



**Challenger**  
LEARNING CENTER



*Where learning is...mission possible!*

# Challenger Connection

Fall 2008

Volume 4 Issue 1

## School News

The 2008-2009 school year missions will begin soon. We appreciate our charter school districts and look forward to providing quality programming for them again this year.

## New Education Coordinator

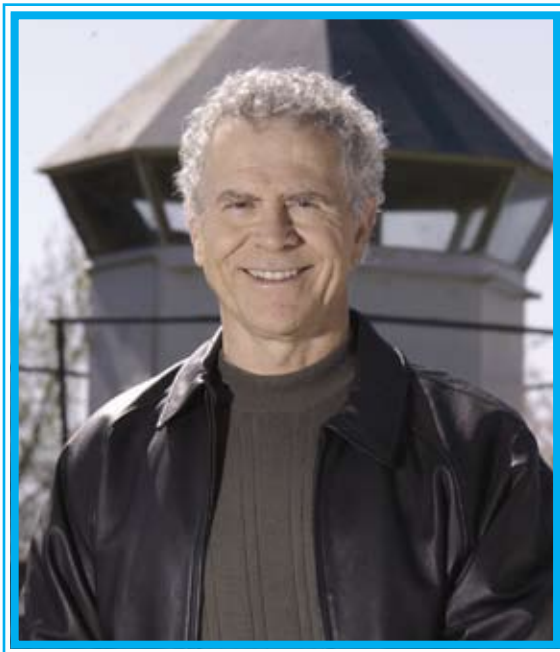


The Challenger Learning Center is pleased to welcome Susan Midkiff as its new Education Coordinator. Susan joined our team in May, coming to us from the McCracken County Schools where she taught science for 13 years. Susan is enjoying her new job of taking students to space. Welcome, Susan!

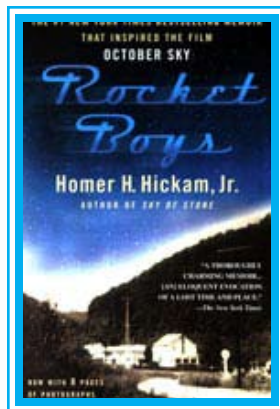
## Homer Hickam Visits Paducah in October

The Challenger Learning Center, in partnership with West Kentucky Community and Technical College, McCracken County Public Library, Arts in Focus, McNet, Paducah Independent Schools and McCracken County Schools, is proud to bring Homer Hickam to Paducah in October. Hickam, the author of eight best sellers, including the internationally acclaimed memoir, *Rocket Boys*, which was made into the film *October Sky*, will visit Paducah October 24 to help conclude the community's One Book, One Campus, One Community reading project.

The project begins on September 11 with a free screening of *October Sky* at Maiden Alley Cinema. Community members are



then encouraged to read the book *Rocket Boys*, join a local book discussion and then meet Homer Hickam in October. There will be a book signing at the McCracken County Public Library on October 24 at 3:00 p.m. That evening he will make a public presentation and book signing at the Clemens Fine Arts Theater at 7:00 p.m.



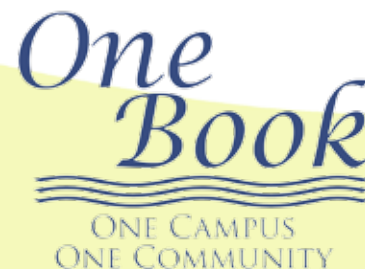
All events are free to the public, but will require tickets available at Clemens Fine Arts Theater Box Office, Maiden Alley Cinema and McCracken County Public Library.

For more information about the events go to: [www.westkentucky.kctcs.edu/onebook](http://www.westkentucky.kctcs.edu/onebook).

## One Book, One Campus, One Community Kick-off

Don't miss the viewing of *October Sky* at the Maiden Alley Cinema on September 11 at 7:00 pm. The movie is based on the life of Homer Hickam portrayed in his book *Rocket Boys*. The event is free but tickets are required. Tickets are available at Clemens Fine Arts Theater Box Office, Maiden Alley Cinema, and McCracken County Public Library.

For more information about Homer Hickam please go to: <http://www.homerhickam.com/index.shtml>.



## Girl Scout Programs

Challenger Learning Center at Paducah offers many programs for Girl Scouts. Brownies can earn their Space Explorer or Earth and Sky Try-It. The one of a kind Space Traveler badge is offered for Juniors. Sessions fill quickly on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment is required at the time of registration. For more information about Girl Scout sessions and registration forms please visit [www.clcpaducah.org](http://www.clcpaducah.org) or call (270) 534-3101.



## DID YOU KNOW?

⇒ The sun is the largest object in our solar system. More than 1,000,000 Earths could fit into it.

⇒ A space shuttle's main engine weighs about a seventh as much as a train engine but can deliver as much horsepower as 39 locomotives.

⇒ All the planets in our solar system could be placed inside the planet Jupiter.

⇒ The core of the Sun is 27,000,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The surface of the sun is only 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

## Space Quest 2008

Summer camps for 2008 have come to an end, but the excitement generated for participants will linger for a long time. This summer brought record enrollment for the center, around 385 campers ranging in age from second to eighth grades. Many new camps were added this year, including the very popular CSI (Challenger Special Investigator) Camp where students went in search of the culprit that stole the Mars rocks. A life-size colony was built in Voyage to Mars camps. Many rockets were launched, robots built, stars studied, planets visited and games played in other camps.



Camp lengths range from one day to three days and offer a wide variety of interest areas. Consider sending your children, grandchildren, students, nieces, nephews or neighbors on a summer space quest they won't forget. Starting in February 2009, look for information about camps for Space Quest 2009!



## 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.

**Challenger Learning Center at Paducah**  
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