

From the Launchpad

This Month on Planet Lernalot!



This month on Planet Lernalot, our classroom mascots, **Blinky** and **Eyeball**, have been joined by their first new alien friend, **Zoom**, whose name received 42% of the votes from the student body in our Alien Contest! *Stay tuned for our 3 other alien friends...*

Internet Safety is an underlying theme this month, though it will resurface throughout the school year. We will be exploring websites including NetSmartzKids.org, Faux Paw the Cat at ikeepsafe.org, as well as Internet Smarts at Power-learn.com. Watch for the 6th grade launch of a new **radio show!**

Students are well into their routine, beginning with "bellwork," lesson time, and extra blast off WORK, if time remains. Many of the stu-

dents have tried "blast off work," learning all about Presidential History and Bones of the Body, a few Ron Clark Raps at www.ronclarkacademy.com. This was a real hit! Ron Clark is an innovative teacher with a movie based on him on TNT. Students have been honing their key-boarding skills at Dance Mat Typing and Typing Tutor. Kindergarten-2nd grades dove into Starfall phonics, and language arts sites GameGoo and Mighty Books (there are links under the LAUNCHPAD on our classroom website, rocketlaunchers.org). Third-6th grades explored a computer parts webquest, and other examples of technology. Wrapping up the month, students have been taking a look inside a computer and exploring its many components, as well as a few tidbits on troubleshooting. Ask them how to speed up your

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

computer at home!

Be prepared to blast off to learning!

Scholastic Click

Scholastic Click software order forms will be coming home soon. Click is similar to the Scholastic book orders, though instead of ordering books, software may be ordered. Prices are comparable to GameStop, but by purchasing through Click, funds directly benefit our computer classroom. I highly recommend Roller Coaster Tycoon and Kid Pix! Software is a great gift!

Order online using the login name **planetlernalot** and password **newbury** at the following website: <http://www.scholastic.com/clubsordering> or send orders in an envelope to the attention of Mrs. Laverdiere. Orders due by Friday, October 27th. Thank you!



Blinky. Cool name, huh?

Mrs. Laverdiere's Rocket Launchers

Newbury Elementary
14775 Auburn Road
Newbury, Ohio 44065

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

Or send a note!

We're on the Web!
www.rocketlaunchers.org



Why Parents Must Mind MySpace

By Rob Stafford, NBC Correspondent, Dateline NBC News. Excerpt: "You may never have heard of MySpace.com, but it's a safe bet, your kids have. It's a social networking site — sort of a cyber combination of a yearbook, personal diary and social club. The biggest of them is MySpace.com. With more than 50 million members, its one of the fastest growing Web sites in the country. It's free, easy to join, and easy to message its members. Kids chat about everything from school, to sports, to fundraisers for Katrina victims. It all seems like innocent fun, and it can be. But many parents and teens are unaware there are hidden dangers. The rules on my space say you're supposed to be at least 14 years old (but kids often pretend to be older). It's a world where the kids next door can play any role they want. They may not realize everyone with Internet access, including predators, may see the pictures and personal information they post. even kids who don't list their name and address can provide enough personal information— such as the kinds of bands they love— for a pedophile to use to con their way into their lives." For the full article, visit: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11064451/>

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

Another article is at www.ikeepsafe.org (look for Social Networking), or directly at (type the entire url all together!):
http://www.ikeepsafe.org/iksc_about/news/index.php?action=display_article&article_id=90



Volunteer Opportunities

Disinfectant Wipes— Cold season is upon us and with nearly 400 pairs of hands touching the computers and mice in lab, donations of disinfectant would be **greatly** appreciated! Donations can be sent in with your child. Thank you!

Photocopying/Materials Prep— Would love volunteers to do occasional photocopies and other material preparations. Questions? Feel free to email me at ne_laverdier@lgca.org or teach@rocketlaunchers.org, or send me a note.

Websites Worth Visiting



Mrs. L's Rocket Launchers
www.rocketlaunchers.org

Once you get there, click on the LAUNCHPAD!

Mighty Book
www.mightybook.com, or by going to our website, www.rocketlaunchers.org, click LAUNCHPAD, LANGUAGE ARTS, Mighty Books. **MightyBook** is a magical place where books come to life (great for reluctant readers!) with animated pictures and stories that are read out loud. There are even animated

story songs. There are several free books online.

Starfall
www.starfall.com, or by going to our website, www.rocketlaunchers.org, click LAUNCHPAD, PHONICS, Starfall. This is a fabulous phonics program which the K-2nd students love, though you may find your older students enjoy it as well.

Learning Planet Math
www.learningplanet.com, or by going to our website, www.rocketlaunchers.org,

click LAUNCHPAD, MATH, LEARNING PLANET. Games are grade-level based; check out Spacey Math, Fraction Frenzy, and Math Mayhem, among others!

Cosmic!



www.ikeepsafe.org

