IN THIS ISSUE, DISCOVER:

- From the Director
- A Look at School Partnerships
- Upcoming Programs and Events
- News and Notes

Photo from Playing Around: Engineering and Toys, special exhibition opens September 30, 2017
FROM THE DIRECTOR

What happens when museums and schools work together? Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” The value of collaboration is vitally important in education, through which a child’s future is made brighter. We believe that science plays a key role in illuminating young minds.

At the Montshire, we strive to strengthen the ecosystem of science learning through different forms of collaboration. We know that visitors of all ages can increase their passion for science by exploring our hands-on exhibitions and participating in our programs and activities. To make these experiences great, we work with the community through research, prototypes, and requests for constant feedback.

Cultivating a love for science doesn’t just happen in the Museum, or in any one place. In partnering with schools, we reach a large, more defined group of learners. By communicating with educators directly, we hear the priority issues and concerns that kids face, and can modify our teaching approach. Our work with tinkering in schools helped us develop our Montshire Tinkering Kits, which in turn helps families engage with science at the kitchen table—creating a dynamic loop of science learning.

Whether at home, at school, or at the Montshire, together we can discover so much.

Marcos Stafne, PhD
Executive Director

At Unity Elementary School, in Unity, New Hampshire, first graders are examining the lives of insects with the help of their teachers and Montshire educators. Third graders are building simple machines. And fifth graders are using powerful microscopes to observe plants, animals, and everyday objects. Thanks to Montshire’s School Partnership Initiative (SPI), the science program at Unity and ten other schools is growing stronger.

“We are thrilled about the support our teachers have received,” said Unity Principal Chip Baldwin. “The results included a staff better equipped for science education, more engaged students, and a shift in the learning culture, where there is a greater focus on science.”

SPI aims to strengthen small, rural schools with limited resources by offering Montshire staff’s expertise in K–8 science education. The Museum provides support in a number of ways, including: customized curriculum support and professional development based on teachers’ individual needs; program evaluation focused on...
A LOOK AT SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

student attitudes toward science and engineering; curriculum coaching and classroom support; a materials loan program (complete curriculum kits are loaned to SPI schools); and school-wide professional development events at the Museum and at the schools. The long-term partnerships between the Museum and SPI schools are designed to increase the capacity of the partner schools to provide a richer science program for their students.

Established in 2006, SPI began with three participating schools and has since expanded to support eleven institutions. Last August, the Montshire teamed up with Unity, the most recent addition to the SPI community. Montshire Director of Education Greg DeFrancis and Principal Baldwin worked together with their staff to develop a program that would enhance the students’ education experience. This included insect study for students in kindergarten to 2nd grade, classroom sessions focused on tinkering and engineering for 3rd and 4th grade, microscope loan and associated curriculum for 5th and 6th grade, and science workshops for 7th and 8th grade. Unity’s enthusiastic faculty of five also attended three full days of professional development at the Montshire, with each day focusing on a different education-related topic (inquiry, experimental design, and incorporation of engineering into science programs).

“The entire school, from administrators to teachers, is 100% committed to science,” said Montshire Educator and Program Manager Rachel Donegan of the work experience with Unity. “It’s inspiring to see a passionate group of educators who care deeply about their students’ learning experience.”

SPI is just one way that Montshire supports schools. Hundreds of schools visit the museum, participate in workshops, or invite Montshire staff to work with their faculty. When museum educators, skilled in hands-on inquiry-based learning methodologies, and school professionals work together, dynamic experiences open up for learners of all ages.

“THE RESULT WAS A SHIFT IN THE LEARNING CULTURE, WHERE THERE IS A GREATER FOCUS ON SCIENCE.”
Principal Chip Baldwin
Unity Elementary School

Teachers from Unity Elementary School participate in Montshire professional development
CALLING ALL TOY MAKERS

A DAY FOR TOYS!
Saturday, November 4, 11am–3pm
Free with Museum admission
Join us for the day as we explore toys, create toys, and hack toys to see what’s inside. In celebration of the Montshire’s exhibition Playing Around: Engineering and Toys, you’ll get to investigate the science and engineering of toys ranging from spinning tops to surprising balancing acts.

