



## What's happening with ARISS? International Space Station project: 2008 update #18

Finally, what everyone has been waiting for. On the weekend we were notified that **St Thomas' date for the link up with the ISS will take place next Tuesday 4th November, at about 8.15pm!!!** Our astronaut is Colonel Mike Fincke.

A selection of dates and times was determined by NASA and the ARISS support crew, and the final decision was based on the best possible pass of the ISS. While it's Melbourne Cup night we hope that as many school families as possible will still come along.

So, with less than a week until this exciting event, the ARISS project team is working hard on finalise arrangements for the evening. The final training session was held in the library this morning for the students and reserve team who will talk to Col Fincke. Letters, with more details about their role on the night, are being sent home today with those students. These children and Year 7 helpers are asked to wear their school uniform to the event.

A flyer with details about the evening is being sent home to all other school families with Thomataalk today. **To help with arrangements on the night, and assist with catering, all families planning to come along are asked to complete the RSVP (advising of family numbers) on the bottom of the flyer or post it in the rocket (entry box) outside the office no later than end of school on Friday or email [issrsvp@optusnet.com.au](mailto:issrsvp@optusnet.com.au).**

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

NB: The event is **ONLY** open to St Thomas' families, parishioners and other specially invited guests helping out with arrangements on the night. This is to help ensure the safety of our children.

Projector screens and speakers will be set up in the hall and on the tennis court to follow up the evening's event. Floor seating will be prioritised for St Thomas' students with limited seating available for adults at the rear of the hall. Children may bring a cushion to sit on if needed - adults sitting outside are asked to bring a foldup chair.

Program of events for St Thomas' ARISS event on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008:

- 6.30pm - P&F BBQ (sausage sizzle and drinks available for purchase)
  - Brisbane Astrological Society telescope viewing
- 7.30pm - Children to move into hall ahead of start of short entertainment program
- 8.00pm (approx) – start of official proceedings
- 8.18pm – Link up starts
- 8.28pm – link up finishes
- 8.30pm – end of evening's event

### Other ARISS project news:

The **ARISS Project Website** link has also gone live. For lots of information and links to other websites visit [www.members.optusnet.com.au/jandnclark](http://www.members.optusnet.com.au/jandnclark)

The antenna array is being assembled on top of the hall as we speak. Slow scan TV images have been received from the ISS and have been posted on the ARISS website and last Thursday the team spoke with Astronaut Richard Garriott using the transceiver and antenna's we will be using next week!

### **Space Trivia Competition–**

Keep those entries coming in for the Space Trivia Competition. Congratulations to (name withheld for privacy reasons), this week's year 1 and Year 2 winners they knew that space is 100km from the ground and (name withheld for privacy reasons) for winning the Year 4 to 7 trivia prize. She identified Jupiter, Venus and Mars as being planets visible in the sky last Wed night. They will be presented with her prize at assembly this week.

Parents who'd like to volunteer to help out with activities on the night are asked to contact Morry, ph 3901 4634 or email [morryclark@optusnet.com.au](mailto:morryclark@optusnet.com.au). The jobs list includes set up and packing up the hall and outdoor areas or contact Debbie Radford if you are able to help the P&F with catering.

Looking forward to seeing you next Tuesday night at our link up. 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.