

# the new children's museum

# explore!

950 Trout Brook Drive  
West Hartford, CT

WINTER 2012  
www.thechildrensmuseumct.org

Where Science & Nature are Fun



## Full Moon Hike!

Dress warmly as we'll head to the open field for some moon gazing, astronomy and listening for great horned owls. To be followed by hot cider and cookies in the Roaring Brook Nature Center auditorium. This program is not geared for young children and participants should dress for cold evening temperatures! Members: \$5.00, non-members: \$7.00. Pre-registration is required. Call the Nature Center for additional information at 860.693.0263.

## Must See: King Tut, The Boy King

Discover the dazzling mysteries and treasures of ancient Egypt when an ancient Egyptian king is resurrected in our exhibit, King Tut, The Boy King, open until May 2013. Hieroglyphs serve as a guide through multiple enchanting exhibit rooms. See hundreds of fascinating replicas including the stunning funerary mask, mummification couch, weapons, tools, and cultural objects that were placed within the boy king's tomb to help him on his journey to the afterlife. Learn the story and explore the mystery surrounding the youngest and most recognizable pharaoh ever unearthed in Egypt.

## PLENTY TO DO...

# Inside, or Out



The leaves are off the trees, the cool arctic air is blowing down, and with it the invigorating, rosy-cheek feeling that comes from a day out in the fresh air and snow – followed by something hot to drink. You don't need to find a tropical beach to beat the winter blues, you just need The New Children's Museum and the Roaring Brook Nature Center!

If you haven't already, load up your boots, snowshoes or cross-country skis and come explore the open fields and woodland trails at the Roaring Brook Nature Center. Whether it's snowy or sunny, you'll be rewarded with sightings of wildlife, fresh air in your lungs and a healthy heart. This winter at the Nature Center is filled with adventure – explore the forest under the full moon while you listen for great horned owls during the Full Moon Hike in January, uncover the mysteries of wildlife habits in mid-winter in the Groundhog Day Hike, and end the season with the annual maple sugaring demonstration at the Nature Center – the best part will be tasting the final product!

If you feel like staying warm inside visit The New Children's Museum – where being indoors has never been so fun! You can journey through the clouds of Saturn's moon and zip through the ice caves of Neptune's moon in the planetarium, discover the dazzling mysteries and treasures of ancient Egypt in the King Tut, The Boy King exhibit and meet our wildlife at a live animal demonstration.

Step inside, or out, and discover winter in a whole new way! ■



SAVE THE DATE!

## PIZZA NIGHT TO SUPPORT ROARING BROOK NATURE CENTER!

The Flatbread Company  
Pizza Night Fundraiser  
for the Nature Center  
Tuesday, March 19

A percentage of the pizza sales on March 19, 2013 at 5:00 PM. Bring your friends, bring your family, and heck, bring your co-workers to enjoy dinner at The Flatbread Company at The Shoppes at the Farmington Valley while supporting RBNC!



### Need a great gift for the person who has everything?

Make a donation to The New Children's Museum Annual Fund in someone's honor. It's a great feeling to know that because of you, The New Children's Museum can continue its good work. We will send a certificate to your honoree so he or she can enjoy your special gift. Thank you for considering The New Children's Museum during your holiday shopping. It's easy. Visit [www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](http://www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org) and click on Donate Now.

### Give the Gift of Membership

Membership to The New Children's Museum allows a family to enjoy our exhibits and daily activities as often as they like, for a full year, as well as generous discounts on programs and events.

To purchase a membership, call 860.231.2830 x51 or go to [www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](http://www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org) and click on Join Us.

# Moving into the Future

Dear Friends,

Thanks to an active community made up of donors, visitors, and staff, The New Children's Museum infuses the cultural life of Central Connecticut with a diverse set of inquiry-based science learning programs that build 21st century skills in children so they become critical thinkers and problem solving life long learners.

Over the past few months, the Museum has begun its serious work on evaluating desirable locations for the museum to move beyond its current walls. The New Children's Museum for the 21st century will be a unique place that brings children, families and communities together for quality, hands and minds on interactions. Serving as a beacon amid a frenzied environment, The New Children's Museum celebrates imagination and creativity; provides activities that nurture family relationships; establishes common ground in communities; collaborates with traditional educational and social service organizations and builds creative communities that improve the quality of life.

