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January 2007 Newsletter



GEOCACHING

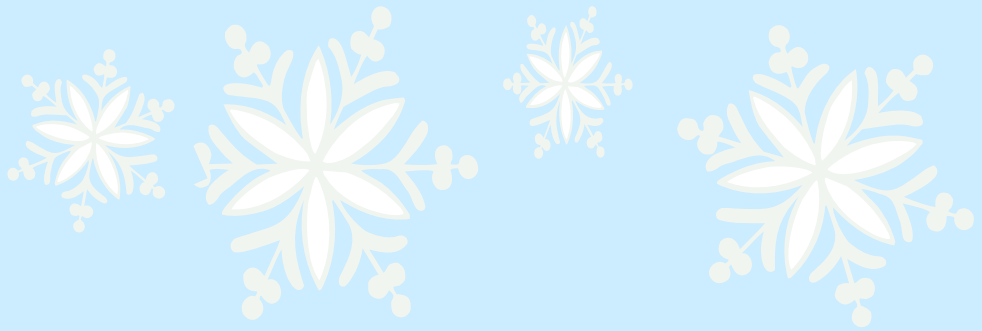
Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for GPS (Global Positioning System) users. Participating in a cache hunt is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful features and capability of a GPS unit. A GPS unit is an electronic device that can determine your approximate location (within around 6-20 feet) on the planet. Coordinates are normally given in Longitude and Latitude. You can use the unit to navigate from your current location to another location. Some units have their own maps, built-in electronic compasses, and voice navigation depending on the complexity of the device.

The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. All the visitor is asked to do is if they get something they should try to leave something for the cache.

You pronounce it Geo-cashing, like cashing a check. The names GPS Stash Hunt, and Global Positioning Stash Hunt are interchangeable. Geocaching has become the standard for the game, however.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Geocaching
- Field Trips
- New Windows



The word Geocaching broken out is GEO for geography and caching for the process of hiding a cache. A cache in computer terms is information usually stored in memory to make it faster to retrieve, but the term is also used in hiking/camping as a hiding place for concealing and preserving provisions.

You don't need to know all the technical mumbo jumbo about GPS units to play Geocaching. All you need to do is be able to enter what is called a "waypoint" where the geocache is hidden.

What are the rules in Geocaching?

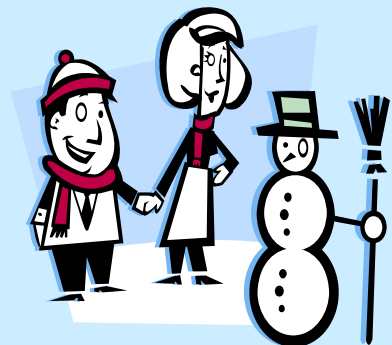
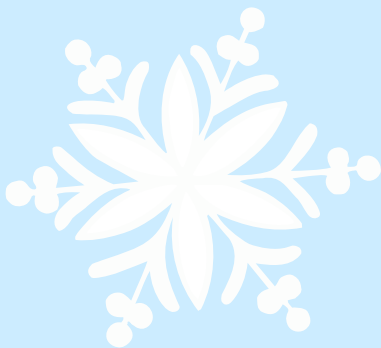
Geocaching is a relatively new phenomenon.

Therefore, the rules are very simple:

1. Take something from the cache
2. Leave something in the cache
3. Write about it in the logbook

To find out more, go to geocaching.com.

Have some fun outside this year



ASD Gifted Investigate Water

The ELC, along with the Carnegie Science Center and Aqueonics instructed the Armstrong School District's 46 gifted students in fourth through sixth grade on water quality techniques. The students began their day with a trip to the Kittanning suburban Joint Water Authority. They came to the ELC with bagged lunches and ate when they arrived. The students then circulated between the Carnegie's fictitious polluted town, Aqueonics's Power Point lecture and Dennis's macro invertebrate investigation. Because the weather was so nice for December, the students investigated with Dennis on the patio. I think a fun and educational day was had by all.

New Windows

December is often not as busy at the ELC, but this year we used the time to make some much needed improvements to the building. We replaced the old windows with energy efficient new ones. They made a world of difference in watching the birds from inside. Come out and see the windows and enjoy the birds with us when the weather makes spending time outdoors less than comfortable.



Looking Ahead

**Earth Day Celebrations
April 22**

**Spring Work Day
April 14**

**Open House
May 19th**

If you would like information on our programs or to
volunteer to help with our Work Day or Open house,
Please contact us at

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