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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: News/Science/Education/Family Section Reporters

10 REASONS FOR KIDS TO MOON OVER THE SPACE CENTRE THIS HOLIDAY

Vancouver, BC, Dec. 4, 2007 – Parents searching for ways to occupy their kids over the Christmas break need look no further than the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre and its 10 reasons for visiting this Vancouver institution which turns 40 next year.

1. Find out how astronauts go to the bathroom in space

Join in the fun in the popular “Day in Space” program and learn how astronauts shower, eat, sleep, play games, exercise and go to the bathroom while floating in a weightless environment.

2. Learn about the Vomit Comet

The Dizzying Heights program shows you what happens to your body and to the planet as you spin through space. Vomit Comet is the nickname of an airplane that briefly provides a nearly weightless environment in which to train astronauts.

3. Morph into an alien

This popular computer game lets you take a snapshot of yourself, choose an alien environment and watch as your face morphs into a strange creature to survive in the extreme conditions.

4. Land the Shuttle from the International Space Station

You'll need a steady hand at the joystick as the control tower guides your landing. (Don't be discouraged; even astronauts have trouble with this!)

5. Find out how to identify planets and constellations in the night sky

Take a guided “Night Watch” tour of the night sky under the twinkling stars of the planetarium.

6. Touch a real piece of the Moon.

The moon is the only other object in our universe where humans have landed. The Space Centre has one of only four touchable moon rocks in the world. Touch the moon and watch the footage of astronauts making their historic landings.

7. Take a simulated ride around the world with Santa.

It's Christmas and Santa has slept in! Jump on his sleigh and take a simulated ride around the world to make sure the gifts arrive on time.

8. Figure out what you need to go to Mars

Take this challenge to see what you'll need to survive on an expedition to the Red Planet.

9. Sleep overnight with a group of friends.

Space Centre overnight programs host Scout or Guide groups, schools or community groups of 15 to 60 people. Activities include a private planetarium show, rocket building, a Simulator ride, and special activities designed for the groups. Breakfast and snacks included.

10. Look through the big telescope (on clear nights)

Bring your family down to the Observatory on clear Friday or Saturday nights and get a close-up view of the moon, star clusters, and distant planets through the big telescope. Friendly, knowledgeable astronomers will guide you through the night sky.

Holiday hours of operation

Dec. 4 to Dec. 23: Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday to Sunday (closed Mondays)

Dec. 24: Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dec. 25: Closed

Dec. 26 to Jan. 6: Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (including Monday, Dec. 31)

Jan. 7: Closed

Please note some programs are open only on weekends. Check the website for program times, www.hrmacmillanspacecentre.com, or call 604-738-7827.

The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre is a non-profit community resource that brings the wonders of space to Earth, while providing a personal sense of ongoing discovery. Through innovative programming, exhibits and activities, our goal is to inspire sustained interest in the fields of Earth science, space science and astronomy from a Canadian perspective.

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