

20/5/2008



## What's happening with ARISS? International Space Station project: 2008 update #13

**Space news:** With the Space Station project plans on hold pending further information from NASA about the school's date for the ISS linkup, and the fete looming on the school calendar not too far away on the school diary, the project team has agreed to take a break with from all things ARISS for a few weeks. With so much involved in keeping the momentum of the project going, it's a good chance to reflect on what the project has been achieved so far. This includes securing major sponsorship from Carina Leagues Club and Boeing Australia to cover major costs of equipment, prizes and educational materials involved in running the project, running weather satellite and amateur radio trials, satellite contacts with other radio stations in Melbourne, ISS tests performed earlier this year and contacts with other radio stations via the repeater. Moore recently the school hosted a visit by the Starry Night mobile planetarium, an astronomy night and our Space Trivia Contest!

As you would all be aware we have selected the 15 students who will speak with the ISS astronaut. Families of those children will be contacted by Morry Clark to talk through what is being planned and explain the circumstances surrounding need for the delayed date.

Other space plans ahead include participation in the Delphi C3 project – this is a satellite student project run by the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. This group of university science and space nuts have built a very small satellite and managed to get it into orbit around the earth by hitchhiking a ride on a rocket. Now that the hardest part of the project has been achieved, they are looking for some international goodwill to locate ground stations that will be able to receive telemetry (basically scientific information such as how hot it is, altitude, do you miss me...) and forward it back to the control centre in Europe. With the St Thomas radio station well equipped to help with this, it is also another interesting program for our students to get involved and make good use of our equipment. More news on this to come.

**Space Art Show** – Due to requests for "a bit more time", the closing date for the art competition was extend but has now closed. Entries will be judged by a panel of teachers in junior (Prep to Year 3) and senior (Years 4- 7) categories. All art work will be displayed in the hall closer to our Space Station hook up. *Our judges are busy selecting from the array of designs that include rockets, planets, moons, stars and even a few distant galaxies and space travellers. Thanks to all those children who entered the competition. **Winners will be announced at assembly tomorrow.***

**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.