



For Immediate Release

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VMNH Unveils Special Exhibit at Glenwood Magnet School in Danville

School chosen as host site due to outstanding participation in VMNH programs.

Martinsville, Va. (September 21, 2007) – The Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville unveiled the special exhibit "Gifts to Our Grandchildren" today at Glenwood Magnet School in Danville during a press conference held at the school. The exhibit "Gifts to our Grandchildren" is on display at the school for the remainder of their school year.

Glenwood Magnet School was chosen as the host site for the exhibit based on their outstanding participation in VMNH programs during the 2006-07 school year. Every student at Glenwood Magnet School visited the museum last year thanks to funding from Nestle, which also provided funding for every student to receive lunch from Taco Bell during their visit to the museum. The generous support from Nestle enabled every student at the fully accredited school to experience the museum, which opening its new, world-class facility on March 31.

The press conference included remarks from Dr. Dennis Casey, VMNH director of education and public programs, and Dr. Sue Davis, superintendent of Danville Public Schools. Nestle's Danville plant manager, Mike Mabert, spoke to the assembled students, teachers and administrators about the importance of partnering together to enhance learning opportunities for children.

"Nestle is excited to be part of this exciting partnership that has enabled every student at Glenwood Magnet School to visit the Virginia Museum of Natural History," Mabert said. "We look forward to continuing our support of educational opportunities for children."

Amy Lampe, CEO of Tacoma, Inc., the regional Taco Bell franchise that provided lunches for the students, said she is especially about the ongoing partnership with VMNH.

"Tacoma, Inc., with its Taco Bell, Pizza Hut Express and Long John Silver's restaurants, appreciates the opportunity to encourage students and teachers to visit the Virginia Museum of Natural History," Lampe said. "At the Museum they can see learned knowledge applied in the real world."

The Virginia Museum of Natural History recently moved to a new facility, which includes classrooms, a Distance Learning Center, and a Teacher Resource Center. With these state-of-the-art facilities, the museum is now able to further its mission of providing life-long learning opportunities for visitors across the region. Through educational outreach programs, the museum is also able to reach children who may not have the opportunity to visit the museum. This exhibit highlights an exciting partnership between VMNH, Danville Public Schools, Taco Bell, and Nestle, that has succeeded in providing unique, hands-on educational opportunities to area students.

Call 276-634-4141 or visit www.vmnh.net for more information.

About the Virginia Museum of Natural History

The Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville seeks to increase understanding of and appreciation for the natural history of the Commonwealth through education, research, collections, publications and exhibits. The Museum – an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution – is accredited by the American Association of Museums, a distinction earned by fewer than 10 percent of museums in the United States. The Museum is a member of the Association of Science-Technology Centers, Virginia Association of Museums, Heritage Preservation, and is an agency of the Secretary of Natural Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia. With over 22 million objects in its collections, the Museum reaches nearly 1 million people annually through on-site and

traveling exhibitions, classroom outreach programs, the Museum's Web site, public events and publications.

The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sundays from Noon to 5:30 p.m. Members are always admitted free. Admission is \$7 for adults; \$6 for senior citizens and college students; \$5 for children and youth 3-18; members and children under 3 free. For more information about membership or volunteer opportunities, please call 276-634-4141 or visit www.vmnh.net.

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