



Where learning is...mission possible!

Challenger Connection

Winter 2012 Issue

Science Fair

The Challenger Learning Center, along with University of Kentucky School of Engineering, Paducah Junior College, Inc. and USEC, sponsored the Middle School Science Fair in early December. There were many creative and interesting projects entered by students from McCracken County and Paducah Public schools. The Challenger Learning Center at Paducah awarded a special prize in the Earth/Space Sciences category to Henrietta Ransdell from Heath Middle School for her project Save the Coral to Save the Land. Henrietta's project was judged as best in category.



Challenger Learning Center at Paducah Shines Bright

As the tenth anniversary of the Challenger Learning Center at Paducah approaches later this year, we would like to share with you some of the many great accomplishments we have achieved recently.

Late last year, the CLC at Paducah was the first ever Challenger Center to receive the Standards of Excellence endorsement awarded by the national organization, Challenger Center for Space Science Education. The CLC at Paducah met all the standards required of a Challenger Learning Center including quality programming, curriculum, staff and facilities.



Our staff is dedicated to continuing the mission of the Challenger crew. This is apparent every day in the programming and services that we provide. Sarah Davis, administrative assistant and an original employee of the CLC, was also awarded The Shining Star Award for her dedicated service to the CLC at Paducah. Sarah was nominated by the CLC director and was chosen by the national board and June Scobee Rodgers, founding chair of Challenger Center, to receive the award.



Trivia Night 2012!


The Challenger Learning Center will hold its fifth annual Trivia Night on February 10, 2012 at 7:00 pm at St. Thomas More Church. The cost is \$90 per table of six. Trivia will be ten rounds of questions in various categories. Prizes for the top three teams will be awarded. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own food and alcoholic beverages. There will also be a silent auction. All proceeds will benefit the center. For more details see the attached flyer or visit our website at www.clcpaducah.org. Call (270) 534-3101 to reserve your table.

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Club Challenger

Club Challenger is an after school club offered to students in 3rd-5th grades. The next session will start in February 2012 and meets once a month through May 2012. This session of Club Challenger will include exciting hands-on activities such as designing and building rockets. The cost is \$45 per student for all four sessions. For more details see that attached flyer or visit our website at www.clcpaducah.org for information about dates, times and registration procedures. Sessions fill quickly on a first come, first serve basis, so get your registration completed early!

Did You Know?



NASA's Kepler mission has discovered the first Earth-size planets orbiting a sun-like star outside our solar system. The planets, called Kepler-20e and Kepler-20f, are too close to their star to be in the so-called habitable zone where liquid water could exist on a planet's surface, but they are the smallest exoplanets ever confirmed around a star like our sun.

The Challenger Learning Center at Paducah will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary in August. Stay tuned for more details!

Space Quest 2012

The Challenger Learning Center is gearing up for its eleventh year of summer camps. Known as Space Quest 2012, this year's summer camps will offer a wide variety of options in age levels and interest areas. We will have our always popular one-day camps for students rising into 2nd through 4th grades called Space Discovery I and II. A three-day Rocket Camp will be offered for students rising into 5th-8th grades.

Rocketeers will design, build and launch five different types of rockets. We will also have our two-day CSI (Challenger Special Investigators) camp for students rising into 5th-7th grades. Campers will search for the missing Mars rocks while using a ransom note and following fingerprints. Mission to Mars will be a three-day camp for students rising into 4th-7th grades. Planetary astronauts will fly to the Red Planet in the simulator and then build and live in a colony on the surface of Mars. Astrotot Camp for students rising into kindergarten and first grade will be offered again. Choose from Rockin' Rockets, Mighty Magnets and Cosmic Constellations or attend all three. Expedition: Moon is a one day camp for students rising into 4th-7th grades. Students will fly to the moon in the simulator and explore what it takes for astronauts to survive there.

Back Again by Popular Demand: Underwater Astronaut Camp
Learn all about how astronauts train underwater to simulate working in space! Participants will receive basic SCUBA instruction (in a swimming pool) from Mermet Springs, then participate in an underwater astronaut training program. Participants must be able to swim and medically fit to dive. This 3-day camp is for 11-14 year olds only. SCUBA gear is provided. This camp fills quickly, so register soon!

Visit our website for more details www.clcpaducah.org.



Support Opportunities

The Challenger Learning Center is looking for individuals and businesses who are interested in helping promote the importance of science and math education in our region. Please contact Mellisa Duncan, Center Director, at (270) 534-3097 for more information on how you can support our future scientists and engineers.