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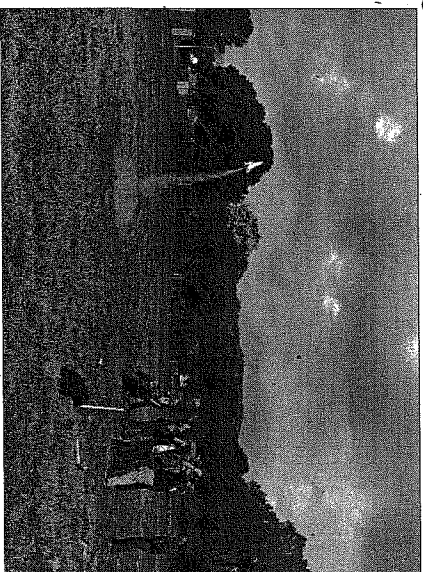
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## Deep Valley students aim high

The Daily Journal

Deep Valley Christian School challenged its students to "Aim High" on Rocket Day. Excited kindergartens through eighth grade students launched their high-flying rockets on the Deep Valley athletic field in the morning, then participated in a live SKYPE video-conference with Melissa Lambert, formerly NASA's Education Coordinator for the Phoenix Mars Mission. First grader Reagan McDougall declared, "It was a blast!"

Deep Valley's Rocket Day culminated a physical science unit on Newton's Three Laws of Motion. Each grade worked in the Deep Valley Science Lab to produce its own style of rockets to launch. Junior High students acted as Lab Assistants, presenting the science theory for the experimental rockets to younger students and measuring the height of launches using an algebraic formula.



Spotty rain did not deter the Deep Valley "rocket scientists." The highest flight of the day, a Junior High Team Ignition Rocket, soared 56.7 yards to the amazed delight of

the on-looking crowd. "Height of flight" winners were declared for each class: Grace Farrell for

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## Rockets

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Kindergarten "Stomp Rockets;" Abby Kelsay for 1st-2nd grade "2-Liter Air Pressure Rockets;" Lily Turrill for 3rd -4th Grade "8 Liter Air Pressure Rockets;" and Miranda Boessel for 5th-6th Grade "Chemical Reaction Rocket Fuel Fountains."

Afterwards, NASA spokeswoman, Ms. Lambert, who helped to develop the shovel camera on the Phoenix Mars Lander and whose Mars photographs have been published world-wide, addressed the Deep Valley students via SKYPE -- answering individual questions and inspiring students to "aim high academically and spiritually."

Fielding enthusiastic inquiries from all grade levels, Ms. Lambert praised the Deep Valley students who "asked great questions" such as when did she start to study Mars. Just 23-years-old and already a NASA scientist, Ms. Lambert encouraged the students to "stay young and keep studying" -- saying she first began her study of Mars for her second grade science fair project. Eighth grader Nate England observed in his science log, "I learned that you can do big things at a young age."

Pastor KC Jones, M.Div.,

Executive Administrator, stated Rocket Day is just one example of how Deep Valley Christian School is continuing to build on its 35 year history by offering "classical educational content delivered "in contemporary ways."

Pastor Jones noted while public schools are being forced to make deep cuts in educational services -- including closing schools and increasing class sizes -- Deep Valley is expanding its academic offerings while maintaining an average class size of 16. Pastor Jones explained that class size differential means Deep Valley can offer more personalized attention to students which translates to higher academic performance. He noted approximately 85 percent of Deep Valley elementary students score "proficient or higher" on Standardized Test Scores for Reading compared to approximately 35 percent in the USD, with similar advantages in math and science.

This summer, as a service to the community, Deep Valley plans to open its doors to offer a special Language Arts program at a significantly discounted rate. "Fundamentals -- Advancing Literacy Skills for Life and Leadership in the 21st Century," is an intensive, standards-based rocket boost to reading, writing, speaking, and critical/creative thinking skills for K-8 grade stu-

dents.

Pioneered through the community college system in Southern California, Pastor Jones reported the fun program enrolled more than 10,000 families in five years on 12 college campuses because "it works."

"This summer, "Fundamentals" will be available to Deep Valley students and the public presented by the Program's former Director who now serves as Deep Valley Christian School's Academic Coordinator.

Deep Valley Christian School is located in Redwood Valley just off the 101 Highway at West Road (across from "The Broiler"). Deep Valley is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges for Kindergarten through 12th grade (the same regional agency which accredits Stanford University and UC Berkeley). Deep Valley is also fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International and offers a State certified and licensed preschool.

Pastor Jones invites interested parents to contact the Deep Valley Christian School office 485-8778 for information about enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year and/or the upcoming Summer Literacy Program. Class size is limited so early enrollment is encouraged.