



Where learning is...mission possible!

Challenger Connection

Spring 2010 Issue

School News

Mission sign up is underway for the 2010-2011 school year. We look forward to our ninth year serving local school districts. Professional development for educators is an integral part of our educational program and is held every summer for new and returning teachers to the CLC. This summer we are excited to train our teachers with activities in our new STARLAB and from the program Astronomy from the Ground Up.



Outstanding Educator

Nita Johnson, sixth grade teacher at Slaughters Elementary/Middle School in Webster County, and Dora Pittman, fifth grade teacher at Southwest Calloway Elementary School in Calloway County, were recently named the Challenger Learning Center at Paducah Outstanding Educators for the 2009-2010 school year. Both educators were awarded a framed certificate of achievement and a gift certificate donated by Travis School Company. The school districts will also receive a free mission for the 2010-2011 school year.



The Challenger Learning Center staff chose both Ms. Johnson and Ms. Pittman because they demonstrate an active support of and participation in the CLC program. They have been involved with the center since its opening in 2002. Ms. Johnson was nominated by her principal, Mr. Todd Marshall. Ms. Pittman was nominated by Randy McCallon, assistant superintendent for Calloway County Schools.

Brandon Cornaby, science teacher at Paducah Middle School, was also awarded the Turner N. Wiley Award by the national Challenger headquarters. Brandon was chosen as one of five recipients nationwide. This award is given to teachers across the nation who support their local center and demonstrate a love for science and teaching.

The Challenger Learning Center at Paducah is fortunate to have so many great educators that bring their students to fly missions with us!

Space Quest 2010

The Challenger Learning Center is currently gearing up for its ninth year of summer camps. Space Quest 2010 registration is underway and many camps are filling up quickly, so get your camp forms in early to guarantee a spot for your child. Visit our website at www.clcpaducah.org for prices, descriptions and dates. Registration forms can also be printed from the website.



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Club Challenger

Our after school club for students in 3rd-5th grades will begin again in September 2010. This fall we will be doing fun things with water, spooky science and have a special visit from Jason Lindsey of Hooked on Science. Club meets once a month September-December from 4:15-5:45. Check our website www.clcpaducah.org for more details. Registration begins August 2, 2010.



Did You Know?

⇒The recent STS-131 mission in April marked the first time that FOUR women were in space together. The four were Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger (Educator Astronaut), Naoko Yamazaki, Stephanie Wilson and Tracy Caldwell Dyson.

⇒The Mars Science Laboratory is a rover that will assess whether Mars ever was, or is still today, an environment able to support microbial life and will determine the planet's habitability. It is scheduled to launch on October 14, 2010.

⇒Hubble Telescope celebrated its 20th anniversary in April. Hubble has revolutionized the science of astronomy and changed the way we see the universe.

Space Day 2010

The Challenger Learning Center held its ninth annual (except in 2009 due to the ice storm!) Space Day celebration on May 13. Approximately 350 fourth grade students and teachers from Benton Elementary, Calvert City Elementary, Central Elementary and Sharpe Elementary in Marshall County and Fulton Elementary/Middle School in Fulton County were in attendance.



Students attended an opening program featuring a live interview via Skype with Col. Terry Wilcutt, Kentucky's astronaut. Then they rotated to different activity stations conducted by 4H SET, McCracken County Extension Service, Hooked on Science, Golden Pond Planetarium, National Weather Service and the National Quilt Museum. Lunch, t-shirts and goodie bags were provided for each student and teacher. We would like to thank our sponsors USEC, US Bank and McDonald's for allowing us to conduct this very special event. Many thanks also goes to WKCTC for providing the facilities we need to host so many people.

Thank you again to our Space Day sponsors!



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.

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