The very process of exploring the many possibilities for the future of The New Children's Museum is re-energizing the institution. We are asking ourselves hard questions and, in the process, developing a renewed appreciation for the strength and heritage of the institution and its firm position in the cultural landscape not just of West Hartford, but also the state and national communities to which we belong.

As the new vision takes shape, I hope you will become inspired to support or become more involved in our great institution.

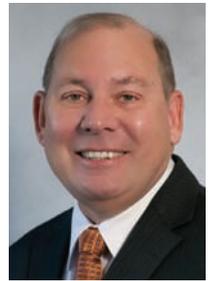
As a privately funded museum, we rely on the generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations. It is our community of donors who fuel the extraordinary learning experiences across the sciences, arts, and humanities that have the power for imaginations to run wild.

We invite you to join us in creating that spark to empower creative thinking and life long learners by giving to the Annual Fund. Your gift to the Annual Fund is essential in helping us cultivate the continued strength of our museum.

With gratitude,

Robert R. Griesmer  
President and CEO

**17th Annual Gala!** SAVE THE DATE for the 17th Annual Gala to support The New Children's Museum! Join us at the Museum on **Thursday, May 16, 2013** for a night of great food, specialty cocktails, science fun, visits from our animal friends and a chance to get one final look at King Tut, The Boy King before the exhibit departs at the end of May. Contact Katie Berube 860.231.2830 x48 for more details on corporate sponsorship opportunities and ticket prices.



# Birthday Parties are a Piece of Cake

Imagine a super-fun party with no worries. A birthday bash at The New Children's Museum is just that. We offer parties that are memorable, entertaining and hassle-free.

Choose our basic FUNDamental Party Package or one of our engaging themed parties. Celebrate your birthday Egyptian-style with a Royal Affair party. An Ahoy Mateys party takes you and your friends on a pirate adventure. Put on goggles and join in the fun of a Mad Scientists party. Have an out-of-this-world experience with a Blast Off party. Little ones can choose Totally Toddlers, our animal-focused party. There's sure to be fun, whichever party you choose.

Visit our website for detailed information. ■



**Come Explore. Come have Fun. Come CELEBRATE!**

**Looking to plan a FUN-NOMENAL FUNCTION?  
The New Children's Museum is  
more than a destination, it's a venue!  
Visit [www.thechildrensmuseumct.org](http://www.thechildrensmuseumct.org)**



STAFF PHOTOS

# HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

The New Children's Museum and the Roaring Brook Nature Center understand the challenges that homeschool educators may face tackling science topics. As supporters of your family's choice for self-directed, home-based education we hope to bridge the gap with specialized programs for homeschooled children.

## Homeschool at the New Children's Museum

Our Science Adventure Days resume January 30. We invite children who are homeschooled to visit the Museum, tour our exhibits and take part in special programming. These workshops and planetarium shows are appropriate for children five to thirteen years old. It is our goal that your children receive the maximum learning enjoyment through a variety of topics. The day is structured so you can select up to three different programs. The learning continues on February 27 and March 27.

Our popular Science Mini Series begins its second session February 14. It's all about animals! Students examine the anatomy and behavior of amphibians, reptiles, and mammals through fun hands-on activities.

Pre-registration is required for all Homeschool programs. Visit our website for detailed program and registration information.

## Homeschool at the Roaring Brook Nature Center: WINTER IN THE WOODS

Designed for homeschool families, this class is a hands-on, active exploration of nature in winter. Themes may include: hibernation, active animals, animal tracking and plant survival. Content will be guided by the interest of the group. Each child will complete the class with the beginnings of their own nature journal to take home. Appropriate for children age 5-8 with an adult. A portion of each class will be held outdoors. No strollers or carriages, please!

Meets for four weeks on Thursdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31 from 9:30 - 11:00 AM. \$60.00 per child for all four sessions. Discounts extended to families with multiple children attending this program. Monday sessions may also be available. Call the Nature Center for more information at 860.693.0263. ■



## Registration Open for September 2013 Classes at The New Children's Museum Preschool

What better early childhood learning experience than a preschool where children can observe weekly live animal demonstrations, explore with magnets in physical science lessons and experience outer space in planetarium shows?

The New Children's Museum Preschool, one of the first early childhood education centers in the United States, provides rich multi-sensory experiences for children ages 3-5 with a curriculum that supports the development of essential academic and life skills.

