



Where learning is...mission possible!

Challenger Connection

Winter 2011 Issue

Essay Contest

To commemorate the 25th anniversary, the Challenger Learning Center at Paducah held an essay contest open to any 5th, 6th or 7th grader who has attended a program at the CLC. The topic of the essay was *From Tragedy to Triumph*. Students were supposed to interview someone who remembered the accident and then write a persuasive essay about why the space program should have continued. We received many great entries.

Braxton Nelson, a student at Reidland Elementary, won first place and a day with Kentucky's astronaut Col. Terry Wilcutt. Ben Wilson, a student at Hickman Jr. High won second place and a free Discovery Flight. Kinsey Hamby, a student at South Marshall Elementary, and Maddie Ybarzabal, a student at Paducah Middle School, tied for third place and won a camp voucher for Space Quest 2011.

Congratulations to all our winners!

25th Anniversary of the Challenger Accident

Many of us remember exactly where we were on the morning of January 28, 1986 when the Challenger crew was lost. The flight began at 11:38 am and ended just 73 seconds later. The disaster was witnessed by many in our nation, including children, watching Christa McAuliffe, the first teacher in space, venture on what she had described as the ultimate field trip.



Every day across the country, students have the opportunity to experience their own ultimate field trip at a Challenger Learning Center. We honor the lives of Dick Scobee, Michael Smith, Judith Resnik, Ronald McNair, Ellison S. Onizuka, Gregory B. Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe by encouraging students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math. This is what the crew would have wanted. From the tragedy comes triumph. You can see it in the faces of the students who experience the feelings of success after landing on the moon or finding a comet during a mission.

In the words of Ronald Reagan, "The Challenger Crew was pulling us into the future, and we'll continue to follow them." The mission continues....



Trivia Night 2011!

The Challenger Learning Center will hold its fifth annual Trivia Night on February 4, 2011 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 2011 and meets once a month through May 2011. This session of Club Challenger will include exciting hands-on activities such as designing and building rockets and test tube experiments. The cost is \$45 per student for all four sessions. Go to www.clcpaducah.org for more 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 has more than 85 current mission programs. Voyager 1 and 2 launched in 1977 and are still headed to the edge of our solar system. Both have traveled billions of miles since launch and have explored the giant planets of the outer solar system.

Visit

<http://www.nasa.gov/missions/current/index.html>

for a complete listing and explanation of each mission.

The space shuttle Endeavour has been scheduled for one extra launch no earlier than April 1st! Go Endeavour!

Space Quest 2011

The Challenger Learning Center is gearing up for its tenth year of summer camps. Known as Space Quest 2011, this year's summer camps will offer a wide variety of options in age levels and interest areas. We will have our 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. 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. Mission to Mars is a three-day camp for students rising into 4th-7th grades. Astronauts will fly to the Red Planet in the simulator and then build in a colony on the surface of Mars. Astrotot Camp for students rising into kindergarten and first grade will be offered, 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.

NEW THIS YEAR → → Underwater Astronaut Camp!!

Learn 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. This 3-day camp is for 11-14 year olds only. SCUBA gear is provided.

Dates, times, costs and other details are available on our website at 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.