In the Spotlight

We Were Featured in the News!

Channel 13 focused on the Challenger Learning Center of Indianapolis in their “What’s Cool in School” feature story on Dec. 26th. They talked about how our missions inspire kids to learn and get them excited about possible careers in math and science. Some great footage was shown of students completing tasks in our simulators. Through interviews, they captured the perspective of both students and a teacher who have experienced a mission in the past. A big thanks goes out to Bruce Kopp for doing such a good job in portraying the positive benefits of our missions in education. Click Here to see the actual news story on the Channel 13 WTHR website.

Students Share Their Mission Experience

The Challenger Learning Center (CLC) of Indianapolis hosted a business breakfast on Nov. 18th to help raise awareness of our educational goals and build support within the business community. Among those in attendance were local business leaders and members of the CLC Advisory Board.

Two honorary guests were invited to share their mission experience with the group. They were sixth grade students, Carlee Merkling and Hannah Allen, from Valley Mills Elementary. During the previous year, they had completed a mission as fifth graders. Both girls wrote and presented speeches about how the mission impacted them.

Carlee shared how important good communication, teamwork, and reading directions was in the success of the mission. Hannah shared the importance of education and how the mission allowed kids to explore careers. She said, “Without this experience, I would never have known about, or become interested in a potential career in robotics or working for NASA.”
A special thanks goes out to the corporations and individuals who made donations toward our 2011-2012 missions. Without their help and support, many of our Indiana students would not be able to participate in a mission simulation. More and more of our schools are facing severe funding cuts and need financial support in order for students to have this very unique STEM experience.

**Corporate Donors:**
- Holladay Properties
- Strand Laboratories
- Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance
- Sun Electric, Inc.
- Citizen’s Bank, Mooresville Branch

**Individual Donors:**
- Steve Haines
- Lillian Youngblood
- Carl and Patty Benson
- John and Margaret Barnes

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**Equipment Makeover!**

In January 2012, we started the year with a complete makeover of equipment at the Challenger Learning Center of Indianapolis. Both Mission Control and the Spacecraft simulators are lined with new computers, larger monitors, and flat panel TV’s. These modern changes will not only help make the missions even more authentic and engaging, but they also give us the ability to expand upon and enrich the educational experience for students and the team building experience for adults.

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**Bell Ringer Activity**

Weight refers to how much gravity is pulling on an object. Because the pull of gravity is different on each planet, our weight will change depending on where we are in the Universe. If we were to stand on Mars, our weight would be 2/5 of our weight on Earth.

Below is a list of astronauts and their Earth weights. Calculate their weight if they were on Mars. Round to the nearest tenth.

- Jane = 132 lbs.
- Bill = 164 lbs.
- Steve = 147 lbs.
- Doug = 158 lbs.

Answers:
- Jane = 52.8 lbs.
- Bill = 65.6 lbs.
- Steve = 58.8 lbs.
- Doug = 63.2 lbs.

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**Reserve a Mission!**

Don’t miss out on an opportunity to “WOW” students in a mission! Spots fill up quickly, so be sure to contact us to reserve a date for your next mission. Reservations can be made for this year or the following school year.

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Join us for a wee bit 'o fun in space!

Challenger Learning Center of Indianapolis
Friday, March 16th
6:30 to 9:00 PM

Prizes  Light Snacks  Drinks

The Challenger Learning Center of Indianapolis is offering the public an opportunity to experience a mission! Individuals will participate in both our Mission Control and Spacecraft simulators. Be one of the lucky ones to reserve a spot as an astronaut on our crew! We will take up to 34 astronauts. Spots fill up quickly, so be sure to send in your check or cash before the deadline!

Mission: Rendezvous with a Comet
Cost: $25 per person
Deadline: Reservations & payment must be received by Friday, March 9th.
Age Limit: Kids are welcome to participate; however, they must be at least 10 years old and accompanied by a participating adult.
Questions: E-mail us at cmeier@msddecatur.k12.in.us or call 317-856-2167
Reservations: Send a check or cash to Challenger Learning Center of Indianapolis
5125 Decatur Blvd., Suite A
Indianapolis, IN  46241
Please include the names of the participants & your phone number.