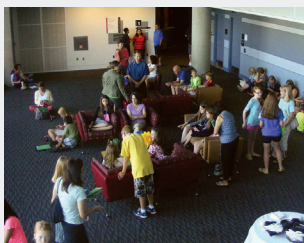


## New, veteran CK reporters gather for training



A rare face-to-face  
get-together

This issue of Colorado Kids marks the start of a new year, as our 14-year-olds move on with our thanks September 1 and new faces and bylines begin to appear.

Our summer training workshop was held at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, where we were able to include a new, hands-on training opportunity: Following several hours of presentations on photography, interviewing, writing reviews and other basic elements of journalism, five of our veteran reporters went on assignment within the museum, each with four new writers tagging along to observe and learn.

This week, we feature their work, which we hope will also have had an influence on some of the stories you'll read here in the months to come.

# ColoradoKids



Colorado Kids  
reporters,  
2013-14



## WHY, NASUTOCERATOPS, BUT WHAT A BIG NOSE YOU HAVE!

Paleontologists from the Natural History Museum of Utah at the University of Utah recently announced the discovery of a relative of Triceratops that lived 75 million years ago in what is now southern Utah.

“Nasutoceratops” translates as “big-nosed, horned face,” which you might not want to say in front of him, even though he was a plant-eater, since he was 15 feet long and weighed about 2.5 tons.

The 2010 expedition was led by Scott Sampson, now Vice President of Research and Collections at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. It took this long to finish the research required before announcing the discovery.

Eric Lund, who made the actual discovery, says it shows how much more there is to learn about dinosaurs.

*Illustration: NHM of Utah*

## DMNS WING OPENS IN 2014

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science is adding a new 126,000 square-foot wing called the Education and Collections Facility.



By Hannah Skurcenski,  
12, a CK Reporter from  
Centennial

According to Peggy Day, project manager for the new addition, they started work in September, 2011, and construction will be finished at the end of November. Then it will be ready to open to the public next February.

Three floors above ground are The Morgridge Family Exploration Center.

The first floor will have three classrooms for field trips and other educational events. It will be glass, but with louvers to help keep the room shaded.

The Science Atrium will feature a big open room with a large video screen. It floor will be geared towards 3 to 6 year olds, with a new, larger Discovery Zone. It will include a



**Science Atrium** will open to the public in February *Architect's rendering/DMNS*

large dinosaur to climb on, and other things to play with.

The third floor will be a temporary exhibition which can connect to a room in the other building for larger exhibits. The opening exhibit will be on The Mayans, which is going to take up the space of both exhibition galleries.

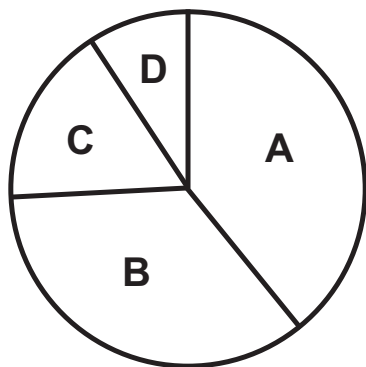
Two underground floors will store artifacts not on display. Only two to three percent of the museum's artifacts are displayed at a time.

These storage rooms, the Rocky Mountain Science and Collections Center, will be humidity and temperature controlled.

However, before newly found artifacts go into storage, they will go through a room on the first floor, the “dirty prep space,” to be cleaned.

If there are bugs on them, they will refreeze them, while if any animal skeletons still have flesh on them, they will add bugs to eat them clean!

# Counting down a pretty good summer



**A**s the new school year draws closer, CK readers seem to have put together a vacation worth remembering.

Nearly three-quarters of you reported that the summer break was as good or even better than you expected, and “better than expected” came out slightly ahead.

Meanwhile, fewer than 10 percent of readers who responded felt they’d been robbed of any vacation at all.

And another group realized they’ll need to get to work enjoying what’s left, and to them we say, “Hurry up and relax!”

