



# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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What's growing on  
at the Garden!

## **BOTANICAL GARDEN, SCIENCE CENTER AND ZOO FORM 'SCIENCE ALLIANCE' TO EDUCATE SCHOOLCHILDREN**

*Pilot Program at Mullanphy ILC Elementary School Funded by The Boeing Company*

(ST. LOUIS): The Missouri Botanical Garden, Saint Louis Science Center and Saint Louis Zoo have joined forces and resources in a **Science Alliance** to elevate teaching excellence and student achievement in science. The pilot program, funded by The Boeing Company, is a partnership with Mullanphy ILC Elementary, a St. Louis Public School magnet facility.

Science Alliance program partners will work on site with Mullanphy classroom teachers throughout the upcoming school year, providing curriculum assistance, instructional materials, ongoing teacher training, hands-on student lessons, and regular student field trips, all at no cost to the school. Regular "Science Nights" will offer opportunities for families to become involved. Program partners aim to establish a science "lab school" at Mullanphy, creating a model that can be replicated and expanded throughout the St. Louis area.

"Excitement does not adequately describe how appreciative we are to work with the Missouri Botanical Garden, Saint Louis Science Center and Saint Louis Zoo," said Principal Ken Blanton, Mullanphy ILC. "Through Boeing's funding of this project, Mullanphy students will be positively affected by the team approach to making science applicable to the real world."

"We at Boeing are excited about the Science Alliance, which draws upon the resources of world-class St. Louis institutions," said Walt Rice, Deputy to the Vice President Communications, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems. "The program will bring students, parents and teachers together to create a life-long love of science among young people."

**(over)**

## **ADD ONE: Science Alliance**

“The Missouri Botanical Garden is delighted to partner with our fellow institutions, St. Louis Public Schools, and The Boeing Company to strengthen science education at the elementary level,” said Garden President Dr. Peter Raven. “The Science Alliance is an opportunity to bring together the outstanding educational resources of our three institutions to tackle a key challenge, and to work closely with Boeing, which is exceptionally committed to math and science education in our region. Ultimately, we hope that students will gain not only knowledge, but also an enthusiasm for science and learning that will carry through in later years. We also believe that teachers who are well-supported and trained are the key element to overall improvement in science instruction and student achievement.”

Science Alliance teacher training began this summer with a one-week workshop for Mullanphy teachers. Garden, Science Center and Zoo educators will continue to collaborate with the teachers throughout the school year, providing formal and informal training and assistance to improve science curriculum and teaching techniques. The educators will work in the school’s pre-kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms on a regular basis, partnering with the teachers to present hands-on science lessons. Field trips will be integrated into the curriculum as each class visits all three institutions over the course of the year.

Family members of Mullanphy students are also invited to be active participants in their children’s education. Several Science Nights throughout the school year will allow parents to join their children in engaging science activities. The events will take place both at the school and at the three Science Alliance institutions.

For more information on the Science Alliance, call Tracie Cain at (314) 577-5147.

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**NOTE: Digital color images available by request. Check the online Media Room for downloadable news releases and images at [www.mobot.org/press](http://www.mobot.org/press).**

The Missouri Botanical Garden’s mission is “to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life.”

The Saint Louis Science Center’s mission is “to stimulate interest in and understanding of science and technology throughout the community.”

The Saint Louis Zoo’s mission is “to conserve animals and their habitats through animal management, research, recreation, and educational programs that encourage the support and enrich the experience of the public.”

Boeing’s support of the Science Alliance is part of the company’s overall financial commitment to education in St. Louis. In 2008, Boeing will invest nearly \$13 million in education-related institutions and initiatives in the St. Louis area.