26/3/2008

International Space Station project: 2008 update #8

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.

Upcoming events:
- 17 & 18 April - Starry Night Planetarium visit to school to help teach our students more about the moon, the planets and the night sky. Check out http://www.starrynight.com.au/ .
- 17 April - Astronomy night for students and parents. .

Space Station Project competitions:

1. Questions for the astronauts - open to students Years 3-7. **Entries close this Friday if you want to be in the running to be one of the 10 lucky students to** speak with an International Space Station astronaut. You've had the Easter break to put your thinking hats on so we hope to 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 Thomatalk 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: (removed for privacy reasons) 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 … for correctly naming The United States and Japan. 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 Thomatalk 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.*