

## Children's Art Calendar Awards Party has robot, aliens, safety, health and fun

By Mary Peterson

**S**afety and health was the theme, but things spacey were very much in the minds of the young participants at the 4th annual Children's Art Calendar Awards Party as they darted eagerly about the decorated Gilruth Center, not wanting to miss anything.

And a full hour it was. Bolstered by cookies, candies, and punch served from a table bedecked with beads and shiny confetti balloons, children took turns searching for their names artfully iced into a rocket-design cake, with little green and blue alien figures gracing the tops and sides. The cake, the special handiwork of JSC's Vicki Cantrell, was a real crowd pleaser, and anxious young hands could hardly leave it intact until after the ceremony.

"This is the greatest," said Perry Bennett, serving his second year as master of ceremonies, and acknowledging the event's organizer, Rindy Carmichael of Muñiz Engineering, Inc. He told the audience, "Not only has the calendar contest become an important activity to us at JSC, the team of Russians with whom we work has been highly impressed with the idea. They especially praised the way we encourage safety and good health practices at such an early age, and they are looking into starting a similar project in their part of the world."

Bennett then called the children individually to the podium, where each received a T-shirt embellished with his or her own artwork and a personal calendar. Personal photos were taken with astronaut Col. John Casper as a

special memento of the occasion, and he autographed pictures as well.

Following a group photo with all winners wearing their special shirts, the children were then free to ask questions of and dance with the robot furnished by the Houston Police Dept. and "assisted" by Officers Richard Rodriguez and

Marcella Guidry. Even the smallest tots couldn't resist dancing the "Macarena" with the agile, nuts-and-bolts guy.

As the party came to a reluctant end, the line was still long to have faces painted by Indyne Inc.'s very talented Sean Collins. He embellished faces with an assortment of glittery butterflies and birds, assorted

aliens, dinosaurs, and even a Tigger. Collins didn't mind the overflow. "I like doing this," he said.

This year's winners and sponsors were: Sarah Grunsfeld, 4 (Carol Grunsfeld); Jalynn Stewart, 4 (Rusty Stewart); Kelly Thomas, 4 (Gretchen Thomas); Jacob Valle, 4 (Gerard Valle); James Lassmann, 6 (Michelle Moore); Jessica Maggio, 5 (James Maggio); Sidney Farrow, 7 (Ruth Farrow); Patrick Zimmerman, 5 (Susan Zimmerman); Rachel Graubard, 5 (Robert Graubard); Jordan Vassberg, 6 (Nathan Vassberg); Melissa Cerimele, 7 (Mary Cerimele); Amber Canales, 7 (Tim Dawn); Christine Pham, 6 (Nulan Pham); Victoria Armstrong, 7 (Charles Armstrong); Victoria Denny, 6 (Kevin Denny); Anthony Ciancone, 6 (Michael Ciancone); Alexandra Vickery, 7 (Pandora Vickery); Alyssa Ross, 7 (Nicholas O'Dosey); Alexandra Valle, 7 (Gerard Valle); Laura Thomas, 6 (Gretchen Thomas); Jessica Muñiz, 8 (Robert Muñiz); Jennifer Reister, 9 (Leah Reister); Drew Deckerlegand, 9 (Diane Deckerlegand); Grace Green, 10 (John Casper); Jeremy Osborn, 9 (Laveeda Mullis); Katy Collins, 9 (Sean Collins); Hallie Bruce, 8 (Janet Bruce); Blake Kimball, 10 (Wanda Steiger); Mindy Karydas, 10 (Don Hanselman); Courtney Axline, 8 (Michael Axline); Kelly Langston, 9 (Barbara Langston); Melanie Mount, 10 (Frances Mount); Katya Ilin, 13 (Andrew Ilin); Lauren Whitted, 12 (Barb Whitted); Humsini Viswanath, 11 (Meena Viswanath); and Karen Baker, 12 (Ellen Baker). ■



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Houston Police Department robot entertains attendees during the Children's Art Calendar Awards Party at the Gilruth Center.

## Get ready to rodeo

**I**t's time for JSC employees to dust off their 10-gallon hats and shine their spurs for the upcoming rodeo season.

JSC will sponsor a variety of activities throughout the rodeo season. Working in concert with the NASA/Clear Creek/Friendswood Go Texan subcommittee, JSC hopes to support the commitment to youth and education.

To kick off the rodeo season, the Go Texan Style Show will be held at 11 a.m. on Jan. 26 at the Gilruth Center. The NASA/Clear Creek/Friendswood Go Texan subcommittee will host the event.

On consecutive Wednesdays, Jan. 24 and 31, performers from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Speakers Committee will entertain employees during lunchtime in the Bldg. 3 cafeteria. Performances will include country and western singers, western bands, live animals, ropers (give it a try), rodeo clowns, and line dancers. Come on down and enjoy the free entertainment while you munch on the western-themed lunch specials at the cafeteria. The HLS&R Speakers Committee performers will also drop by the JSC Child Care Center to educate and entertain the children.

The month-long festivities will continue with the arrival of the Texas Independence Trail Riders at 3 p.m. Feb. 6. The trail riders will enter JSC through the Space Center Houston tram underpass by the Longhorn Project pasture. About 150 horses and riders and 10 to 15 wagons will ride through the center, passing by the JSC Child Care Center and stopping at the Gilruth Center. The Texas Independence Trail Riders will set up camp for the night in the wooded area near the pavilion.

