continues to offer Weekend Workshops at Lower Merion High School for students living in Montgomery County. In May, we provided classes for 275 students. Students built two-stage rockets, painted pictures with words, dug for fossils, programmed robots, build circuits on breadboards, made models of DNA, and played a stock market game. We thank all of the students and teachers for participating in this fun day! We would like to send out a special thanks to Dr. Ellen Braffman and the Lower Merion School District for hosting this opportunity for our students. Ramaa Nathan, our on-site coordinator, worked tirelessly to promote and provide this new program. We are grateful to all of you who helped us to make this program such a success!

We are pleased to report that we will be providing additional classes at Lower Merion High School on Saturday, November 10th. Classes will include: Funky Science, Space Exploration, Pre-Robotics with LEGO®, Money, Money, Money, The Science of Harry Potter, Rockets: Action and Reaction, Crime Scene Investigations, and Mine Mapping with LEGO® Robotics. Classes are for students in 1st through 8th grades.
T-shirts!
And a book by the director of C-MITES!

Order your C-MITES apparel today!

Order your very own tie-dye C-MITES t-shirt and be the envy of all your friends! Simply fill out the order form to the right and return it to our office with your check made payable to “Carnegie Mellon University.”

* The C-MITES tie-dye t-shirt has white lettering saying “C-MITES Carnegie Mellon.” Youth sizes are light blue and white. Adult sizes are red, white and blue. Cost is $17.

* Proceeds from these sales go to the C-MITES scholarship fund.

Make check payable to Carnegie Mellon University

Send to:
C-MITES
5136 Margaret Morrison St., MMP30
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

By Dr. Susan Assouline & Dr. Ann Lupkowski-Shoplik

This multi-faceted handbook integrates the unique roles of teachers and parents in the education of mathematically talented youth in elementary and middle school. The regular curriculum is inappropriate for most talented youth, and the authors provide a means of identifying the needs of such students and matching the curriculum to those needs. Throughout the book, issues concerning advocacy, identification, curriculum, and programming are addressed. The heart of the book is the description of the individualized Diagnostic Testing→Prescriptive Instruction model, which systematically matches the level and pace of instruction to the abilities and achievements of each student. After reading Developing Mathematical Talent, you will know how to help the gifted student who is bored to tears in math class. (Order below).

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Number of t-shirts X $17 = $__________
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(Shipping & handling included in prices)
C-MITES NEWS
Fall 2007
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