C-MITES Summer Program

As C-MITES students return to their local schools this fall most of them can’t wait to tell their friends all about their summer vacations. Some of them will have the C-MITES Summer Program experiences to share with their friends and teachers. The one- and two-week summer classes were offered throughout Pennsylvania for academically talented students in mathematics, science, and humanities. C-MITES courses offered students a hands-on approach to math, science, and humanities.


There were 11 different classes on the CMU campus. For 4 weeks students were seen programming robots to follow lines, navigate through mazes and even follow the students around the classroom. The green engineers were busy developing design to improve our environment while the MATHCOUNTS group was participating in a very rigorous, challenging series of competitions. Trophies and medals sparkled in the Wean Hall corridor on the last day of class at the students’ parties. The science students were seen sifting through clay and dirt attempting to identify all the rocks and minerals they uncovered. Tessellations were on display in the Informal Geometry class while the Solar System Astronomy students searched through the telescope to locate the morning moon high above Flagstaff Hill. The Programming Using Alice students in the Cyert Hall computer cluster created outstanding computer games and stories!

The two groups of Amusement Park Physics students were easily spotted in their bright purple shirts parading through Kennywood Park with their lateral accelerometers and free fall tubes measuring forces on them as they rode through their classroom for the day.

There were 31 classes at 16 different sites during the program. Twenty-five were in Allegheny County and eight were in other counties. In June there were 16 classes and in July there were 15 classes. A total of 16 math classes, 13 science classes and 2 humanities classes were offered and enjoyed by the 485 students who participated. Thanks to those students who shared a part of their summer in the C-MITES program!

C-MITES Fall and Winter Calendar

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<td>8: Weekend Workshops at Lower Merion</td>
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“(My son) said that C-MITES last year was the ‘highlight of his summer.’ (And considering that we took the family camping and hiking in Yosemite, that is tough competition.) He is looking forward to it again this year.”

~ Parent of a student in the Summer Program
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
- **Web Designer:** Raymond T. Budd
- **C-MITES Program Assistant:** Barbara J. Dunn
- **C-MITES Assistant:** Elizabeth Rheinfrank

A portion of the funding for C-MITES is provided by Mr. Mark Gelfand, The Grable Foundation, C-MITES families, and several anonymous donors.

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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! In each 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 May 1, 2009. 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, Web Designer
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
- The Campus School of Carlow University, Oakland
- Carnegie Mellon University, Oakland
- Edgeworth Elementary School, Sewickley
- The Ellis School, Oakland
- Forest Hills High School, Sidman
- Grace Baptist Church, Monroeville
- Indian Valley Middle School, Harleysville
- Marshall Middle School, Wexford
- Neil Armstrong Middle School, Bethel Park
- Penn Trafford High School, Harrison City
- St. Philips School, Crafton
- Trinity East Elementary School, Washington
- Wexford Elementary School, Wexford
- Winchester Thurston School, Oakland
- The Wyndcroft School, Pottstown
Thank You for Your Generous Support

C-MITES has received multi-year grants from Dr. Bernard Meisner, Mr. Mark Gelfand and the Grable Foundation. We are most grateful for their support. They have 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.

An anonymous donor presented a $5000 check to C-MITES this spring. The donation has been used for scholarships, operating costs, and supplies for our classes.

In addition, we are grateful to the many C-MITES families who have sent large and small donations. Check the back of your purple C-MITES t-shirt to see some of their names!

Thank you so much for your continued support!

The Adventures of Peach Kid

by Charlie Canby, age 9

a student at Bart-Colerain Elementary School

One day when Peach Kid and the gang were eating lunch, Peach Kid said, “Can we go to the moon?”

Peach said, “Only if you build the rocket.”

“Ok” said Peach Kid. Peach Kid got up, threw his plate into the trash, and went to the workshop. Five hours later, Peach pet was circling the moon. “I wonder how he’s doing,” said Peach Kid.

“I just got a radar signal,” said Hyperrrr Peach.

“It says: meow hisssssss,” said Peach Mother.

“That wasn’t good,” said Peach.

“Um……..excuse me but isn’t that a cat in a spaceship?” said Peach Kid.

“Hey…..yeah, it is!” said Hyperrrr Peach.

“What in the wor—BANG!” said the gang. (The gang didn’t actually say bang but Peach pet slammed into the window.) “Peach pet’s back,” said the gang. At 2:34 the next morning, the gang was eating breakfast in the rocket cabin. Peach pet broke his leg on his fast falling trip. Peach Kid said, “Let’s take a nap.”

