

C O M M U N I T Y N E W S**School visit program hits home with students, teachers**

During the 1998-99 school year, JSC and Space Center Houston will host thousands of students and teachers as they continue the School Visit Program, a joint collaboration that had more than 82,000 educational field trip participants last year.

Many of the students and teachers will have an opportunity to closely interact with JSC scientists, engineers, pilots, astronauts and other professionals during a series of "special weeks" conducted during the year. Each of these weeks will focus on a unique space topic or technology area. JSC organizations will work with JSC's official visitor center to enhance the special week activities through exhibits, demonstrations, hands-on displays, and guest speakers.

"Allowing students to interact with the experts who are currently working in the space program is invaluable," said Laurie Murphy, educational programs specialist at Space Center Houston.

Information about these special weeks and opportunities to volunteer through the

The special weeks for the 1998-99 school year are:

- November 2-6 – Meet an Astronaut Week
- November 30 – Dec. 4 – Robots in Space Week
- January 18-22 – Training for Space Week – Sonny Carter Training Facility
- February 8-13 – Careers in Space Week
- March 28-April 2 – Surviving in Space Week – Physiological Effects
- April 12-16 – We Have Liftoff Week – Propulsion/Physics in Space
- May 3-7 – Spacecraft of the Future Week

School Visit Program may be obtained from Laurie Murphy, SCH Education Department, at 244-2147 or lmurphy@spacecenter.org.

Murphy expressed appreciation to everyone who worked hard during the 97-98 school year to ensure the success of the School Visit Program, especially Norman Chaffee of the Public Affairs Office who coordinated JSC support for each of the special weeks listed below.

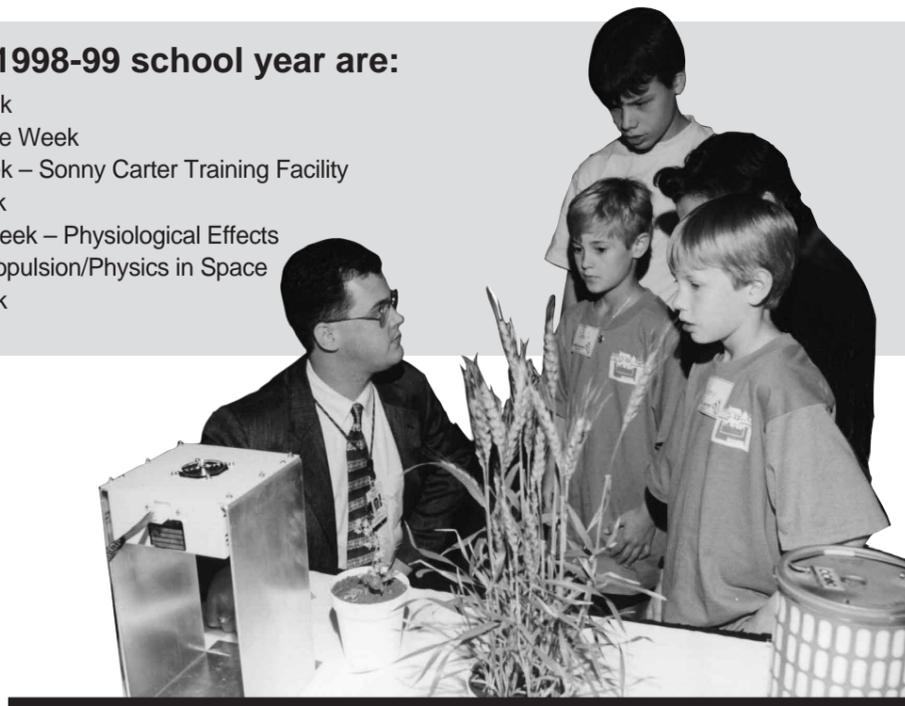
The support from the following individuals was appreciated:

Mission to Mars Week – Doug Cooke, Albert Rodriguez, Alex DeGracia, Marilyn Lindstrom, Anita Dodson, John Gruener, Michelle Munk and Don Henninger.

Meet an Astronaut Week – Sandra Magnus, Stephen Frick, Pam Melroy and Gerhard Thiele.

Careers in Space Week – Mike Sterling, Russ Fortson, Kim Willis, Sheri Armstrong and Bill Daley.

Training in Microgravity Week – Gary Ash, Bob Williams, Judy Rickard,



Students interact with Dave Prentice, a Lockheed Martin engineer, as part of the School Visit Program at Space Center Houston.

Sharon Daley and Jeanette Anderson.

Robots in Space Week – Charles Price, Keith Grimm, Larry Li, Chris Lovchick, Pete Bonasso and Norman Chaffee.

We Have Liftoff Week – Warren Brasher, Nancy Munoz, Mike McNeely, John Griffin, Bill Boyd, John Albright, Vicki Cantrell, Laurie Buchanan and Sean Collins.

Living in Space Week – Dan Barta, Keith Henderson, Karen Pickering, Karen Meyers, Warren Ruemmele, Gina Kirby, David Prentice, Jan Connolly and Lisa Ristow.