Here’s what we asked you, and what you told us:

*Coming up on the halfway mark, how’s summer vacation going?*

- A. Better than expected! 39%
- B. About on schedule 35%
- C. Eep! Way behind! 17%
- D. What vacation? 9%

Now, here’s our new question:

**The Magic Ticket Genie will give you a pair of any tickets you want. What’s your choice?**

- A. Season passes to an amusement park
- B. Season tickets to a sports team.
- C. Year-long passes to a movie theater.
- D. One pair of round-trip airline tickets to anywhere.

To vote on this question, go to [YourHub.com/NextGen](http://YourHub.com/NextGen).

ck Kids and adults can find live links to information about stories in Colorado Kids at [www.ColoradoNIE.com](http://www.ColoradoNIE.com)

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# Skeletons are the keys to learning

**“B**eing an archaeologist is like trying to put a puzzle together without the pieces or the picture.” Says Carol Lucking, Earth Science Assistant Collections Manager of the Big Bone Room at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.



*By Sophia Khan, 11, a CK Reporter from Northglenn*

Have you ever gone on a dig for a Mastodon bone?

Have you ever felt the weight of a bone pressed against your palms?

Have you ever needed to use a pickax?

These are just a few things an archaeologist will be doing more than once throughout their career.

The Big Bone Room is filled with hundreds, maybe thousands of bones and is used for storing bones so they do not dry up and become damaged.

The oldest bone stored there is 70 million years old and the newest is 45,000 years old.

When you enter the Big Bone Room, you’ll see bones



**Bones abound** You’ll see bones stored everywhere in the Big Bone Room, some as old as 70 million, some only 45,000 years old. *Photo by Sophia Khan*

stacked on shelves, carts, drawers and even in field jackets.

A field jacket is a ‘jacket’ they put on bones that are too fragile for showing. These protective coverings are mostly used for bones 60-70 million years old.

The reason the room has a lot of bones is because recently they had some new additions.

Archaeologists have recently gone on a dig in Colorado and found 40 mastodon bones in only 9 weeks of digging.

Sometimes, 300 bones would

be pulled out of the ground at a time.

Since there have been new additions to the Bone Room, some of the animals will be in some very strange positions. This is because when some animals die, they have a death pose so that as they die they are comfortable.

The Big Bone Room is an exhibit where you can learn a lot about bones and dinosaurs and I highly recommend going there when you visit the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

## BEYOND THESE FOUR PAGES

Part of archaeology is examining ancient buildings or objects and trying to figure out what they were and how they were used. Look through today’s newspaper for a picture of a common object. Pretend you’re an archaeologist in the year 14,000 and describe this unknown thing you’ve found.



# Teamwork makes new exhibits happen

Frances Kruger, a Senior Developer/Writer for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, is responsible for some of the most exclusive stuff the museum has to offer -- and it's hidden away in the basement!



By Salina Garza,  
13, a CK Reporter  
from Westminster

Kruger, who helps prepare new exhibits, has been working professionally since 1980 teaching art and working at the museum. She got her start by taking lots of art classes in high school, graduate school and college and has a bachelors degree in studio art and art history, and a masters in museum studies.

She made a very good point that working with exhibits helps work both sides of the brain. You are using your creative right side to create and imagine, but then you get to use your left side to build and plan.

As an interpretive writer, she gets to come up with the labels for the exhibits in the museum as well as developing ideas for new exhibits.



**Feline in training** A cougar is among the elements of a new museum exhibit Frances Kruger is currently helping to develop. *Photo by Salina Garza*

In preparing an exhibit, everything is done as a team, nothing is done alone, kind of like doing a school project together.

The teacher (or boss in this case) gives a general idea of what they want. Then everybody has a specialty, and making up the team are a scientist, an educator, a technology representative and the project manager.

After they have each worked on their

parts, they come together to combine the ideas to come up with an overall concept, then get approval, after which they can start moving toward their goal.

The actual products start to move along in the wood shop where they cut and build whatever is needed for an exhibit. Next door to the wood shop is the paint shop, where they stain, decorate and paint items. Everything is set up theoretically in the basement.

They are working on new exhibits for the new wing including anthropology, archives, geology, health sciences, zoology and paleontology. They also try to pick one existing exhibit each year and make it better.

