

From the Launchpad

Welcome to Planet Learnalot!



I'm so excited to meet you, Mrs. L's Rocket Launchers and their families, and I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to be your teacher! I am thrilled to be at Newbury Elementary!

This is our first issue of **From the Launchpad**, our monthly newsletter, to keep you informed of learning in technology class.

Our classroom theme—we are the **Rocket Launchers!** Each class has its own color, or gemstone such as pink, green, moonstone, ruby, and turquoise rockets, to name a few. Be prepared to blast off to learning! I hope

you'll visit www.rocketlaunchers.org, our classroom website, to see what we are doing in class, photos of projects, learning tools, games, and much more!

Our classroom mascots are **Blinky** and **Eyeball**. We also have 4 other alien friends that we'll name in a contest. Be sure to read the back of the newsletter, as I'll tell you more about me as well as a few websites you may find interesting as well as educational.

Psst! She likes this stuff!



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

My Philosophy

Constructivist learning is the philosophy I employ in our classroom. Engaging students in learning, rather than being lectured to, is how our classroom is structured. I believe strongly that *learning is doing*—students that are *engaged* in learning are *motivated* learners and will be *lifelong* learners. They will not only learn, but will learn *how to learn* through a guided *inquiry-based* approach.

Hands on activities, cooperative learning in teams, as

well as technology immersion and integration with other subjects are the basic components of our classroom. There will also be a strong emphasis on organizational skills.

For the month of **September**, the focus will be on **Computer Parts & Terminology**. Emphasis for grades K-2 will include parts of the computer, basic terms, navigating with the mouse, and introduction to the "home row" on the keyboard. Grades 3-4 will include parts of the com-

puter, basic and intermediate terms, computer history, mouse techniques, keyboarding basics, and correct startup and shutdown procedures. Grades 5-6, in addition to the above, will add a research component. Questions? Feel free to email me at ne_laverdiere@lgca.org or teach@rocketlaunchers.org, or send me a note.



Blinky. Cool name, huh?

Mrs. Laverdiere's Rocket Launchers

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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



About Mrs. Laverdiere

I am thrilled to be teaching at Newbury! My position is two-fold; as the Technology Teacher and an Intervention Specialist in Reading/Math. I'm excited to be teaching my favorite subjects! I have taught at St. Louis School in Cleveland Heights and substituted at Lawrence School, a private school for stu-

dents with learning disabilities, and at West Geauga Schools. My Education licensure is from Notre Dame College in PK-3, 4-9 Language Arts, as well as a K-12 Reading endorsement. I plan to pursue my Master's in Administration in 2007. Normandy High School in Parma is my alma mater, and I have lived in Bainbridge for 12 years with my husband Scott, a graduate of **Newbury**, who is a computer consultant. I'm not certain who is more excited, myself or my husband, about me teaching at Newbury! Our daughter Kayla, 12, is in 7th grade at Lawrence School in Broadview Heights, while our son, Jakob, almost 9, is in 3rd grade at Timmons Elementary at Kenston. I look forward to getting to know the students as well as their families!



Websites Worth Visiting



Mrs. L's Rocket Launchers Slide Show

www.rocketlaunchers.org

All about our classroom, rules and expectations, Mrs. L's background. Once you get there, click on LAUNCHPAD, scroll down to DOCUMENTS and click, then click **BACK TO SCHOOL**. Reinforcement at home will help your child to learn the routine in our classroom.

Beestar

www.beestar.org

Beestar provides innovative

online math and reading programs to school kids. For only 10 minutes a day, students enhance their essential knowledge and skills effectively. Parents can conveniently review the learning progress online. Math exercises are **free**, and kids earn ribbons! My children have been enjoying Beestar too.

Dance Mat Typing

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/> or by going to our website, www.rocketlaunchers.org, click LAUNCHPAD, TYPING SKILLS, DANCE MAT TYP-

ING. This is a wonderful keyboarding program we'll often use in class during our daily bellwork. Reinforcement at home increases skills.

Out of sight!

