

# CARPE VIGOREM

*Seize the Energy*  
in education and  
our communities

## Consumers Energy

### Welcome

**W**ELCOME TO THE second edition of *Carpe Vigorem*, our quarterly newsletter for educators.

The electricity and natural gas we produce and deliver brings benefits to millions of people, but these energy sources also must be treated with care and respect. That's why the safety of employees, customers and the public is our top priority.

Consumers Energy offers two free programs, Hazard Hamlet and Respect the Flags, to help you meet curriculum needs and educate students about energy safety.



Michelle Mitchell

Hazard Hamlet is available for third and fourth graders and helps them identify electrical hazards in their neighborhoods, while Respect the Flags explains why we use small colored flags to mark the presence of buried natural gas lines and other utility services.

Consumers Energy's Michelle Mitchell has presented these two programs to students for nearly seven years.

"I like teaching them about safety, and I enjoy seeing their faces when they learn about the importance of these issues," Mitchell said.

For details, visit our Web site at [www.consumersenergy.com/kids](http://www.consumersenergy.com/kids).

Sincerely,  
The Education Programs Team

## Free THINK! ENERGY Program



**T**HIS SPRING, students are learning how to become smart energy users, and they're studying the importance of energy, natural resources and environmental resources.

The hour-long program involves hands-on, interactive presentations to fourth, fifth and sixth grade students about making smart energy choices. Teachers also have received supplemental instructional materials and optional lessons as part of the presentation.

Each student has received a free kit filled with different energy efficiency devices, including compact fluorescent lightbulbs, a shower timer, a high-efficiency showerhead, faucet aerator and a night-light. Students have been encouraged to take the kits home and share them with family members.

## Can We Pick Your Brain?

**A**T CONSUMERS ENERGY, we want to know what you think about our educational programs and the Brain Station Web site. Please visit our Web site at [www.consumersenergy.com/kids](http://www.consumersenergy.com/kids). Then, click on the Teachers and Parents link and go to the Can We Pick Your Brain link to take our survey and give us your feedback. Your comments will help us make this site more beneficial to you and the students who visit it. If you have specific comments or suggestions, please e-mail us at [education@consumersenergy.com](mailto:education@consumersenergy.com).



## Science Day

**L**AST FALL, the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers and Consumers Energy teamed up to host Science Day at Frost Elementary School in Jackson. Engineers showed students the advantages of using and understanding science.

For more information, contact Consumers Energy's Pete Mulhearn at (517) 788-0817.

# Boy Scouts Centennial Celebration

SOME 3,000 Boy Scouts will attend a 100th anniversary celebration at the W. D. Boyce House in Marshall. All scouts are welcome to attend the celebration. A parade, which will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on April 17, will start at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds and move to the Boyce House. This event is one of many taking place around the country to celebrate the Boy Scouts' 100-year anniversary.

The Marshall event also will feature a grandstand event with music and an appearance by astronaut T.K. Mattingly at the fairgrounds from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mattingly, who is one of only 24 people to have traveled to the moon, will make a speech beginning at 4 p.m. The grandstand event is free for scouts, but \$5 for other guests. For details, please visit [www.wdb100.org](http://www.wdb100.org).

## Earth Day

CONSUMERS ENERGY invites you to celebrate the 40th annual Earth Day on April 22 at your school or home. Learn how a clean environment, balanced energy supply and solid economy can help your school, home, community and state at our Brain Station Web site.

The site features a "Planet Power" page, which educates students, teachers and parents about how to save energy, go green and reduce, reuse and recycle. From a gust of wind, a fast-moving river and the sun's warm rays to fossilized remains of plants and dinosaurs, our planet offers many sources of power.

## Energy Games Available Online

KEEP YOUR ENERGY and safety knowledge current with fun games on our Brain Station Web site. Students will learn how to avoid getting zapped by electricity and how to stay safe with natural gas. These cool games are geared toward elementary, middle and high school students and are available at [www.consumersenergy.com/kids](http://www.consumersenergy.com/kids).



Visit the Electrical and Natural Gas Safety World to play Shock Blocker, The Voltinator, Pipewinder, Find the Hidden Dangers and Make the Safe Choice. The Hazards of Voltageville also will allow you to find 10 electrical hazards while outsmarting Count Zapula.

# Raise the Flags and Dig Safely Month

IN APRIL, CONSUMERS ENERGY will collaborate with the community and contractors to kick off the Raise the Flags educational campaign and Dig Safely Month in Michigan.

Raise the Flags reminds builders, contractors, excavators, utilities and others to call MISS DIG at 811 three business days before starting any digging project so that underground utilities can be staked with colored flags. They also can visit [www.missdig.net](http://www.missdig.net) to request assistance with "raising the flags" for awareness and safety.

To further raise awareness, Consumers Energy offers the Respect the Flags program for students and teachers. The 45-minute program educates second-through fifth-grade students about underground utility lines and natural gas safety.

For more information and to schedule a presentation, please visit [www.consumersenergy.com/kids](http://www.consumersenergy.com/kids).



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

## Calendar Contest

IT'S TIME FOR students to discover their inner Pablo Picasso or Leonardo da Vinci. Each year, Consumers Energy sponsors a safety calendar contest and asks students to submit original drawings related to concepts taught in the Hazard Hamlet and Respect the Flags programs. Twenty-four winners are chosen at the end of the school year. Consumers Energy will create a calendar featuring the 12 top drawings and 12 honorable mention entries. Winning students and teachers are notified at the start of the next school year. Drawings featured in the calendar also will be posted on the Brain Station Web site.

More calendar contest details are available at [www.consumersenergy.com/kids](http://www.consumersenergy.com/kids).



**Consumers Energy**

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