



CK Reporter of the Week
Van Brown, Littleton

Don't just visit science: Join in!

Volunteers needed for fast, easy scientific study

The latest event at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science goes beyond just interactive: the focus of the display is entirely on the viewer.

The Taste Lab, a fixture in the back of the larger, permanent exhibit "Expedition Health" at the DMNS, is rotating through a series of studies on the genetics of taste which require the help of you and your family.

The current study, which began in November under the supervision of Dr. Nicole Garneau, looks at umami, the fifth and least well known taste.

This taste is most easily described as being savory, but if that doesn't sum it up well enough, that's what the lab is for.

In addition to teaching though, the Taste Lab also needs your help.

Dr. Garneau and the Taste Lab are generally studying the sense of taste, and, specifically now, trying to determine how one's genetics play into one's

ability to sense umami.

They are looking for connections based on familial relationships, race, gender, and other factors, which can be ascertained through participation in the study.

The interactive activities start by gauging one's personal sense of umami and the scale on which certain flavors and sensations are felt for the individual person.

Then, after a briefing on how to collect your own data (*it involves nose plugs*), you try a series of concentrations of umami and place those sensations

on a scale that is now weighted based on your personal sense of umami.

These reactions are all recorded on iPads that the lab provides, and cannot be influenced by those

around you; the iPads are shielded to allow data to remain private.

The collected data is compared with family members and others who participate in the study to determine if there is genetic influence on the ability to taste umami, and if this is affected by variables like gender and race.

In addition to gathering its needed data from the community at various events around the Front Range, the Taste Lab is also operated by the community.

Some of the people who run the tests and teach others about taste have, like Dr. Garneau, studied genetics in school.

However, many of these volunteers are from completely different backgrounds, with one common factor: they're all interested in science.

To volunteer to work in the lab, you must be over sixteen and go through some training, and the opportunity is available to anyone sufficiently interested in science and taste.

Participating in the study itself, however, is open to anyone, though there is a minimum age of eight

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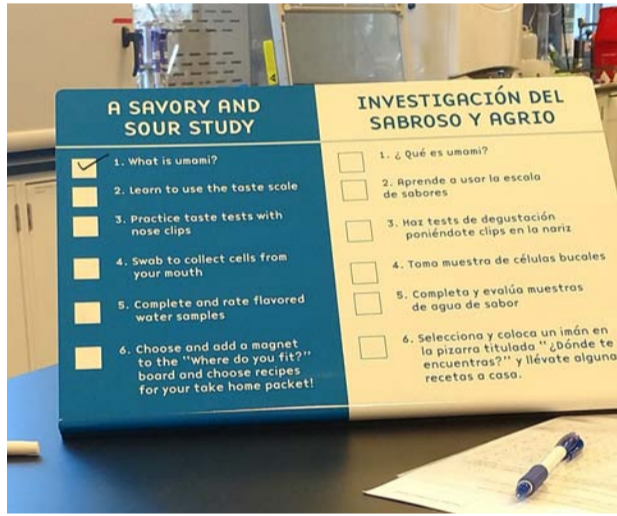


Dr. Nicole Garneau (photos by Thandi Glick)

(minors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian).

It is best for families to attend together, but anyone can participate to learn more about their body, and to help out scientists from the community.

For more information, catch the link at <http://www.ColoradoNIE.com>



By Thandi Glick, 14, a CK Reporter from Denver

Caught in the middle of culturally-based violence

Picture this: It's 1947. India is newly separated from British rule, and it's been separated into Pakistan and India.

Ever since the once-bonded country divided, there has been much tension between the Hindus and Muslims. Roughly 1.5 million people have been killed trying to cross the borders.

How would you feel if you were half Hindu and half Muslim?

In "The Night Diary," by Neera Hiranandani, that's the situation twelve-year-old Nisha is in.

Nisha, who is very shy, lost her mother in childbirth and feels very distant from her stern father, and her elderly grandmother who can be very harsh on her.