Later this year, they will be installing 3D elements to certain parts of the museum. For example, a ponderosa pine tree will be put in with the bear exhibit with sculpted cubs climbing up and down the tree.

For kids who are interested in art and creating things, Frances Kruger says to take every opportunity that you can. Whether it be with designing, painting, or drawings, don't pass it up!

Always keep learning, she says, because the more experience you get, the better.

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(Subject: Lakeside) and tell us  
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## Brain teaser



On this date in 1991, Tim Berners-Lee revealed the new system for using hyper linked documents on the Internet that he called the World Wide Web, so our answers will begin with "I" for Internet.

1. This Midwestern state includes the cities of Peoria, Evanston and the state capital, Springfield.
2. Color between violet and blue on the rainbow.
3. Former Gold Rush town on I-70 in Clear Creek Canyon.
4. The part of the ballpark where you'd find the pitcher's mound.
5. A scientist who studies fish.
6. A species of antelope, or maybe a Chevrolet.
7. On-line photo-sharing service.
8. Senor Montoya, the swordsman from "The Princess Bride."
9. A type style *that looks like this*.
10. Author of "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

(answers on Page Four)

# A STAR-QUALITY SHOW



**Universal control** Dave Cuomo directs a star show *Photo by Marlo Butler*

Planetariums are a good way for people who live in the city and can't see the stars to get a spectacular look at the night sky, and for anyone to learn more about the stars, planets and other heavenly bodies.



*By Logan Butler, 12, a CK Reporter from Littleton*

At the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Dave Cuomo, Assistant Space Science Educator, runs the high tech shows at the planetarium.

Cuomo has always had an interest in astronomy since the famous 1969 moon landing sparked his interest as a child.

To set the massive dome-shaped display up he has to align six different projectors perfectly.

Each projector is run by a computer and then there is one

computer that runs all of the projectors and the computers.

With 118 seats and incredible graphics this planetarium is one of the museums best features.

Four shows are playing now, but more are soon to come. These incredible features take you on a high definition journey through space.

There are two different kinds of ways you can run a show at a planetarium:

You can run it through a star ball, a lighted sphere with holes in the form of stars to show the earth's view of the stars.

Or, there are digital options that can be crafted with real and scientific sketches of stars and planets that are shown with projectors.

When I talked to Cuomo he said that he prefers digital to star balls. "It's just more flexible," he says, "Also, if you are lying on the ground and staring up on the sky, it appears to curve which makes it more realistic."

# VOLUNTEERS HELP IN GENETIC TASTE STUDY

"Genetics of Taste," the first community-run science lab in America, makes genetics more understandable to the general



*By Brianna Wolle, 12, a CK Reporter from Arvada*

public.

Located in Expedition Health, a permanent exhibit at the Den-

ver Museum of Nature and Science, museum visitors can look in, see research progress, and participate in the program.

Since 2009, when it opened, over 3,000 participants have taken part in the experiment studying the relationship between genetics and taste.

"Your DNA is like a cookbook for your body," said Dr. Nicole Garneau, a curator for "Genetics of Taste," where they're studying how people with different ancestries experience various tastes.

It's really neat how the public

can be involved. Citizen scientists (volunteers from the community who are passionate about science and research) come in, have training, and help conduct the research.

Also, museum visitors 18 or older can be research subjects. As one, you'll have a taste test, stand on a fancy measuring scale, and have your tongue painted blue so scientists can count the papillae (which contain your taste buds) on it. A cheek swab gives scientists a sample of your cells, which



*Dr. Garneau Photo by Brianna Wolle*

DNA can be extracted from, connecting your ability to taste bitter with your genetics.

A new study of how different people taste fat is starting in October, and kids eight and older can participate with their families! Researchers are especially encouraging families and twins to join in.

"Education is equally as important to us as research is," Nicole Garneau said.

Check out "Genetics of Taste." You'll definitely learn something from them, and maybe they'll learn something from you.

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## Brain teaser Solution

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow! 7 right - Great! 5 right - Good  
3 right - See you next time!

1. Illinois 2. indigo 3. Idaho Springs 4. infield  
5. ichtyologist 6. impala 7. Instagram  
8. Inigo 9. italic 10. (Washington) Irving

