



The BCLC Meteor

Welcome to *The Meteor!*

What Happens Now?

What impact does the end of the NASA space shuttle program have on Brownsburg Challenger Learning Center? Frankly, not very much! First of all, we are dedicated to inspiring the next generation of STEM workers (science, technology, engineering and math). Whether in space or on Earth, we need people who are excited about working in these areas, and BCLC is a wonderful place for students to discover or reinforce an interest in STEM careers.



STS-135—final mission

Next, a mission experience provides students with practical application of lessons they are learning in their traditional classrooms. They are also practicing 21st Century life skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving and decision making.

During mission orientation, students are reminded that Challenger Learning Centers were created as a living memorial to the 51-L crew who died in the Challenger shuttle disaster on January 28, 1986. However, shuttles are not used in the simulated missions that we fly. During K-2 Micronaut missions, students will continue to learn about the shuttle as a part of United States space history.

BCLC mission simulations continue to have great relevance and value for the children and adults who fly them! (see page 2 for “What’s next in space?”)

Warning: Aliens on Board?

“Comets & Aliens” Community Mission Scheduled

Mark October 6 on your calendar! Brownsburg Challenger Learning Center will offer its first community mission of the year. You don’t want to miss it! The “Comets & Aliens” mission features a quest for a comet, but participants may encounter an alien or two along the way! The mission kicks off at 6:00 p.m. and runs until 9:00 p.m. Current 5th grade students up through 105 year olds are eligible to participate in this exciting event! Call 317.852.1008 to register; the cost is \$20 per person.



What IS Next in Space?

NASA is not finished in space by a long shot. Among the missions that have just launched or will soon are:

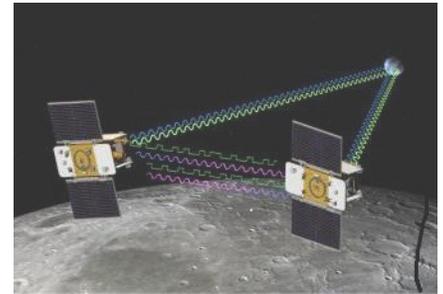
Juno—began her five year mission to Jupiter on August 5

GRAIL—twin robotic spacecraft launched on Sept. 10; will arrive in lunar orbit on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, respectively, and study the Moon's gravity

James Webb Space Telescope—to launch in 2018; will replace the Hubble Telescope; will

see much farther into deep space than Hubble

These are just a few of the exciting robotic missions NASA has in the works. In addition, a number of private companies are working on spacecraft to take men and women to orbital and suborbital space on a relatively regular basis. As these flights become more available, the cost should decrease, making space flight a real possibility for more and more humans!



GRAIL's Twin Spacecraft fly in Tandem Around the Moon (Artist's Concept)

Special thanks to Deb Teuscher, director of the MSD of Pike Township planetarium for granting permission to attach the "10 Things You Should Know about the October 2011 Sky" newsletter. Deb publishes the list monthly, and you'll enjoy all the astronomical information in it! Go look at the night sky!

Looking Ahead: Community Missions!

"Alien/Comet Mission"



October 6, 2011
6:00-9:00 pm
Ages 11-105
\$20/participant

"Valentine Moon Mission"

February 14, 2012
6:00-9:00 pm
Adult couples 
\$65/couple

To reserve your slot on either of these missions, call our office at 317.852.1008 to register!



Micronaut Missions

Do you know a K-2 student who would love to participate in hands-on science while being part of a mission to the International Space Station? Then a Micronaut mission is perfect for him or her! This two-hour experience will make YOU wish you were back in kindergarten! For more information, visit our website: <http://challenger.brownsburg.k12.in.us> and click on the "Programs" tab.

Way Cool Websites!

- <http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/resources/explorations/comets/lesson/lab.html>
 - Whip up a batch of comets without trashing your kitchen and spending a lot of money at the store!
- <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/observethemoonnight/>
 - Mark your calendars for October 8th, International Observe the Moon Night. On this website, read all about the event and download a really cool 2011 Moon calendar!

The **Brownsburg Challenger Learning Center** (BCLC) is a learning laboratory that integrates science, technology, engineering and math, in a unique curriculum designed to inspire curiosity, discovery, and accomplishment. Our expanded program offerings include simulated missions, Micronaut missions (K-2), teacher professional development, corporate teambuilding missions, and videoconferencing programs for both classrooms and the community.



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