

CMOST Chronicles

The Children's Museum of Science and Technology

Fall 2008



CMOST Named One of Top Twenty Science Centers in U.S. by *Parents Magazine*

The Children's Museum of Science and Technology (CMOST) has been included in *Parents* magazine's top 20 Science Centers across the nation. Compiling information through an extensive survey, *Parents* magazine determined its rankings based on a variety of factors including the quality of exhibits, science presentations, programming, special events and camps. The magazine also considered amenities such as accessibility, dining options, quality of staff and whether the science center was a good value based on the admission prices to the center.

"We are thrilled to be recognized by *Parents* magazine as one of the top science centers in the country," said John Graydon Smith, CMOST President. "For years CMOST's mission has been based in our belief that the Capital Region deserves a world class science center as it develops into New York's Tech Valley. We are humbled and proud to be ranked among some of America's greatest science museums and will work hard to continue to serve as the leading informal education facility in the area."

Only two of New York's museums made the rankings, which included the New York Hall of Science, ranked number six. Leading the list was COSI in Columbus, Ohio followed by Exploratorium in San Francisco and Boston's Museum of Science. A complete list of rankings can be found in the September issue of *Parents* magazine or be viewed online at www.parents.com.

School Vacation Science Camps



What do you do when school is out? Do what's fun and join us to Explore, Discover and Imagine the world of science during a day of camp at CMOST!

Each day has a science theme and is packed with activities, experiments, projects, crafts and games. You will also have time to explore CMOST, visit a planetarium show and meet some of the animals from Operation W.I.L.D.

School vacation science camp is run for children ages 5-10. The children are grouped according to age.

For more information about dates and topics visit www.CMOST.org or call The Museum at 518-235-2120.



CMOST's extensive animal collection has a new home in the Operation W.I.L.D – "Working In the Living Domain" exhibit



Check out the new Make It and Take! Section and become an inventor

CMOST Unveils New Exhibits!



GE volunteers work to construct the new Solar House exhibit that is part of the "GO Power! – Naturally" that features reusable fuel sources!

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Letter from CMOST's President

Dear Friends,

At CMOST we've become accustomed to having exciting Septembers, as we always reopen for the start of school with some exciting new exhibits like the new Operation W.I.L.D. animal encounter and the GE Solar House, which are both now open.

This September, however, brought an even more exciting development and one in which all our members and volunteers can take great pride in – **being named to the *Parents* magazine top science centers in the U.S. list!** Read more about this great honor on page one, and come by soon to visit and see how we're working to stay at the top!

As I mentioned, our new exhibits are open and while there are still some improvements that we'll be rolling out in the coming weeks, children can now explore our live animal collection in environmentally-accurate habitats (rather than just plain old terrariums) and can learn about the importance of renewable energy through the additions to the Go Power! exhibit. More information about each exhibit can be found throughout the newsletter and we encourage you to check them out for yourself soon.

We're also pleased to feature some "visiting authors" in this issue of CMOST Chronicles, as two of our young visitors have penned articles for your reading pleasure. We hope to feature Peter, Andrew, and hundreds of our members on the new "Faces of the Future" wall at The Museum, so please bring in copies of your favorite pictures highlighting your child at CMOST and we'll gladly display them on the wall!

Finally, we are gearing up for the busy fall and Holiday seasons, when CMOST is aflutter with tremendous activity every day. Please come by to check out some of the new additions to the Gift Shop (now dubbed *See-More's Explore Store*) and do some of your Holiday shopping right here at The Museum. Your purchases help us continue to offer high quality science education for our kids, and you can proudly say that you found the perfect gift for the youngsters in your life at one of the best science centers in the country – how cool is that!! Thanks for your support and we'll hope to see you soon at CMOST!

