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ARISS - International Space Station project: update 3

Students get wired for space connection –.

Space adventures have begun at St Thomas with several Years 5-7 students keen to be involved with the ARISS project helping with a test connection from the school's radio last Friday.

The group gathered on the tennis courts after lunch to help set up the St Thomas Radio Station and log onto passage of a United States weather satellite.

The NOAA 18 satellite, run by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is in 'polar orbit', which means it circles the planet crossing the polar caps and passing over the US four times a day.

Despite some technical hitches – and St Thomas Radio Station still not operating at full capacity – a connection was made at 2.03pm for about 15 minutes. This was long enough to produce some images that although not crystal clear, confirms that it will be possible for the school radio station to make a space connection.

With ongoing improvements, the ARISS project team are confident future connections will produce crystal clear images.

St Thomas' ARISS project was launched last term following a submission to NASA by the school. ARISS, or Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ISS, is a project run by amateur radio operators and NASA's education division that lets students at schools all over the world talk directly with astronauts on the ISS, orbiting about 340km above earth.

Kids, keep looking out in Thomataalk for more information and opportunities about getting involved with St Thomas ARISS project.

Morry Clark, ARISS project coordinator.

For further information about St Thomas Space Station project contact Morry Clark Ph: 3901 4634 or email morryclark@optusnet.com.au. Messages can also be left at the school office in an envelope marked Attn: international Space Station Project team.