The NASA/Clear Creek/Friendswood Go Texan subcommittee will host a dinner

dance from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Feb. 6 at Space Center Houston. This event will serve as the official welcome to the trail riders. Enjoy dining and dancing with Kelly McGuire & Hurricane. The theme for this year's dance is "Spaceship Rodeo." Tickets cost \$20 and include dinner, two drinks, live music, plus the exhibits for viewing at Space Center Houston, and more.

Tickets are available at the Exchange Stores. Proceeds go to the scholarship program of the HLS&R to help provide seven \$10,000 scholarships to NASA-area high school seniors for their college education.

The trail riders will depart JSC the next morning at 9 a.m. through Gate 4, near the 300/400 area, and travel through Clear Lake City on their way to their next overnight stop.

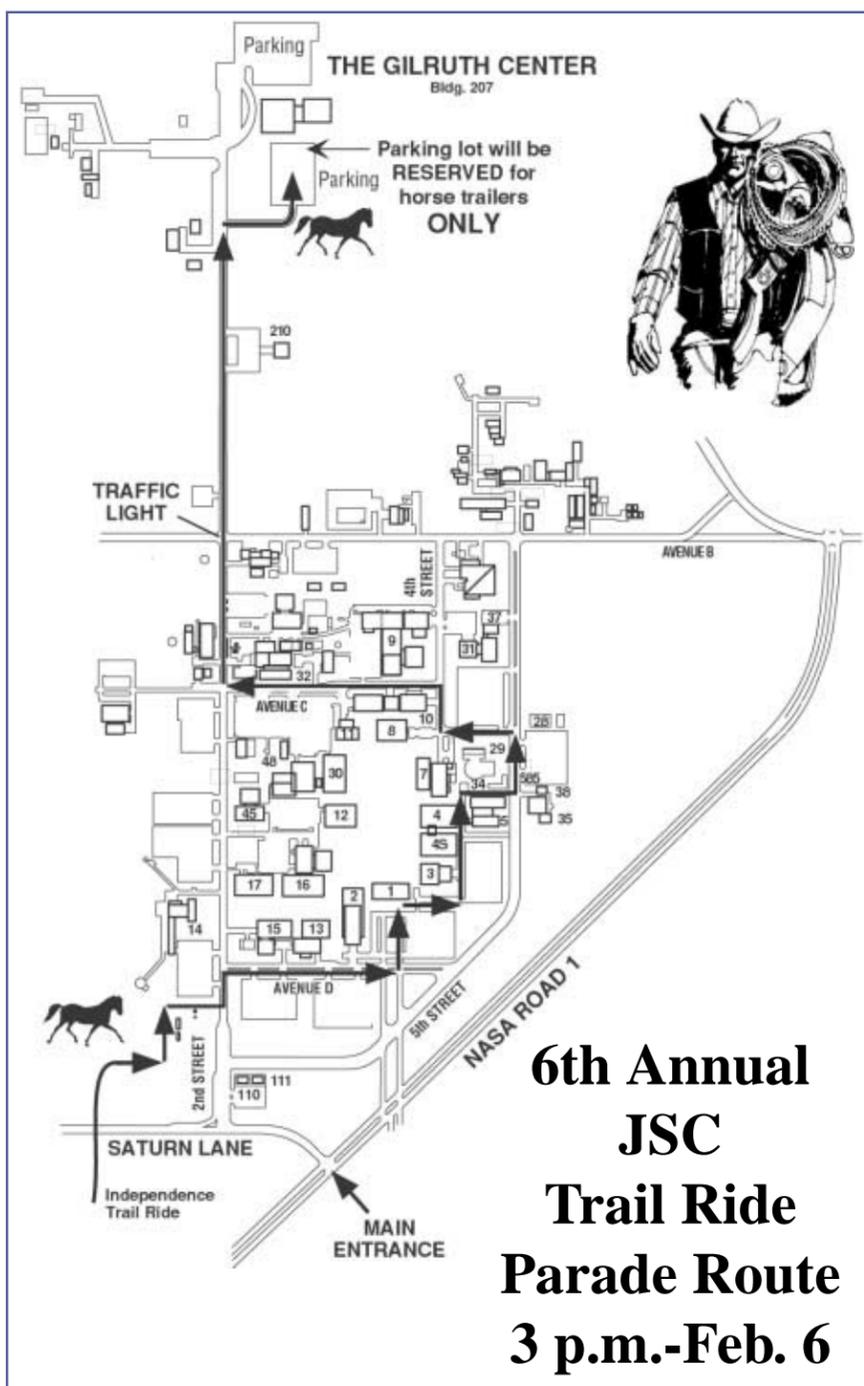
On Feb. 10, the Employees Activities Association will sponsor a bus trip to downtown to view the Rodeo Parade. This will include bus transportation, light breakfast, reserved bleacher seating and more. The bus will leave Rocket Park at about 8 a.m. More information will be available soon.

### NASA at the Rodeo

The HLS&R runs from Feb. 14 to Mar. 4. Once again NASA will be represented at the HLS&R. This year's exhibit will focus on the International Space Station, benefits derived from the ISS and other space programs, and NASA educational outreach programs available to students. Employees who would like to volunteer to staff the exhibit should send an e-mail to Robin Hart.

The EAA in the Bldg. 11 Exchange Store will sell tickets to the rodeo performances. Call x35352 for details.

For more information contact Ginger Gibson at x30596. ■



**6th Annual  
JSC  
Trail Ride  
Parade Route  
3 p.m.-Feb. 6**