

# Local teacher set for out-of-this-world adventure

## Sam Sherratt School's Keith Baker heads off to space camp

By Stephanie Hounsell  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

When local teacher Keith Baker heard he'd been accepted into a unique space camp program, he was over the moon.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing," the teacher at Sam Sherratt Public School said.

Tomorrow, Baker will leave for a week-long, all-expenses-paid trip to Huntsville, Alabama to take part in the 2010 Honeywell Educators at Space Academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

The academy is a professional development program for teachers to learn new and innovative techniques to educate their students about science and math.

Baker will be attending alongside teachers from 19 different countries — an exciting aspect in itself.

Out of thousands who applied, just 200 were accepted, Baker said; some teachers apply every year and never get the chance to go. This was the fourth year Baker had applied, and when he saw the email from the academy on his BlackBerry, he braced himself for another disappointment.

"I was like, 'OK, here's my rejection, better luck next time,'" said Baker, who lives on the Milton/Oakville border.

Instead, he found himself excitedly run-

ning to the principal's office to share the news.

His anticipation has been infectious.

"The excitement is definitely building around here," said Baker, who teaches math, science and design and technology.

Throughout the week, Baker will become a student, participating in a variety of activities that he can adapt to fit his own students.

He'll use problem-solving skills to solve replicated challenges faced by NASA engineers, and will explore what it would take to live on the moon. He'll construct and launch water bottle rockets and will listen to a presentation by an astronaut.

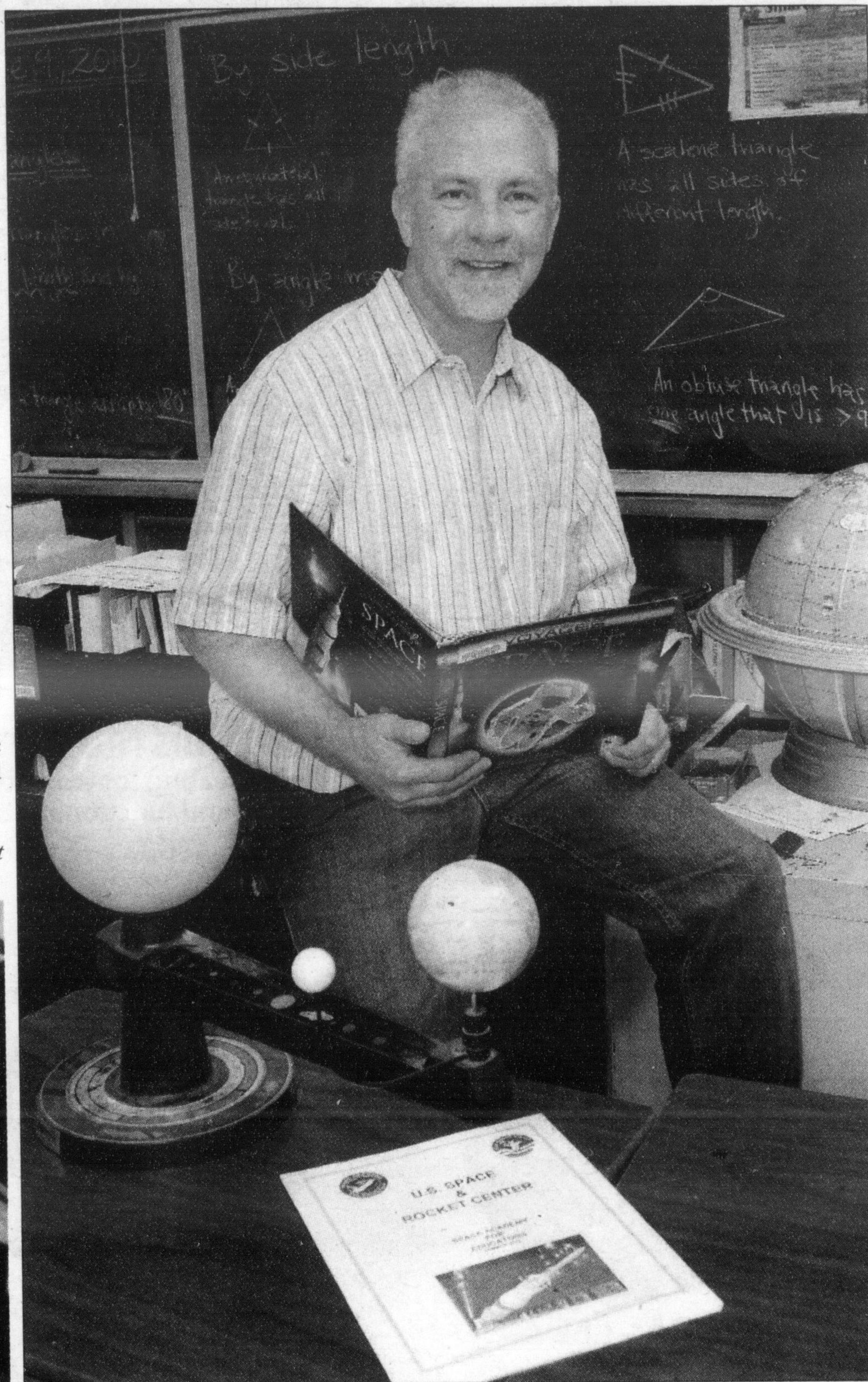
One of the highlights will no doubt be taking part in two in-depth simulated space shuttle missions and then discovering what it feels like to be in space — and walk on the moon — through various astronaut simulators.

Space is something that has always interested him, Baker said. He remembers as a kid watching on TV the first man to walk on the moon.

Baker hopes when he returns he'll be able to inspire his students to consider space and flight as possible career pursuits.

"Space is an open frontier," he said.

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**READY TO EXPLORE:** Keith Baker is surrounded with space literature and props as he eagerly awaits his trip to the 2010 Honeywell Educators at Space Academy.



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