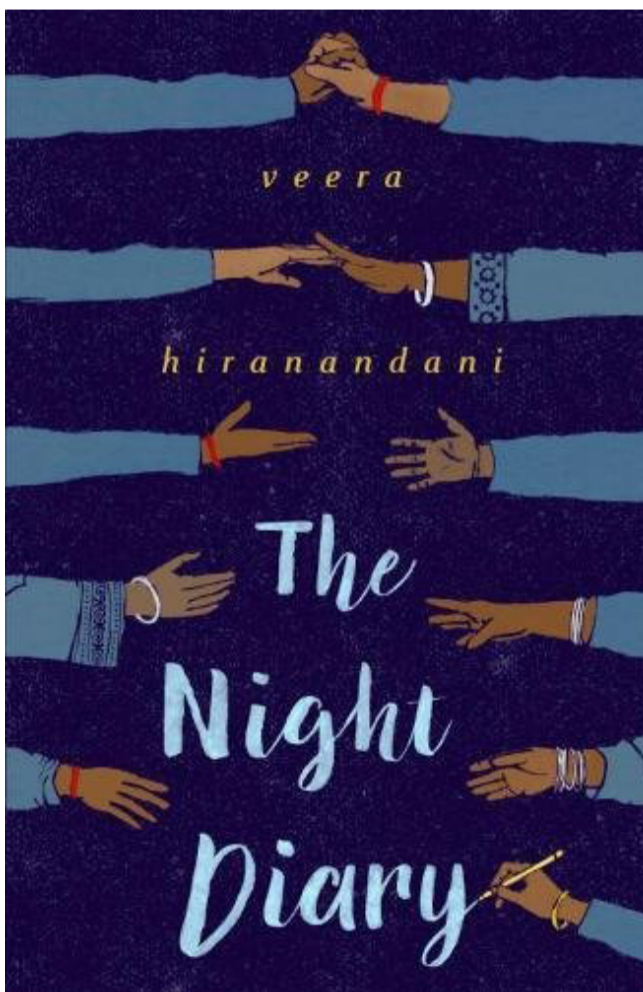
Nisha's mother was Muslim, but her family is Hindu, and the riots make it difficult for them to live in their home safely because of tension between the two religions.

They are forced to leave their town and everything they know and love, to become refugees.

As Nisha and her family make their way across the brand-new border, she learns about who she is, what is important to her, and how to stand up for what she believes.

Along the way she also learns about her family history, which I found very interesting.

This whole experience is something that changes her perspective on how to act and how to live her life.



Hiranandani is able to portray a very dark time in history through diary entries that bring a whole new light to this subject.

Nisha's voice is compelling and is very inspiring, and her transformation is both relatable and sad.

A gripping, nuanced story of what it's like being in war conflict as a kid.

She writes about everything from her deceased mother to what food she ate that day.

But Nisha's character is also old enough to be able to critique the leaders of the two nations -- Gandhi, Nehru, and Jinnah -- with an honesty that to any adult would show how a kid thinks.

This novel is a gripping, nuanced story of what it's like being in war conflict as a kid.

Despite it's recommended age group of 8 to 12, this book is appropriate, and recommended, for both kids and adults.



By Ariana Bates-Erich, 11, a CK Reporter from Arvada



Writing Is Cool!

How Would You Like To Be A Real Reporter?

Find out about all the cool benefits when you apply to be a Colorado Kids reporter at Colorado NIE.com or by emailing dplewka@denverpost.com.

Boys and book triumph over tacky names

"Pottymouth and Stoopid" is an exciting book full of laughs, fun, and relatable moments.

James Patterson has again teamed with Chris Grabenstein to produce a book I wish there were more of. Every single one cracks me up.

This one is about two kids who have had some bad nicknames since preschool: Pottymouth and Stoopid.

Michael (*Pottymouth*) comes up with random alternatives to swear words, like flufferknuckle.

David (*Stoopid*) is just plain clumsy.

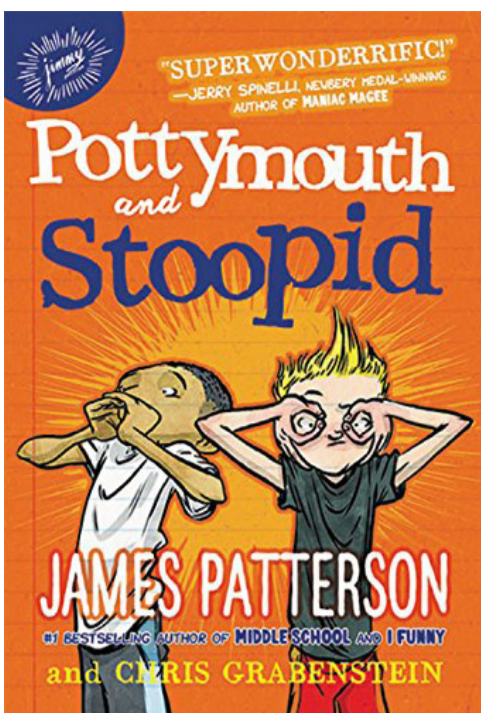
It all started in preschool when David and Michael had a finger painting fiesta, turning finger paint into body and floor paint. Soon, the floor was a badly painted American flag.

