



Lutz Children's Museum's
2007-2008

Teacher Newsletter

The Lutz Children's Museum was founded by a teacher, Hazel Lutz, to provide educational resources to families and schools. We remain committed to her vision of providing hands-on learning opportunities that prepare students for academic success.

We consider teachers our customers, our partners, and our friends. Many of our programs come from your suggestions. Grant funding is sometimes available to defray the cost. Please review our current offerings, and contact us if you have any questions or requests. We love to collaborate on special projects that enhance the educational experience.

Programming

Resource Lessons are programs delivered in your classroom by an experienced Museum Educator.

Group Visits are field trips to the museum with an educational program included. We also offer after schools programs and special events at the museum and the Oak Grove Nature Center. All educational programs can be booked by contacting Greta Vrissis at frontdesk@lutzmuseum.org or **860-643-0949 x10**.

Educational Standards

All museum programs meet the performance standards in **Connecticut's K-12 Curriculum Framework**. Specific content standards are indicated within each program description. Please ask if you would like more information about how individual programs meet these indicators.

Long Island Sound: Under the Surface

Come see our new exhibit which explores the life and culture of Long Island Sound. Visitors can climb aboard a seagoing vessel or submerge in a research submarine. We will focus on the ocean this year in many programs, classes, and special events.

Continuing Education Credits

The museum has partnered with **Manchester Community College** to offer continuing education programs for teachers. Programs are under development now and should be available later this year. Please contact Bob Eckert at reckert@lutzmuseum.org or **860-643-0949 x18** if you would like more information.

New Teacher Membership

We now offer all teachers a free individual membership to the museum which will allow you unlimited admissions and discounts on purchases. Contact Greta Vrissis at frontdesk@lutzmuseum.org or **860-643-0949 x10** to get your membership application today!

Teacher – Volunteers

Hazel Lutz founded the museum with the help of other teachers. Some things never change. We always need volunteers to deliver programs, develop curriculum, and maintain artifacts. Please contact Kurtis Palmer at kpalmer@lutzmuseum.org or **860-643-0949 x13** for more information about these and other volunteer opportunities.

Lutz Up

Our bimonthly newsletter is distributed through many different school districts with the permission of your superintendent. Each newsletter is packed with fun and educational classes, concerts, trips, and special events. We count on teachers to unroll the bundle as soon as you receive it and distribute the newsletters into student's backpacks. **Thanks for your help!**

Resource Lesson Topics

Museum Educators will join your classroom for forty-five minutes with fun and educational activities and artifacts. The fee for a Resource Lesson is \$100 per program with an additional charge of 50 cents per mile. The following program topics are currently available; customized topics may be available upon request.

Meet the Animals

Animals of the Night

This outreach program will focus on nocturnal animals and the adaptations that allow them to function better at night and sleep all day. We will meet two nocturnal animals, complete some experiments in both the light and dark, and play a game to figure out which animals are nocturnal.

Recommended Grades: 1, 2, 3

Science Content Standards: 1.2, 2.4

Bird Anatomy: How Form Relates to Function

Looking at the shape of a bird's beak, wings, and feathers gives us clues as to what they eat and how they move. We will look at some of the various forms and learn how they are specialized to fit the bird's lifestyle.

Recommended Grades: K, 1

Science Content Standards: K.1, 1.2

Cute and Furry Mammals

Although not all mammals are considered cute, they do all have fur or hair on their bodies. They all give birth to live babies instead of laying eggs and they feed their babies milk. We will learn all about different types of mammals and meet some face to face – but only the cute ones, of course!

Recommended Grades: K

Science Content Standards: K.2, 1.3

The Life of a Larva

If you think it is tough being a human child, imagine what it would be like to be born without any arms, legs, and/or wings? What types of living creatures start off life as larvae, and how do they change as they become adults? We will meet real larvae and predict what they might look like as adults.

Recommended Grades: K, 1

Science Content Standards: K.2, 1.3

Meet the Artifacts

New Years All Year Round

Many cultures celebrate New Years in a variety of ways throughout the year. The children will learn how their own family heritage might affect their observance of this holiday. The class will explore a range of customs and traditions celebrated right here in Manchester and the surrounding region by using artifacts from the museum's collection.

Recommended Grades: K, 1, 2, 3, 4

Social Studies Content Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 12

Taking it to the Streets

Do you and one of your friends or classmates own the same pair of shoes? Today, many of us buy our shoes at the same stores, but in the past shoes changed dramatically from household to household depending on where your family came from! We will look at the history and culture of footwear and explore the needs and styles of different peoples who have brought their families to Connecticut.

Recommended Grades: K, 1, 2

Social Studies Content Standards: 2, 3, 4, 11

Chatterboxes

Study the many means of communication humans used throughout history through the eyes of a curator. Why is it important to understand how people talked to each other? Through technology and language, we will explore the museum's collection and learn how a cell phone is like the new quill and parchment.

Recommended Grades: 2, 3

Social Studies Content Standards: 1, 3, 4, 9

Toys Through Time

The museum's collection of toys dates back to Hazel Lutz's childhood and earlier. The class will compare the materials used to make toys and experience how children played in past eras through hands-on demonstrations and games.

Recommended Grades: K, 1, 2

Social Studies Content Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4

Having a special event for large groups? We have new programs which can accommodate larger crowds in an auditorium setting. We can do a program for the entire crowd or set up a booth to accommodate a steady flow of individuals. These programs are perfect for fairs. Call **860-643-0949** for more details!