The gang replied “Good thinking, Peach Kid.” (In case you didn’t know, Peach Kid had them get up early.)

While taking their nap, Peach Kid snuck into their Amana Super Refrigerator. Suddenly, Peach Kid heard a noise. It seemed to be coming from one of their engines. Peach Kid silently snuck back and woke up the gang. “Psssst, wake up.”

The gang woke up but where was Hyperrrr Peach?

Peach said, “Plan A: search party. Peach Kid – check kitchen. Peach Mother – engine room. Peach pet and I will check the secret room. Meet back here in fifteen minutes. Yell, if you find him.”

The gang said, “Check!”

Five minutes later, everyone heard Peach Kid yell, “I found him!” Peach said, “Everyone back to the Control Room.”

Back in the Control Room, Peach said, “Hyperrrr Peach, what were you doing in the kitchen?”

“I had to get a cheese snack.”

The gang said “Oh brother.”

As everyone turned around, nobody noticed that they had already hit the moon. Peach Kid yelled, “I am going to put the Peach Kid flag on the moon!”

When they finally got home from the moon, Peach Kid said “I am ready for a new adventure.”

Find out what the next adventure for Peach Kid and the gang is on the bottom of this page.

“Peach Kid Strikes It Rich”
At C-MITES, we are not looking for the next great violinist or pianist, nor are we looking for a budding, young Vincent Van Gogh or Jackson Pollack. As important as those goals might be, that is not what we mean when we say we are conducting a Talent Search. We are looking for students who possess outstanding ability in academic subjects such as mathematics, science, English and reading. How do we do this?

We give a test developed for older students to bright young students. This is called above-level testing. This special testing and the subsequent programs we provide are based upon the Talent Search model, devised by Dr. Julian Stanley at Johns Hopkins University in the early 1970’s. The C-MITES Elementary Student Talent Search has four goals:

- Discovery
- Description
- Development
- Dissemination

**Discovery:** Taking a test that was designed for older students gives talented students the opportunity to show us what they can do. When they take tests designed for their own age group, they usually get all of the questions right, and we don't really know how capable they are. The test wasn't hard enough for them! In an academic Talent Search, the students take a test that was designed for older students. At C-MITES, 3rd through 6th graders take EXPLORE, which was developed for 8th graders. Most of our students do fairly well on this test, but some of them do exceptionally well. Knowing their test scores helps C-MITES staff members give parents and teachers good advice about the kinds of educational opportunities that might be suitable for the students.

**Description:** In the 35 years since the Talent Search concept was born, we have learned a lot about academically talented students. In fact, research about these students has filled books! We have learned that bright young students are capable of doing well on very difficult tests. Test results are useful for placing students in challenging classes, and these results predict student achievement. Talent Search students have been the subject of many research studies that have helped us understand their capabilities and their needs.

**Development:** The students who participate in Talent Searches aren’t just subjects for research projects. One of the principles upon which the Talent Search concept was founded was that we should develop the students’ talents to the maximum. The variety of Talent Search options available are examples of “making the optimal match,” in which we match the right level and pace of the curriculum to the student’s abilities and specific achievements. To this end, C-MITES offers Weekend Workshops, Summer Programs, Steppingstones classes, parent workshops and academic counseling.

**Dissemination:** This refers to “spreading the word” about the research findings and program findings concerning the talent search. We make presentations at professional meetings, publish books, talk to parents and school personnel, and provide inservices for teachers to explain our research findings and how the research can be applied in very practical ways.

Although a Talent Search seems to focus on testing, the heart of the approach is providing programs and services that are appropriately matched to the student’s needs. Students who participate in an academic talent search can expect to learn about their academic abilities, but they can gain so much more: challenging workshops, a chance to meet and learn with other bright students, and the excitement of discovering something new.


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**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 2009 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, 2009, 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 4, 2009. 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 Fellowships, or to download an application, please visit www.DavidsonFellows.org.

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“*I just want to let you know that my daughter has been enjoying your weekend program for the past year. My second daughter, who is only 5, cannot wait to participate. We travel from Moorestown, NJ to Lower Merion High School. (This is a clear indicator of how much my daughter loves it.) Thank you kindly.”*

~ Parent of a student in the Weekend Workshops
C-MITES and FITT Camp: 
A Work-out for the Mind and Body

By Elizabeth Scales Rheinfrank

When C-MITES Director Ann Shoplik, Program Coordinator Pam Piskurich, and Pattye Stragar in the Carnegie Mellon University Athletic Department began brainstorming about an extended-day option for students participating in the C-MITES summer program, the idea of FITT Camp was born. Now in its second successful year, FITT Camp and C-MITES are a perfect fit—a daily work-out for the mind and body. The program was so popular this year that a second session was added.