Kaya Kenneky, the class sassy girl, pointed, and with just one word, David's nickname was born.

Michael became "Pottymouth" later.

The main story happens in middle school, where David and Michael meet Anna Brittony, the classic basketball nerd.

She is at every basketball game, and when David and Michael try out for the basketball team, but are rejected



because of their nicknames, she approaches them.

She tells them that they are actually pretty good, and that team was not smart to reject them.

She later sends the coach a clip of them playing basketball at home and he instantly regrets his decision.

Within a few chapters, two stars emerge and a prank war on the school bullies has begun.

This again is one of the most fun books I have read. It was only short for me because I wanted to read more.

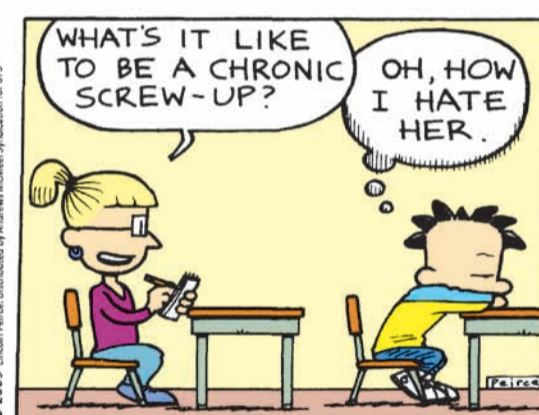
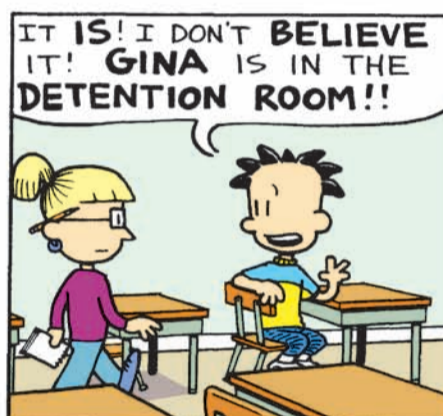
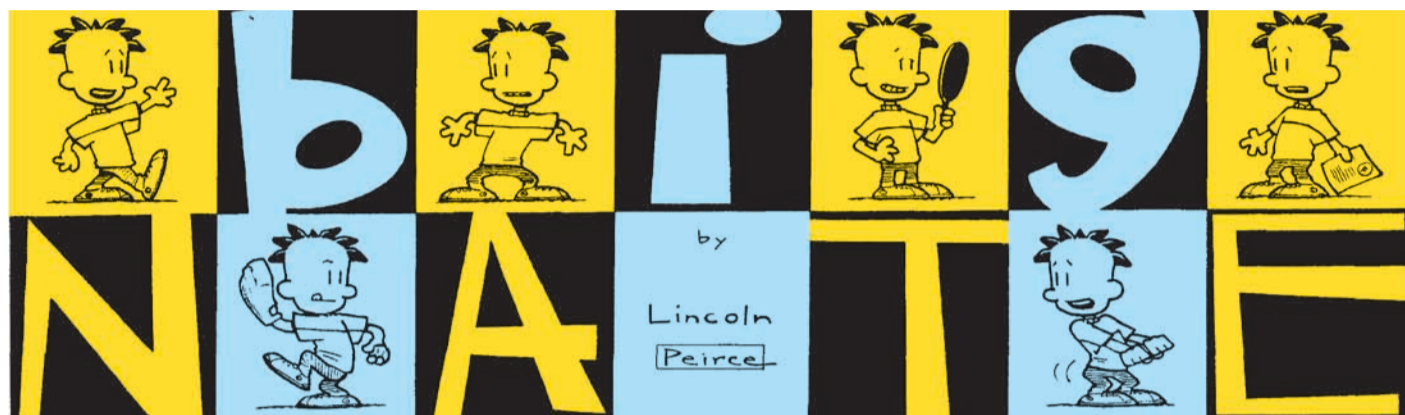
It has quite a few pictures, which adds to the excitement because I could see what was happening.