Sincerely,

John Graydon Smith
President and Chief Executive Officer

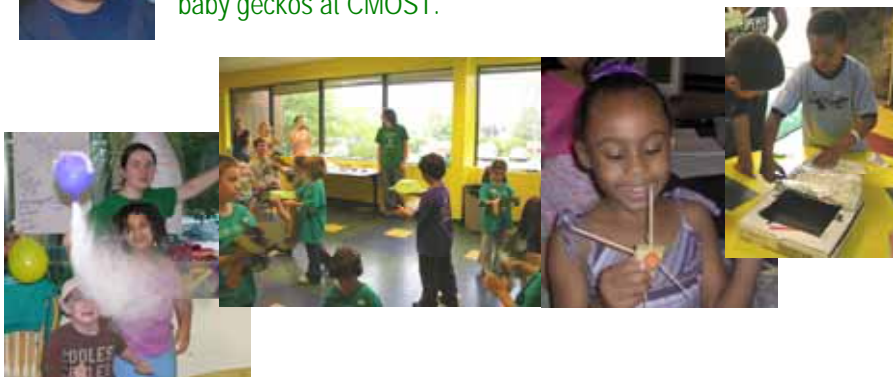
CMOST Summer Camp at CMOST!

An Exciting Afternoon at CMOST Summer Camp!

Article and drawing by Peter, a CMOST camper



The Leopard Gecko laid eggs on August 12th around 4:00 pm. There were two eggs. Me and the other summer camp aftercare children saw her lay the eggs! We hope there are going to be baby geckos at CMOST.



"My Parent & Me"

Pre-Schoolers

Science Class

5 week sessions

for ages 2 – 4 begins

Next session begins

Wednesday, November 12th

Saturday, November 15th

Pricing for each 5 week session:

(for one adult & one child)

CMOST Members: \$50.00

Non-Members: \$75.00

Each additional child: \$25.00

For more information please visit our website at www.CMOST.org or call The Museum at 518-235-2120.

Scorpions *By Andrew Ewing, CMOSTeen Volunteer & a Senior at Columbia High School*



The scorpions in CMOST's animal collection are among some of the most misunderstood creatures at The Museum. There is a latent fear of scorpions that tends to abound in society these days. One of the main causes of this are the myths about the strength of the venom of the Scorpion. All Scorpions are venomous, the strength of the venom just varies a great deal. A good rule of thumb is that, the larger the pincers on the Scorpion in question, the lower the strength of the venom. This is because Scorpions with large

pincers can hold and crush their prey; they have no need to paralyze and kill the prey with venom. All Scorpions want to do is to be left alone and if they are, then there is no need for people to fear them. So next time you walk by the Animal Room here at the museum, take a moment to look into the Scorpion's cage, for only through understanding can we protect the species and lessen the dangers which they pose to humans.

So next time you walk by Operation W.I.L.D here at The Museum, take a moment to look into the Scorpion's cage, for only through understanding can we protect the species and lessen the dangers which they pose to humans.

Calling All CMOST members!

Bring in your favorite picture of your child exploring, discovering and imaging the world of science at CMOST and we will hang it in the new "Faces of the Future Gallery"!

Teacher Professional Development Programs Now Offered at CMOST in Partnership with NYSERDA

CMOST is proud to be partnering with NYSERDA to provide *Energy Smart* workshops for teachers across the Capital Region in conjunction with the *Energy Smart Students* program. This program is a statewide energy-efficiency education program for K- 12 classroom teachers sponsored by the NYSERDA and the New York Energy \$martSM Program. The Energy Smart Students Program, in partnership with the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project, will provide curriculum materials and training for this statewide program. *Pre-registration is required. Visit www.nyserda.org/EnergyEducation for more information or to register.*

Monday, December 1st from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Energy Smart Workshop – ABCs of Energy (Teachers Grade K-3)

The ABCs are one of the building blocks of primary students. Why not teach the ABCs of energy at the same time? This hands-on workshop introduces basic energy content through fun and engaging activities that will lay the ground work for energy education at an early age. Students will apply classroom learning to their own life through a family-oriented take-home activity.

Wednesday, December 3rd from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Energy Smart Workshop – The 4 Es of Energy (Teachers Grade 4-6)

Do you know the 4 Es of energy??? This interactive workshop promotes an understanding of energy's relationship with the environment, our economy, efficiency AND the all-important "E" – education. You will use hands-on activities to explore energy forms and sources, global climate change and actions we can take to address the energy challenges we face.

Thursday, December 4th from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Energy Smart Workshop – The Energy Trilogy (Teachers Grade 7-12)

Energy – we all depend upon it every day, but what are the consequences for the global community's growing demand for it??? This interactive workshop will highlight the Energy Trilogy – how economics, efficiency and the environment relate to the energy challenges before us. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to introduce your students to the impacts of their energy use and explore actions we can take to make a difference.

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