EVENINGS FOR ADULTS

MONTSHIRE UNLEASHED
Fridays, 7–9pm (doors open at 6:30pm)
Admission: Members free; non-members $10; presale $8; MCA employees $7
Allow your inner curiosity to run wild! The Montshire is open after hours for adults. Pull up a stool at the Science Discovery Lab for some amazing activities or simply explore the Museum’s visiting and permanent exhibits on your own. Jasper Murdock Ale and wine from the Norwich Inn will be available for purchase. Adults 21 and over only.

UPCOMING DATES
October 13
November 10
January 12
February 16
March 16
April 13
FOR YOUNG INVENTORS

MONTSHIRE MAKERS
Fridays 6:30–8pm
Grades 6–9
Pre-registration encouraged
Pre-registration:
Members $8; nonmembers $10
Registration at the door:
Members $12; nonmembers $15

Calling all middle school makers: the tinkering studio is open! Come and spend Friday nights exploring new skills and hanging out with friends. Design, create, and build something cool—a robot that draws, an electronic blinky bug, tessellating designs. You’ll have a chance to use your imagination and sharpen your neurons. Sign up for one session or all of them, or just drop in. Each month will explore a different topic.

UPCOMING DATES AND TOPICS
September 8: Learn to Solder
October 6: Hats ON
November 17: Paper Circuits
December 1: Eraser Stamps
January 5: Chain Reactions
February 2: Stop Motion Animation
March 2: Motors, Motors, Motors
April 6: Frankenstuffsies

FOR EVENT DETAILS AND REGISTRATION, VISIT www.montshire.org

FOR BUDDING SCIENTISTS

YOUNG SCIENTIST PROGRAM
Sessions from September to May
Visit our website for details

Designed to engage and excite preschoolers (ages 4+) and kindergartners about science, this weekly program includes hands-on experiments, fun projects, and individual explorations in the physical and natural sciences. Two weekly options to choose from: mornings 9:30–11:30am and afternoons, 1–3pm.

UPCOMING DATES
Session 1
September 6–October 18 (7 weeks)
Session 2
October 25–December 13 (7 weeks)
Session 3
January 3–February 14 (7 weeks)
Session 4
February 28–April 11 (7 weeks)
Session 5
April 25–May 16 (4 weeks)
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<td>Hanover Garden Club - Looking to Learn: A Geographical Perspective of the Upper Valley</td>
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WWW.MONTSHIRE.ORG \ FALL 2017 \ WINTER 2018
NEWS AND NOTES

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
The Montshire’s fiscal year ends September 30. Please consider making your annual contribution before then to help us meet our goals and prepare for the exciting year ahead. Annual giving is critical to the Montshire’s success because admission fees, memberships, and program revenues cover only a portion of the costs necessary to provide joyful learning and discovery opportunities to everyone in our community. Thank you for your support!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Would you like to contribute your time and talents to support science ed-ucation? The Montshire has several openings for volunteer Explainers. Please apply for these and other volunteer positions at montshire.org, or call 802-649-2200, x249.
ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Montshire Museum of Science is a hands-on museum in Norwich, Vermont. Located on a 110-acre site near the Connecticut River, the Museum offers over 140 exhibits relating to the natural and physical sciences, ecology, and technology, as well as an outdoor space that features miles of trails, David Goudy Science Park, and nature exhibits.

HOURS
Open daily, 10am to 5pm
Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas

ADMISSION
Free for Members and children under 2 years old
Adults: $15 \ Children: $12
Summer rate:
Adults: $17 \ Children: $14

ACCESSIBILITY
First floor exhibit spaces and bathrooms are entirely wheelchair accessible. Second floor exhibit spaces can be reached by elevator. Several nature trails on the Quinn Nature Preserve are also wheelchair accessible.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 THROUGH MARCH 25, 2018

Playing Around: Engineering and Toys

Get a close look at the inner workings of classic toys, and even create your own. This exhibition will delight people of all ages by engaging the senses through hands-on learning.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 3, 2018

Making Music: Selected Exhibits


OCTOBER 7, 2017 THROUGH MAY 2, 2018

The Light Around Us

Explore both the physics of light and how we see it by experimenting with color, shadows, prisms, and the light beyond the rainbow.

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