For information or to schedule a tour, please call 860.523.7499 or email Joyce Cowles, Director at [jcowles@thechildrensmuseumct.org](mailto:jcowles@thechildrensmuseumct.org).

## Volunteer to Make a Difference

'Tis the Season. Give the gift of time. Become a King Tut Gallery Guide. Are you outgoing, friendly, enthusiastic and dependable? Looking for a great opportunity to share your talent and meet new people? The New Children's Museum is the place for you.

Volunteers are an important part of making our Museum such a wonderful place to visit. Our new blockbuster exhibit, King Tut, The Boy King, is an opportunity for dynamic people to help others marvel in the treasures of ancient Egypt. You'll learn the compelling story of King Tut and share it with others.

Gallery Guides must commit to a minimum of 8 hours a month for a 3-month period and be at least 16 years old. This is an ideal opportunity for college students, stay-at-home moms or dads, and seniors.

Interested candidates should contact Sue Carroll at [scarroll@thechildrensmuseumct.org](mailto:scarroll@thechildrensmuseumct.org) for more information. ■



## Join The New Children's Museum's Junior Keeper Club



Go behind the scenes and learn what it takes to be an animal keeper. Work with the Wildlife Sanctuary Director, Animal Curators and volunteers. You will help feed, groom and learn general animal husbandry. Get a private demonstration and have your picture taken holding an animal at each session. The program is for ages 10 to 14 and is limited to 6 participants.

Prices for four sessions:

\$80.00/person for The New Children's Museum members

\$100.00/person for non-members

4 Wednesday sessions 3:00 - 4:00 PM

February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1 ■



SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ARE LISTED ON THE **CALENDAR INSERT**  
70 Gracey Road, Canton, CT  
860.693.0263  
[www.roaringbrook.org](http://www.roaringbrook.org)



## Sponsor an Animal

Give a gift to protect wildlife!

Each year The New Children's Museum and Roaring Brook Nature Center raises funds to improve wildlife exhibits and maintain quality and enriching habitats for the animals that call the Museum and Nature Center home. Sponsor an animal to provide a unique, special gift where the recipient can visit with the animal, receive a color photograph, a certificate and more! For more information and to sponsor an animal, please contact our wildlife department at 860.231.2830 x50

950 Trout Brook Drive, West Hartford, CT 06119

## So You Want To Be A Herpetologist?

Does your child dream of spending time in faraway lands looking for exotic reptiles?

Now, here's an opportunity to learn what a herpetologist is by going behind the scenes at The New Children's Museum. Feed a tortoise, handle a snake, or observe a lizard or an alligator during this one hour program. Meet other reptile enthusiasts and have an opportunity for plenty of hands-on learning.

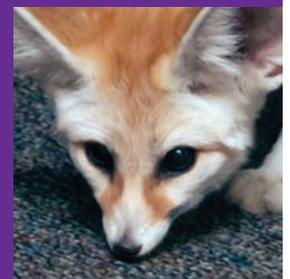
Students must be ages 10-14. Group size is limited to 6 (minimum two students required to run program). Offered Wednesdays 4:30 - 5:30 PM. \$45.00 members, \$50.00 nonmembers. Reservations are required and must be made at least one week in advance.

You may register online, or by calling 860.231.2830 x44.



## Fox Encounter Program

In this 60 minute program meet Calvin and Hobbes, The New Children's Museums two Fennec foxes. Animal Curators will tell you everything you wanted to know about fox, from our Connecticut species to the smallest fox in the world. Learn about fox social structure in the wild and how different they are from your dog at home. Get a close up look at a fox skull and learn why they need those sharp little teeth.



A small group of participants will be seated in The Wildlife Sanctuary while the Fennec fox are loose to run in the sanctuary. The fox do not normally approach people but will walk freely in the group. You will be given a chance to pet the fox while a curator holds the fox during the presentation. Each participant will be given a treat to give to the fox, it will be up to the fox if they want to eat it. Bring your own camera and feel free to take pictures of the fox during the encounter.

Cost is \$45.00 for members and \$50.00 for non-members. Encounter is limited to 6 participants. Participants must be 6 years old and up. Children under 15 must be accompanied by a paid adult participating with them. Fox Encounters are scheduled on Wednesdays from 4:30 - 5:30 PM Pre-registration one week in advance is required.

You may register online, or by calling 860.231.2830 x44.