

The Journey
By Kailin Phillips
7th Grade, Auburn Middle School

Once mankind took a giant leap,
To the moon and back with memories to keep,
The journey was hard,
But the astronauts were smart,
And we were able to succeed.

Now, we have the chance,
To take our next prominent stance,
It will be challenging,
And we might be staggering,
But we won't look back, not a glance.

The moon was our mission so many years ago,
Our focuses have changed, as presumed so,
And I believe our next giant leap will be to colonize Mars.

Up through the marvelous, glimmering start,
Whizzing by, making Earth seem distant and far,
Despite all potential impediments,
We will establish a settlement,
Complicated and advanced,
By whom everyone is entranced,
To look at the beauty of it all.

To see that society has come so far,
To know it will push on still,
Truly as fascinating as a star,
So pleasing to humanity's natural will,
To expand, advance, develop, evolve,
To discover more about the universe in which we revolve,
There will never be a problem we won't try to solve,
For that is the instinct of the human mind,
To take "the next giant leap" for all of mankind.

New Space

By Kaleigh Brein

7th Grade, Shawsville Middle School

Space

Vast, empty, and frigidly cold

A place one would rather not go

If you can call it a place that is

It's really just a thing we know

As we venture out farther, we learn more and more

The emptiness is observed, charged, and learned

We know enough to send experts out

An amazing job but dangerous

Then experts turn to explorers

They want to leave their life behind

They make the small step

It forms into the second leap, or more like a bound towards change

A big difference that impacts people, millions of miles away

All the way to our planet

Doors are opened, advancements are made

We throw down an anchor on the moon

Different races and cultures join in together

Some say Earth is cleaned out or saved

Pollution is gone, Earth can breathe

A big, full, joyous breath

Space

Loud and friendly

A new opportunity

A new beginning

Normal

Agreement and peace

A better less needy Earthy Earth

More desolate and empty, but that's ok

Less damaged and polluted

Like a broken child slowly healing

With healing comes freedom and with freedom comes peace

Happier on its own

Much better

Giant Leap in Space
By McKinley Owczarski
6th Grade, Blacksburg Middle School

I look up at the stars
Twinkling in the sky
I see planets like Mars
The Moon smiles down at me waving good bye

Dawn approaches as the starry night fades
I imagine being an astronaut leaping on the moon
The dark craters look like caves
I enter the rocket hearing it go zoom

I sit on my couch watching TV
One small step for man one giant leap for mankind
I smile at the words imagining the words coming from me
I know that one day I'll take a step for women and that giant leap for womankind

Destination
By Emma Harvey
6th Grade, Blacksburg Middle School

Gliding through the stars we go,
Passing planets down below.
Like shooting stars so high we fly
Far across the nighttime sky
Giddily spinning with the milky way
Dancing our way through heavens' bay
Into this blackened map of the stars
We contemplate just who we are
Waiting for when we reach our destination
Until then we soar above the nations
Dodging rogue asteroids
As we make our way through the void.
Me and you
You and I
Gliding high in the sky
For there's no limit, for we can see
There's no limit to the galaxy

A Giant Leap
By Edric Zhang
8th Grade, Blacksburg Middle School

Humanity is a progression
Continuously moving forward
Attempting to relieve the tension
Of the unknown and the disorder

Such giant leaps across the universe
Like a man with a restless cause
Never to go in reverse
Though we may frequently have flaws

50 long years ago,
We first stepped on the moon
But we fought and maintained a steady tempo
Now we have a hope of reaching Mars soon

Accomplishment after accomplishment
Like the arrival of New Destiny on Mars
But our goal is a human, not a robot
To build another world with people and cars

How long will it take?
Some ordinary folks ask
Will it sail in our wake?
Or wait until we pass?

The process will be hard, they answer themselves
There will be a lot of crashes, booms and pops
But as long as we try hard enough
Success will follow gradually in a series of small hops

Even now, scientists are working relentlessly
Drones, rockets, and rovers are doing the same
Considering everything that could happen carefully
For if it works it will achieve glory and fame

A giant leap, a leap towards the red planet
The one with a surface of dust
But will we let the universe decide when it will come?
No, we will leave it to us