This book is great for all ages, but I think that kids aged 9 to 15 would enjoy this the most.

I already wish that there was a second Pottymouth and Stoopid book.



By Jack Vanourek, 12, a CK Reporter from Littleton



Sudoku

	6	2			
			2		3
		3	1		
	2	5	4		
4		1			5
				4	

Rules: Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain numerals 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, one time and one time only.
The solution to this week's puzzle is on Page 3.



Brainteaser

On this date in 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell received her degree in medicine, becoming the first woman doctor in the United States, so our answers this week will begin with "M" for "medicine."

1. Slightly bitter jam that includes the skin of oranges or other citrus fruit.
2. Author of the "Winnie the Pooh" books
3. Inventor of the telegraph and of the dots-and-dashes code used on it
4. Western Slope town on Highway 50, you'd probably go there to get to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison.
5. Sauce used in Mexican cooking, it often combines hot peppers with chocolate
6. Performer who never speaks and often wears white makeup and black clothing
7. Tunnel for trains and for water that runs from Rollinsville to Winter Park
8. Fruit from southern Asia with a large pit, it is popular when eaten as fruit but is also used in making chutney sauces for Indian cooking
9. What bovine animals say
10. Large island off the southeast coast of Africa, home to the lemurs

(answers on Page Three)

Set your alarm clock for the Super Blue Blood-Moon Eclipse

January 31 could begin a bit early for skywatchers in Denver's time zone, and the bad news is that it's a Wednesday, so you can't just go back to bed.

The good news, however, is that, if you get up just before four in the morning, and if it's not cloudy, you'll get to see a Super Blue Blood-Moon Eclipse.

It's not an opportunity that comes along very often. Start with the "Super" part: A super moon is when the full moon happens to come along at the time when the Moon is closest to the Earth.

We're getting a couple of those this year, and, while it's not a huge difference, it does make the Moon look a little bigger.

A "blue moon" is when you have two full moons in

the same month, and, since January is 31 days long and we had a full moon at New Years, we get another one just before February.

And the Moon during a total eclipse looks coppery red, so it's sometimes called a "blood moon."

In our time zone the eclipse technically starts at 3:51 am, but you could sleep in a little and wait for the Earth's shadow to actually hit the Moon at 4:48.

The eclipse is total at 6:29 and is pretty much over at 7:07, which is good because the Moon sets three minutes later.

This, by the way, means you not only have to hope for clear skies, but find a place where the mountains won't cause an early moonset.

photo/Eric Kilby



Beyond These Pages!

Hot Links to Cool Sites!

NASA's Space Place

<http://tinyurl.com/ckspace>

NIE Special Report

<http://tinyurl.com/ckniereport>

Headline Geography

<http://tinyurl.com/ckgeography>

Pulse of the Planet

<http://tinyurl.com/ckpulseplanet>

How to become a NextGen Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter>



To read the sources for these stories

DMNS Taste Testing

The Super Blue Moon Blood-Moon

go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/ckstorylinks>

Hooch

Chapter Three – The Stupid Law

Our story so far: Kenny Rascoe lives near the Canadian border in the days of Prohibition. The uncle he lives with is a customs officer, but Kenny has just found out one of his other uncles is a rumrunner who smuggles alcohol into the US.

It was after dark when Kenny and Uncle Raymond got to their apartment in town. Raymond had brought in the box of extra food Mémé sent home with them.

"Want a ham sandwich? I'm going to make myself one before I put this away," he said, and, because they were no longer at the farm, he was speaking English.

"Sure." Kenny had been silent, thinking, all the way home, and Raymond looked at him closely.

"What's on your mind?" he asked, as he cut slices from the crusty loaf of homemade bread.

Kenny sat down at the table in the little kitchen and looked at his hands while he thought another moment.

He wished he hadn't tried to hide in George's car. He wished he'd never seen all the beer behind the seats of the Roadster.

"Why did you become a customs officer?" he asked.

"I needed a job," Raymond shrugged. "When I first got back from the war, you and your mother and George were all living at the farm, and they didn't need another mouth to feed. With my military training, it made sense to join the Plattsburgh police, but I didn't like it much, so, when they started hiring border patrol and customs officers, that was better."

He wrapped the ham back up and put it in the icebox, then put one sandwich in front of Kenny, picked up the other one and sat down.

"Kids at school giving you a hard time?" he asked.

