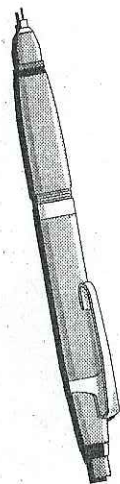


School's Sm



# "Space Day" at Orange Park Christian Academy

By Kelly J. Stigliano, Correspondent

ORANGE PARK-Orange Park Christian Academy opened its doors on Tuesday to middle school students of Pinewood Christian Academy, Faith Christian Academy, and St. Matthew and Sacred Heart Catholic Schools for its first Space Day. Hosted by OPCA, their non-profit research and education company Tekna-Theos Inc, the Florida Space Grant Consortium and the Orange Park Assembly of God, the day held fun educational opportunities for more than 350 students.

All preparation for the day, set up, organizing activities and clean up was done by the students of Orange Park Christian Academy. Under the leadership of Tekna-Theos Advisor and OPCA teacher Kevin Simmons, they orchestrated the entire event.

The day began with a quick lesson from Keynote Speaker, Bradley Carlson, as he explained the improvements in the

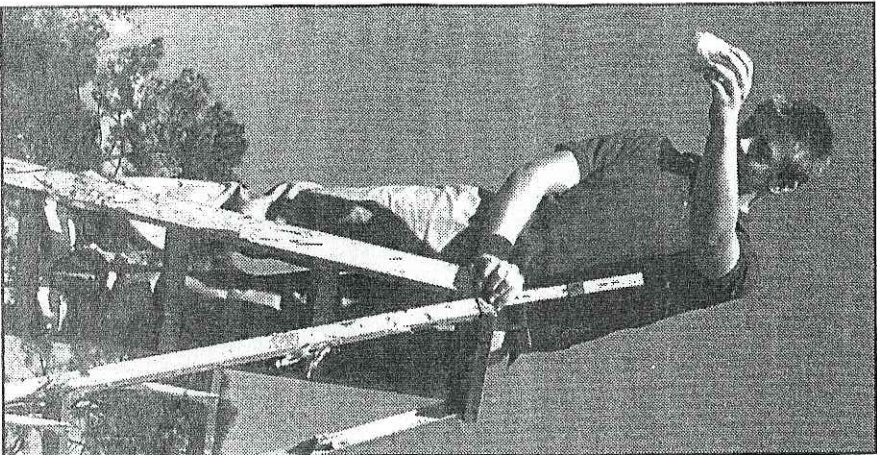


Correspondent  
Photos By  
Kelly J. Stigliano  
From Sacred Heart Catholic School, Jezzmin Ortiz, Jonalyn Tamares, Daniel Chica and Elaine Hussey teamed up in the Trig Competition.

Next Generation Launch Technology  
Fast-term Vehicles lent the students' at-  
test the students' engineering prowess.  
Each team gave themselves a name and  
tickets in the rocket drawing.  
The day ended with trophies given to

All preparation for the day, set up, organizing activities and clean up was done by the students of Orange Park Christian Academy. Under the leadership of Tekna-Theos Advisor and OPCA teacher Kevin Simmons, they orchestrated the entire event.

The day began with a quick lesson from Keynote Speaker, Bradley Carlson, as he explained the improvements in the



**Orange Park Christian Academy student Chris Carter dropped each protected egg onto the pavement to test the team's engineering skills.**

space program and the on-going experiments involved in perfecting future space shuttles. Carlson recently transferred to the Kennedy Space Center from Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Explanation of his work in advanced propulsion systems of the



**From Sacred Heart Catholic School, Jazmin Ortiz, Jonalyn Tamares, Daniel Chica and Elaine Hussey teamed up in the Trig Competition.**

Next Generation Launch Technology Far-term Vehicles kept the students' attention.

Broken into three groups, the students rotated between a Trigonometry Competition, an Aerobrace Competition and lunch and visiting the booths of exhibitors.

The Northeast Florida Association of Rocketry displayed several of their rockets and had four representatives on hand to answer the many questions from the students. Their attitude of "it's not a hobby, it's a passion" came through brilliantly as knowledgeable-hungry students visited their display.

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center displayed the bioreactor they are currently working on with Tekna-Theos Inc. Representatives from Moseley Technical Services and Air Traffic Controllers were present as well.

The Northeast Florida Astronomical Society's display was in the parking lot. With several solar observing telescopes, the students were able to look at the sun and try to identify sunspots. Models representative of planets and their masses were on display. Several of the Society's members were available to guide the students and answer their questions.

For the Aerobrace Competition, teams of four people each were given an egg, 40 straws and a roll of clear tape to

test the students' engineering prowess. Each team gave themselves a name and created a protective covering for their egg. The egg was dropped from a height of 10 feet. Cracked eggs earned 75 points and unbroken eggs earned 100 points.

The day drew to an close with a word of assurance from Greg Jenkins, a Mechanical Engineer from Moseley Technical Services Inc. He said that only three percent of high school graduates have a goal upon graduation. "The sky is not the limit. We can go beyond that," he said as he encouraged students to set goals for their lives.

Greg Lukach from the NEFL Association of Rocketry then cheered the students on with a good word. "Find what you like, grab onto it and have fun," he suggested. He then distributed several rocket sets to students with winning

tickets in the rocket drawing.

The day ended with trophies given to the winning teams. Coming in fourth, third and first in the Trig Competition were teams from Sacred Heart. Second place went to a team from St. Matthews. Coming in fourth and second for the Aerobrace Competition was Sacred Heart, with third place going to St. Matthews. First place went to a team from Faith Christian Academy.

Simmons, Tekna-Theos Inc. Advisor and OPCA Science and Math Teacher, encouraged the students to further their education, especially in math and science. He assured them that they too, could get involved in the NASA Program. The students returned to their schools with a new appreciation for the United States Space Travel Program and, hopefully, a desire to shoot for the stars.

**21st Annual**  
**Baby Contest & Model/Beauty Search**  
 America's Cover Miss & Cover Boy, USA  
 Age Division  
 Girls: Birth-11mo, 12-23mo, 2-3yr, 4-6yr, 7-9yr