

15/10/2008



## **What's happening with ARISS? International Space Station project: 2008 update #16**

We are ramping up our plans to get organised for St Thomas' contact with the International Space Station. Advice is that the proposed date for our contact is Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, around 8.00pm – so mark it on your calendar and keep the night free. This will be confirmed closer to the time and be assured we will let you know if there are any changes. Keep an eye out in Thomataalk for details regarding other events planned for the night.

**Who is our astronaut?** We have been advised that Colonel Mike Fincke has been assigned as St Thomas' astronaut. Col Fincke will command the Expedition 18 mission and left for the ISS earlier this week in a Soyuz rocket earlier this week. He previously served as a flight engineer and NASA Space Station science officer on Expedition 9 in 2004. During his first stay at the ISS he performed four spacewalks. He is also a colonel in the U.S. Air Force. More information about Col Fincke is available at [www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/fincke.html](http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/fincke.html)

### **Other ARISS project news:**

Letters were sent home this week to families of the 15 students selected to speak with the ISS astronaut advising of training sessions to help prepare for the event. Five other students who are our reserve team will also go through the same training. Rehearsals began this morning and will run for the next four Wednesdays unless otherwise notified. An additional session is being arranged for those Year 5 and 6 students away at camp.

We still need more parent volunteers to help out with some of the activities on the night so are hoping more parents will come forward to help out with some of the jobs. These include helping setting up the hall and outdoor areas, technical support and catering. Don't be shy - if you are able to help we'd love to hear from you. Contact Morry, ph 3901 4634 or email [morryclark@optusnet.com.au](mailto:morryclark@optusnet.com.au).

### ***Space Trivia Competition – open to all students Prep - Year 7. –***

Lots of entries were received again in the Space Trivia Competition. Congratulations to (removed for privacy reasons), Year XX, winner of this week's competition for knowing that was once also a scout. Your prize will be presented at assembly this week.

*Conditions of entry:* To be in the running to win a great prize, write your name, class and answer to the Space Trivia Question on a piece of paper and drop it into the Space Shuttle entry box outside the student's entrance to the office. Entries close Tuesday afternoon and the winner will be announced in Thomataalk next week.

### **This week's question:**

Hope to have more news for you all in the next Thomataalk, from the ARISS Team

**What is the St Thomas Space Station Project?** Last year St Thomas successfully applied to NASA to host a direct radio link between the school and an astronaut on the International Space Station. This contact is part of a project called "ARISS" which is supported by amateur radio operators and NASA's education division. Updates on the project will continue to be provided in Thomataalk in the lead up to this exciting event. For further information contact Morry Clark Ph: 3901 4634 or email [morryclark@optusnet.com.au](mailto:morryclark@optusnet.com.au). Messages can also be left at the school office in an envelope marked Attn: international Space Station Project team.