"Yeah," Kenny replied. "It's okay. I can take it. Just ... well, sometimes you have to arrest people we know."

"Just the ones who break the law," Raymond reminded him.

"But you have to arrest them, if they break the law, even if they're our friends," Kenny said.

Raymond nodded. "That's part of the job. I wish none of our friends and neighbors would ever break the law, but sometimes they do, and then, yes, I have to arrest them. It wouldn't be fair if I let them go just because we were friends, would it?"

Kenny ate for a moment, thinking.

"Nobody likes that law," he said, at last. "Everybody thinks it's stupid."

"How do you think it became a law, then?" Raymond challenged him. "You've studied civics. What does it take to amend the Constitution?"

"Three-quarters of the states," Kenny recited, as if he were in class.

"Three-quarters of the states wanted that law," Raymond agreed. "And look at the newspaper. There have been columns about prohibition and temperance in the paper as long as I can remember. People wanted this law; a lot of people wanted this law. And now they've got it."

"And you have to enforce it," Kenny said.

Raymond shrugged and silently spread his hands in agreement.

"Even if you found out that someone you really liked was a bootlegger, you'd have to arrest him," Kenny said.

"If I found out," Raymond repeated. "Yes. I believe in the law. Your father and I both believed in this country. That's why we went to France. And I still believe in this country. Your grandfather's grandfather came here. He didn't want to leave his family; that's why he didn't go very far, just across the border. But he wanted good land and he wanted to be in America. And our family has made a good life here."

Kenny decided to take a chance. "George still goes back to Canada," he said, watching Raymond's face. "He goes up to Hemmingford to work construction almost every week."

"And Paul does bookkeeping for the other apple growers, and Martin cuts wood for the charcoal burners in Black Brook," Raymond agreed. "Farmers always need other jobs, just to make enough money."

Did he know? Did he not know? Kenny couldn't tell.

"Today, at dinner, did you hear what Martin said?" he asked.

"I don't listen to much of what Martin says," Raymond responded, and his voice was calm but Kenny could feel emotion behind that calmness. "Your aunt Irène loves Martin, and she's my baby sister and I love her. But Martin is not a very happy person, and sometimes he says things he probably shouldn't."

"But ..."

"He's a hard worker and he takes good care of his family," Raymond said. "He's good to Irène and the boys. But he has this idea that the whole world is picking on him."

"Because he grew up speaking French," Kenny said.

Raymond snorted. "I grew up speaking French," he said. "We all did, just like ... well, not half the people in the county, but a lot of them. The world isn't picking on us."

Then he sat forward, leaning across the table and lowering his voice as if someone might overhear.

"Listen, you have to keep this to yourself, but you're old enough to hear it and I think you need to. Someone picked on Martin, but it wasn't 'the world.' It was his father. He used to come home drunk at night and beat his whole family. Then one winter night, when Martin was still a little boy, his father was coming home drunk and he fell through the ice on the Saranac River and drowned, and left them with nothing. *Nothing.*"

Raymond sat back up. "I don't blame Martin for being an angry person, but I don't listen to him, either. And I don't think Prohibition is a stupid law."

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For a teaching guide, go to <http://tinyurl.com/ckserial>

Sudoku Solution

3	6	2	5	1	4
5	1	4	2	6	3
6	4	3	1	5	2
1	2	5	4	3	6
4	3	1	6	2	5
2	5	6	3	4	1

Brainteaser Solution

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!



1. marmalade 2. A.A. Milne 3. Morse 4. Montrose 5. mole 6. mime
7. Moffat Tunnel 8. mango 9. moo 10. Madagascar

ColoradoKids

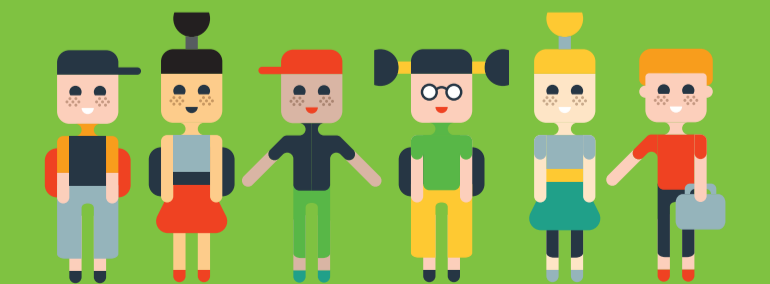
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