

## FROM THE LAUNCHPAD

### News From Planet Learnalot!



Last month on Planet Learnalot, our classroom mascots, **Blinky**, **Eyeball**, and **Zoom**, were joined by alien friends **sassy** and **Spike**!

Newbury students also participated in a mock election for our Ohio governor after researching Strickland and Blackwell's stances on the issues from each candidate's website. It was interesting to see that Newbury kids voted approximately 70 percent Strickland and 30% Blackwell, while registered voters had a 60% and 40% outcome.

The 6th graders have been working hard on their scripts for our first Knights Radio show, 3rd-5th graders wrote Autumn-themed cinquain poems, and K-2nd have honed their keyboarding and mouse

skills as well as exploring Colonial Williamsburg. The 3rd-4th graders have also created "animated" turkey presentations—be sure to visit our Rocket Launchers website and click on **Milky Way**, Turkeys, to see them! The files are in Powerpoint format, thus the software is required or a download of the free Powerpoint Viewer -there is a link available for the download on the web page.

Currently, the younger grades are studying the weather and snow, while older students are budgeting for a faux "New Year's Eve Brunch."

As Newbury has several new students and as a reminder to other families, visit our website and click on **Our Planet** for previous newsletters.

Over winter break, be sure to

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*Eyeball, here! I can't imagine why mom named me that.*

visit the **Winter Break page at Rocketlaunchers**—it will be available **December 21st!**

### Upcoming Projects

I am currently seeking donations of gold, silver, white, and navy blue curling ribbon for a December project. These may be sent in with your child; thank you! There are several other projects I have in mind for January and February, so it would be appreciated if families of the following students could pick these items up to keep on hand (please keep items at home for now; I will let you know when needed). Thanks in advance!

- **4th/5th grades:** 1 Medium-size pizza box per child, clean, dice, old game pieces (or different buttons, small objects for tokens)
- **6th grade:** 1 bag of skittles per child (plus twist-tie or Ziploc to put into) **AND** 1 child/teen-oriented mail order catalog containing clothing (ie. Lands End, L.L. Bean, Limited Too).



*Blinky. Cool name, huh?*

## Mrs. Laverdiere's Rocket Launchers

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or  
teach@rocketlaunchers.org  
Phone: 440-564-2282

Or send a note!

We're on the Web!  
[www.rocketlaunchers.org](http://www.rocketlaunchers.org)



### Study Alternatives

My 8 year old resisted studying his math fact flash cards recently, but was thrilled to play math fact games at [www.learningplanet.com](http://www.learningplanet.com). Labeling a worksheet with the Northeastern states to study for a test met with more resistance, but he gladly played the game over and over again at [www.ohiokids.org](http://www.ohiokids.org) and [www.iknowthat.com](http://www.iknowthat.com). What's a parent to do? Try adding variety to the routine, with a bit of technology as one alternative! Language Arts becomes fun at ReviseWise, Skillswise, FunBrain, or Read.Write.Think, all under the Launchpad, Language Arts at [www.rocketlaunchers.org](http://www.rocketlaunchers.org)! Another option is to have your child record vocabulary and definitions on a tape recorder or iPod (students: create your own "Ron Clark Rap!")! Assistance with studying and homework is key, and using a **variety of methods** in studying will help your child learn how to study. Other ideas are to incorporate color—colored pencils, crayons, highlighters, a booklet of index cards or sticky notes. Create a **homework kit** in a bin or basket that includes pencils, paper, glue, scissors, highlighters, notebook paper, graph paper, note cards, ruler, colored pencils and crayons. If you are looking for internet or other study tools, drop me an email; I'll be happy to steer you to some ideas.

### The Cupboard Under the Stairs

Current and previous newsletters can be viewed under **OUR PLANET** at our website!

What child wouldn't want their own "cupboard under the stairs" ala Harry Potter? In other words, a **reading hideaway**. A child's closet will suffice, and trailing an extension cord under the door for a lamp will provide lighting (try a clip on lamp or a small hanging lamp looped over the curtain rod). Plop in some colorful pillows, a crate of books, clipboard or lap desk, a journal and pencil, allow some posters and a corkboard, and this may become their favorite spot in the house. Don't be surprised if they sleep in there, sending you into a panic some night when you find them missing!



### Volunteer Opportunities

**Disinfectant Wipes**— Thank you to families that sent in wipes! Wipes are always welcome; donations can be sent in with your child. Thank you!

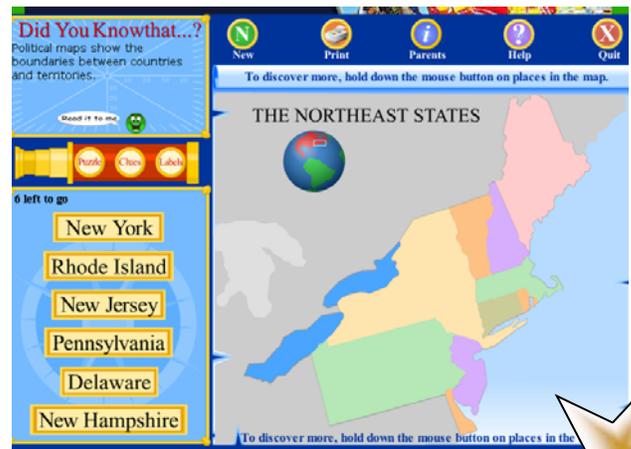
**Photocopying/Materials Prep**—Thanks to several moms for volunteering for photocopying and material prep!

## Websites Worth Visiting

**Mrs. L's Rocket Launchers** [www.rocketlaunchers.org](http://www.rocketlaunchers.org)  
To set this as your **HOME** page, click Tools, Internet Options and type [www.rocketlaunchers.org](http://www.rocketlaunchers.org). Be sure to restart Internet Explorer!

**I Know That!** [www.iknowthat.com](http://www.iknowthat.com), or by going to our website, [www.rocketlaunchers.org](http://www.rocketlaunchers.org), click LAUNCHPAD, THIS and THAT, I KNOW THAT. **I Know That** is a wonderful website for studying concepts in all subject areas,

including geography and the parts of the human eye! There is some advertising; click "maybe later" to bypass it! It's well worth it!



Cosmic!

