

19/3/2008



International Space Station project: 2008 update #7

Space fun for St Thomas: The Starry Night Planetarium, a mobile starlab, will be visiting the school on 17 and 18 April to help teach our students more about the moon, the planets and the night sky. An astronomy night will be held on Thursday, April 17 for students and parents. More news on this after Easter but in the meantime check out what the lab does by visiting <http://www.starrynight.com.au/>. A huge thankyou to the P&F for providing \$1800 sponsorship to provide this event.

Other space news: While the actual date of the linkup with the International Space Station still has not been confirmed, preparations are continuing for a date some time in the next two months. Bigger and better antennas are being built and should be finished later this week. At three metres in length, these new antennas are twice the size of the one used for test links late last year and should provide clearer reception when the school's date with an astronaut arrives.

Space Station Project competitions:

1. Questions for the astronauts - open to students Years 3-7. A letter and competition entry form was sent home with last week's Thomataalk to all families about how the 10 students will be selected to speak with the International Space Station astronaut. Members of the International Space Station project team are visiting classrooms (last week and this week) to explain more about this. It's hoped families of all students in Years 3-7 will encourage their children to take part so we'll have a great selection of interesting questions from our school. Entries close after the Easter break giving everyone plenty of time to put their thinking caps on. One entry is allowed per child and additional entry forms are available at the office. Entries should be placed in the Space Shuttle entry box outside the student's entrance to the school by Friday, March 28.

2. Weekly Space Trivia Competition – open to all students Prep - Year 7.
Conditions of entry: To be in the running to win, write your name, class and answer to this week's 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 after the Easter break.

This week's question: **What is the name of the space shuttle docked at the International Space Station?**

This week's prize is a space science book that converts into a model International Space Station.

Last week's winner: Zachary is the lucky winner of a family pass to the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium for naming two countries that have sent astronauts to the International Space Station in the last two years. Well done Zachary for correctly naming Russia (Fyodor Yurchikhin) and the USA (Clayton Anderson). Answer: The United States, Canada, Japan, Russia, Brazil, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany,

Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Malaysia have all sent astronauts up to the ISS.

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. Messages can also be left at the school office in an envelope marked Attn: international Space Station Project team.