Offered by the CMU Athletic Department, FITT Camp is open to all students attending a C-MITES class on the Carnegie Mellon campus as well as siblings who are not involved with C-MITES. This year 25 children and 6 counselors participated. Most of the counselors are CMU athletes and serve as strong role models for the younger students, reinforcing the importance of beginning a lifelong commitment to exercise and healthy nutrition at an early age. According to FITT Camp Director Pattye Stragar, the program teaches kids to make healthy lifestyle choices and exposes them to sports they might not have at school. Children do not have to be athletic to participate. The purpose is to stay active and have fun; moreover, an emphasis is placed on teaching students “life sports,” such as tennis and golf. In her office one sunny afternoon, Ms. Stragar explains that tennis is a life sport—you start out playing singles, move on to doubles and then mixed doubles. Learning how to age through a sport, she says, is key to maintaining an active lifestyle. At FITT Camp, students also learn how to work the body using weight-bearing exercise, reducing the risk of developing osteoporosis later in life.

FITT Camp counselors pick the children up after the C-MITES summer program ends at noon, and take them to the University Center where they enjoy a sack lunch. Then, every day after lunch, it’s straight to the pool. After swimming for an hour, the kids are divided into two groups with three counselors per group for instruction of a sport. After 45 minutes, they switch to another sport and play for another 45 minutes. There is a lot of variety, with a different sport taught each day, and an effort is made to ensure that one activity is inside and the next outside or vice versa, so the children do not get overheated.

Thanks to the cooperation of the CMU Athletic Department and the University Center, FITT camp participants are given access to many athletic facilities on campus. Daily activities may include track and field events, tennis, golf, volleyball, soccer, racquetball, kick boxing, yoga, ping pong, foosball, shuffleboard and hiking through Schenley Park. The kids all come together at the end of the day for a friendly game of basketball. Parents pick up their children at 4 P.M. in the turnaround at the University Center. On the last day of camp, the kids have a pizza party, and each child receives a certificate of participation.

The cost of the program is $15 per day, and discounts are available for families of Carnegie Mellon employees and/or with two or more siblings participating. If you are interested in learning more about FITT Camp, please contact Pattye Stragar, Operations Manager of Fitness/ Aquatics, in the CMU Athletic Department at (412) 268-1235.
C-MITES NEEDS YOUR HELP

Dear Friend of C-MITES:

As you may know, C-MITES is funded by grants, gifts, and income received from course tuition. Although approximately 85% of our income is derived from tuition, we still depend on grants and gifts to pay for our ongoing office expenses and for scholarships.

If you would like to make a donation to C-MITES, please complete and return the form to the right. You may wish to ask your employer whether they would match your contribution. Any amount would be gratefully appreciated. Please indicate whether or not you would like your name published as a donor in the next issue of our newsletter. Your contribution is tax-deductible, and you will receive a letter from Carnegie Mellon University acknowledging your gift.

Thank you again for supporting C-MITES!

Sincerely,

Ann Lupkowski Shoplik
C-MITES Director

Pamela J. Piskurich
Program Coordinator

Raymond T. Budd
Web Designer

Barbara J. Dunn
C-MITES Program Assistant

I would like to make a donation to the C-MITES program.

Amount: $ ____________________

____ My employer will match my contribution

I would/would not (circle) like my name to appear in the C-MITES Newsletter as a donor to the program.

Name as you would like it to appear in the newsletter:

Name _________________________________

Please make checks payable to Carnegie Mellon University, and send to:

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

Thank You!

“The I just wanted to tell you how much (my son) enjoys the C-MITES classes. This is the first year he is participating and he is having a great time! Although we didn’t know it when registering, the sessions that (my son) chose directly relate to his 4th grade science curriculum which has really helped to enhance both the C-MITES and grade-level experience. Needless to say, he is looking forward to his next class.”

~ Parent of a 4th grader in the Weekend Workshops
Order your C-MITES apparel today!

Order your very own tie-dye C-MITES t-shirt or sweatshirt and be the envy of all your friends! Simply fill out the order form 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 rainbow colors. Adult sizes are red, white and blue. Cost is $17.

* The C-MITES sweatshirts are forest green. They have a hood and zipper and feature the Carnegie Mellon C-MITES logo. Cost is $27.

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

Make check payable to Carnegie Mellon University

Send to:
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Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213