



**Challenger**  
LEARNING CENTER



*Where learning is...mission possible!*

# Challenger Connection

Spring 2007  
Volume 1 Issue 3

## School News

Mission sign up has begun for the 2007-2008 school year. We look forward to our sixth 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 introduce our teachers to our new 21st Century software that will be installed on all new computers the first week of June.



## Outstanding Educator Award

Mike Epperson, 7th grade science teacher at Murray Middle School, was recently named the very first Challenger Learning Center Outstanding Educator. Mr. Epperson was awarded a framed certificate and a Learning



Railroad gift certificate. The Murray Independent School district also received a free mission for the 2007-2008 school year. Mr. Epperson was nominated by his principal, Ms. Lou Carter. Ms. Carter stated in her nomination form that Mr. Epperson not only wholeheartedly supports the CLC program but shows enthusiasm for math, science, and technology education and incorporates innovative teaching strategies into his curriculum.

The Challenger Learning Center Advisory Committee chose Mr. Epperson because he demonstrates an active support of and participation in the CLC program. We appreciate the support that Mr. Epperson and the Murray Independent Schools has given to the Challenger Learning Center.

The Challenger Learning Center at Paducah plans to choose an Outstanding Educator each school year. Educators must be nominated by someone in a school district administrative position.

## Corporate Missions

Challenger Learning Center at Paducah offers unique corporate programs designed to promote teamwork, problem solving, decision making and communication skills. Employees and employers will perform tasks and face the same challenges as real NASA astronauts, scientists and engineers. The core activity for each program is a two-hour, hands-on space mission that takes place in a simulated space environment, including a space station and Mission Control. For more information about corporate missions, call (270) 534-3097.

## Trivia Night

On February 9, 2007 the Challenger Learning Center at Paducah held its first annual Trivia Night. The night included ten rounds of trivia for a total of 100 questions. Twenty-five tables competed for first, second and third place prizes. A silent auction with items such as massages, facials and dinner baskets was also held. The evening brought in over \$2200 in profit. Be on the lookout for information about next year's Trivia Night. It is never too early to study!



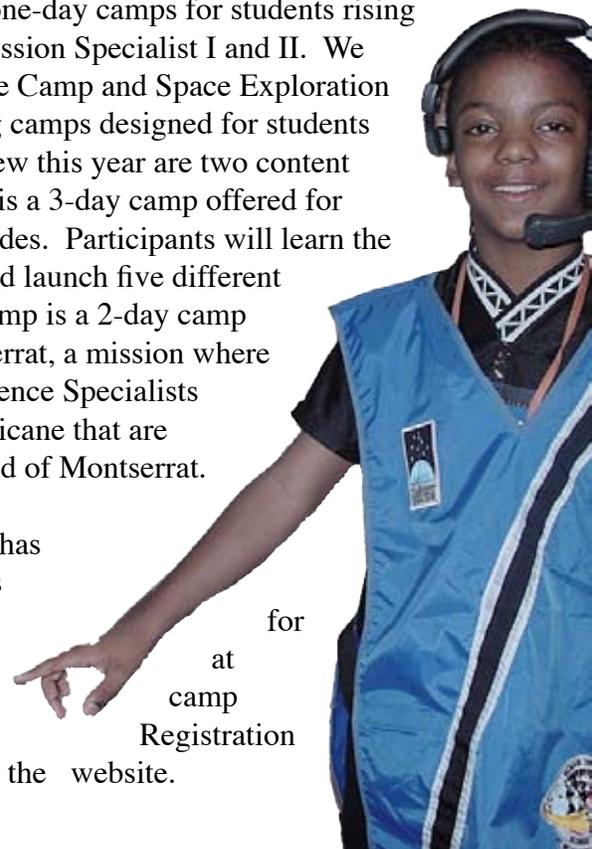
## DID YOU KNOW?

- 
- Saturn is the only planet in our solar system less dense than water. It could float in a bathtub if anyone could find one big enough.
  - The Great Red Spot on Jupiter is a hurricane-like storm system so large that almost three Earths could fit across it. And it is at least four centuries old! Astronomers first saw it in the early 1600's, shortly after the invention of the telescope.
  - The largest canyon system in the Solar System is Valles Marineris on Mars. It's more than 3,000 miles long - enough to stretch from California to New York. It is nine times as long and four times as deep as the Grand Canyon.

## Space Quest 2007

The Challenger Learning Center is currently gearing up for its sixth year of summer camps. Known as Space Quest 2007, this year's summer camps will offer a wide variety of options in age levels, length and content. We will have our always popular one-day camps for students rising into 2nd - 4th grades called Mission Specialist I and II. We will also have Space Adventure Camp and Space Exploration Academy which are week long camps designed for students rising into 4th - 8th grades. New this year are two content themed camps. Rocket Camp is a 3-day camp offered for students rising into 6th-8th grades. Participants will learn the basics of rocketry and build and launch five different types of rockets. e-Mission camp is a 2-day camp that features Operation Montserrat, a mission where students will train as Earth Science Specialists that track the volcano and hurricane that are threatening to destroy the island of Montserrat.

Space Quest 2007 registration has begun, so get your camp forms in early to guarantee a spot for your child. Visit our website [www.clcpaducah.org](http://www.clcpaducah.org) for prices, descriptions and dates. Registration forms can also be printed from the website.



## 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.

## Subscribe to our Newsletter:

If you received this newsletter from a friend or colleague and would like to receive it on a regular basis, please send your e-mail address to [sarahj.davis@kctcs.edu](mailto:sarahj.davis@kctcs.edu).