Tools in Space Week – Phil West, Charles Boehl, Mark Turner, Steve Candler, Milt Heflin and Greg Harbaugh. ■

How does your work fit in the plan?

How does your work fit into the NASA Strategic Plan?

When a small team of engineers from Kennedy Space Center considered how to answer that question, they revolutionized NASA's performance management system by creating the Goal Performance Evaluation System.

The automated tool used for planning, managing and evaluating employees' contributions towards center and agency strategic objectives is on its way toward full implementation at JSC by October.

GPES offers many advantages over the current system. First and foremost, it will make it much easier for all employees to understand the linkage between their jobs

and the agency's strategic goals. The system lets each employee's performance elements trace directly to agency goals through the center's implementation plan and enterprise strategic plan.

Second, it uses current technology to streamline the performance appraisal process. Supervisors will click on items from "drop down" menus.

Third, the system is easy to change at any time, so plans remain current.

Finally, employees will be able to note accomplishments against their objectives throughout the year, forming the basis of performance discussions.

Employees will learn more about the system over the next couple of months. ■

Registration booming for Inspection 98

Almost 1,500 people had registered to attend Inspection 98 by late August, two months before the event, said Kathy Jurica, event chair.

Inspection 98, the annual showcase of technologies developed at JSC and other centers, will be held Oct. 14-16. More than 200 exhibits and presentations focusing on a range of technologies, most related to human space flight, will be offered in 20 JSC facilities.

The idea is to attract leaders of activities not directly related to the aerospace industry, to show them technology that might be useful in their endeavors. Those representatives of business and industry as well as educators

and civic leaders might also see NASA challenges at I98 to which they could offer solutions.

Jurica said a variety of materials has been mailed out to potential attendees during the past few months. "We've had a good response," she said. In addition to the 1,500 individuals who have registered to attend, many more have asked for additional information.

Technical exhibits have been defined, and organizers are finishing up the process of determining where each exhibit will be situated. A number of other NASA centers are participating.

For more information, call the I98 office at x37912. ■

GILRUTH CENTER NEWS

Hours: The Gilruth Center is open from 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

Gilruth badges: Required for use of the Gilruth Center. Employees, spouses, eligible dependents, NASA retirees and spouses may apply for photo identification badges from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Cost is \$10. Dependents must be between 16 and 23 years old.

Nutrition intervention program: Six-week program includes lectures, a private consultation with the dietitian and blood analysis to chart your progress. For additional information call Tammie Shaw at x32980.

Defensive driving: One-day course is offered once a month at the Gilruth Center. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$25. Call for next available class.

Stamp club: Meets every second and fourth Monday at 7 p.m. in Rm. 216.

Weight safety: Required course for employees wishing to use the Gilruth weight room. The next classes are scheduled for 8 p.m. Sept. 10 and Sept. 24. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$5. Annual weight room use fee is \$90. Additional family members are \$50.

Exercise: Low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$24 for eight weeks.

Step/bench aerobics: Low impact cardiovascular workout. Classes meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks. Call Kristen Taragzewski, instructor, at x36891.

Yoga: Stretching class of low-impact exercises expertly designed for people of all ages and abilities in a Westernized format. Meets Thursdays 5-6 p.m. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks.

Ballroom dancing: Classes meet from 7-8:15 p.m. Thursdays for beginner advanced classes and from 8:15-9:30 p.m. for beginner-intermediate and intermediate students. Cost is \$60 per couple.

Country and western dancing: Beginner class meets 7-8:30 p.m. Monday. Advanced class (must know basic steps to all dances) meets 8:30-10 p.m. Monday. Cost is \$20 per couple.

Fitness program: Health Related Fitness Program includes a medical screening examination and a 12-week individually prescribed exercise program. For more information call Larry Wier at x30301.

Gilruth Home Page: Check out all activities at the Gilruth online at: <http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/ah/exceaa/Gilruth/Gilruth.htm>

TICKET WINDOW

Bldg. 3 Exchange Store hours are 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Bldg. 11 Exchange Store hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

For more information, please call x35350.

The following discount tickets are available at the Exchange Stores:

General Cinema Theaters \$ 5.50

Sony Loew's Theaters \$ 5.00

AMC Theaters \$ 4.75

Astroworld Summer Saver (sell until Sept. 27 / valid until Nov. 1) \$24.25 (valid at all Texas Six Flags Theme Parks)

Moody Gardens (2 of 6 events) \$ 9.75

Sea World adult \$27.25 . . . child (3-11) \$18.25

Schiltebahn Water Park . . . adult \$20.75 . . . child (3-11) \$17.50

Space Center Houston . . . adult \$10.25 . . . child (4-11) \$ 7.00 (JSC civil service employees free.)

Splashtown Water Park . . . adult \$14.50 child (under 48") \$11.50

Metro Tokens and value cards available.

Renaissance Festival Tickets

on sale starting Sept. 8 . . . adult \$14.00 . . . child \$6.00

All tickets are non-refundable.

Photo Processing: 3-inch single prints, \$2.99; 3-inch double or 4-inch single prints, \$3.99; 4-inch double prints, \$5.99.