Group Visit Topics

Visiting the museum is a fun *and* educational field trip! You will find three galleries which house our exhibits as well as a “*Shadow Room*” and a museum store. Come explore our new “*Under the Surface*” exhibit on Long Island Sound, experience 19th Century Manchester farm life, or visit with some of the wild and domestic animals housed in our “*Animal Room*.” Book your Tuesday or Wednesday group visit in advance and chaperones will be admitted free with groups of ten or more children. One of our Museum Curators will present an informative forty five minute educational program of your choice for a fee of \$8 per child which includes museum admission for the day. A self-guided visit is also available for \$5 per child.

Meet the Animals

It’s Alive!

How can you tell if something is alive or not? Does it grow, move, reproduce, and respond to its environment? We will collect specimens and use simple tests to determine whether or not they are alive.

Recommended Grades: K, 1

Science Content Standards: K.2

When I Grow Up...

When some animals are born, they look a lot like they will as adults. Other types of animals will undergo metamorphosis and their bodies will have completely different forms as adults. In what ways do animals change as they grow? How will your body change when you grow up? We will meet some live examples of babies and adults.

Recommended Grades: K, 1

Science Content Standards: K.2, 1.3

Wonderful Wings

Who has wings? Birds, bats, and bugs do! There are many different types of wings, and they are all adapted to how each creature moves. We will meet some live winged animals. We will also experiment with different materials to see what would make a good wing.

Recommended Grades: 1, 2, 3

Science Content Standards: 1.2

Animals of Long Island Sound

What are some features of a habitat in Long Island Sound? How is it different from arctic or tropical ocean habitats? We will learn what it takes for birds, mammals, and fish to survive in Long Island Sound, and even meet some animals that call the Sound home.

Recommended Grades: 1, 2, 3

Science Content Standards: 3.2

Meet the Artifacts

Curious Curator

Come explore the inner workings of a museum and learn about how exhibits are created and built. Students will compare archaeology and paleontology and will learn about ways of preserving the past. We will work hands-on with the museum’s collection and we’ll even piece together a baby triceratops “skeleton”!

Recommended Grades: All ages

Social Studies Content Standards: 1, 2, 4

The Podunks of Manchester

Students will learn about the Podunk tribe, which populated Manchester prior to European settlement in the colonial period. They will work hands-on with Native American artifacts and learn about historical and cultural practices of indigenous tribes including the Podunk’s food sources, shelters, and tribal stories. Students will also learn about natural resources.

Recommended Grades: 1, 2, 3

Social Studies Content Standards: 1, 2, 4, 9

Music and Memory

People from around the world moved to Connecticut to find a better life, whether it was to escape prejudice, to seek religious freedom, or to better their economic standing. With them, they brought their music, telling the stories of their past and the hopes for their future. We will explore the rhythm, lyrics, and instruments of different cultures, and the meanings imbedded in music.

Recommended Grades: All ages

Social Studies Content Standards: 2, 3, 4, 6, 11, 13

Hazel’s House

Come visit the museum and explore the gifts our founder, Hazel Lutz, left us. We will explore the ways in which Ms. Lutz taught art, and see some of her artwork- which very few visitors get to see! We will also learn about other CT artists and the way they represent our state through their creative craft.

Recommended Grades: 2, 3

Social Studies Content Standards: 1, 2, 4

Visit Our Nature Center!!! _____

These one-hour topics, recommended for all ages, are held off-site in order to use the resources of our fifty-two acre nature preserve. After the program is over, groups are welcome to stay at the Nature Center for lunch and exploration or to travel to the Lutz Children's Museum.

The program costs \$8 per child and includes one free admission coupon to the museum. There is a minimum charge of \$100 and there is no extra cost for chaperones. Programs are planned for a maximum of twenty-five students; please call if you are interested in accommodations for larger group sizes.

Nature Explorers: Animal Clues

Which animals can you find in the woods at the Oak Grove Nature Center? Which animals can you find in your backyard? Come practice how to explore nature in order to figure out what fauna has been there.

Nature Explorers: Plant Clues

Come learn how to identify a tree by its leaves, bark, and other characteristics. We will use our five senses to explore nature and the flora within. We will also explore the life cycle of a variety of different plants.

Additional Resource Lesson Topics _____

We consider the yearly implementation of new and exciting programming to be essential to ensuring the vitality of educational experiences here at the Lutz. However, we also know it is just too hard to see some old favorites go! These popular topics are still available and can be brought to your classroom by calling **860-643-0949**.

- **To Move or Not to Move**
- **School Days of Long Ago**
- **Life Cycles**
- **Endangered Species**
- **Fur, Feathers, Skin, and Scales**
- **Farm Life**
- **Ocean Life**
- **Puppetry**
- **How Animals Protect Themselves**

Educational Loan Kits _____

The Lutz Children's Museum is pleased to announce the return of our educational loan kits! These newly created kits are designed to bring the museum right to your classroom or organization in a very affordable package. They are filled with fascinating artifacts and include teacher's manuals with topical background information and tips on how to teach using museum artifacts. We hope you will love them as much as we do!

Educational Loan Kits are available in the following topics: **Puppetry, Music, Dance, The 1960's: A Child's Life in CT, and Habitats: Meadows, Ponds, and Forests.**

Kits are loaned out for a period of two weeks at a charge of \$25. Please contact the museum at **860-643-0949** in order to reserve your kit today.