When Hedgie steps onto the tiny planet Mikkop, he’s surrounded by funny pebbles. I first saw rocks like this, called “Living Stones”, at a plant store. I was delighted to find out they were alive. These plants are called succulents and they mimic rocks perhaps to escape being food for an animal or bird. Sometime in their growing cycle, beautiful flowers emerge. In my book, I took the idea of pebbles coming alive at the touch of Big Sparkler Geyser’s sprinkles from the real-life story of these plants. Truth is stranger than fiction!

BLUE ANGELS FLIGHT!
I flew in a lower atmosphere rocket with wings, a FA-18, on a Blue Angels V.I.P. ride with Lt. Col. Keith “The Judge” Hoskins. Ever since my ride I've wanted to tell of my respect for the team — work, bravery and dedication of U.S. flyers, astronauts and their support groups. Go to my website to see a video of my flight. http://www.janbrett.com

NASA stands for National Aeronautics and Space Administration

A visit to Yellowstone National Park gave me the idea for my book. In this area, molten rock comes close to the surface and creates hot springs and geysers. One hot spring is called Morning Glory Pool because it is blue and turquoise like the flower. It even erupted into a geyser. Then people threw things into it and clogged its vent where pure hot water bubbled up from the earth. Now there is a fence around it so it can recover. After I read the sign, I thought I would put this story in a book, only it would take place in outer space. But who would save the day?

Turn the page to color Hedgie the astronaut. He saves the geyser on the tiny planet Mikkop.
I learned about geysers for my book. Down below the earth’s surface, water can become trapped. If it’s near a hot place, it sometimes bubbles up as steam and shoots out a hole in the earth called a vent. In a few rare cases, the energy forcing the water up is not hot but cold. Carbon dioxide, also known as CO₂, fizzes it up like a soft drink.

NASA’s Cassini spacecraft was taking photos of planet Saturn’s moon Enceladus when scientists noticed plumes spraying from the surface. The researchers theorize that the plumes are geysers. Enceladus may have a molten core and water pockets in its crust. Stand by for more news from outer space!

A good website to see more is http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov