

NASA Explorer Schools News

A monthly newsletter
from the teachers of
tomorrow's explorers

May's theme is living and working in space. To get you ready, we're focusing this edition on daily life on the International Space Station.

Featured Mission



Food & Water in Space

Living in space is a lot like going camping. You have to take plenty of food and water, and properly seal containers to avoid spilling or spoiling. Astronauts used to have to take special *space food* that included a lot of pastes and dried food. Because of improvements in packaging

technology, today's astronauts can enjoy many of the same foods we eat at home. Spaghetti, soup, sandwiches, scrambled eggs and even macaroni and cheese are on the menu at the International Space Station (ISS). What about water, you ask? A water recycling system on the ISS reclaims waste water of all kinds. It even pulls water from the air when it gets humid enough inside the ISS. It does such a great job, that the recycled water is cleaner than the water we drink out of our faucets on Earth!

spaceflight.nasa.gov/living/index.html

Activity Corner



Did you know you can see the ISS from home? As long as the weather is clear and you have a dark place from which to watch, the Space Station is seen as a steady white pinpoint of light moving across the night sky. You

can get an even better look with a pair of binoculars. Try it with your family and friends.

www.jsc.nasa.gov/iss sightings/

Build your own model space station:

www.dmns.org/programs/SOTeachersGuide/grades48/pdf/buildSpace.pdf

Bytes and Bits

We asked Dr. Stardust, our astronomy sage, "How can we find the Space Station using the ISS Sightings website?"

Dr. Stardust said, "it is as simple as holding out your hand. Fully extend your arm in front of you. Rotate your palm to face you with your fingers parallel to the ground. The width of your hand is about 10 degrees. If the ISS Sightings website says you can locate the ISS 40°W, then you would face west, hold out your hand so your pinky finger 'rests' on the horizon, and count up four hand-widths."

Question of the month

What are the names of the two astronauts on ISS Expedition 9?

The first ten correct answers sent to NESNews@nasa.gov will receive a NASA prize! Make sure to include your first and last name, your teacher's name and the full name of your school.

Answer to last month's question: *Sputnik*

See which schools got it right on the NES News website!

NASA Explorers are people like you

Name: Jerome Bennett

Education: MS Computer Science, Bowie State University

Job: Associate Chief of Earth and Space Data Computing Division



Jerome has a lot of responsibilities. He is in charge of super computers and very fast networks at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. His division also creates cool science images that are often used on TV, and in magazines and newspapers. He promotes education by connecting NASA with Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Jerome thinks the best part about his job is the people: "The people that I count on to help me do my job, from science research to those in the education community, [make it all worthwhile]." Jerome has been on the road a lot this year. He's been spending time at many NASA Centers and prestigious academic institutions to study administration. He is at Harvard this month! Apart from his job at NASA, Jerome loves to do home improvement projects and create his own computer animations.

NES Spotlight

Florence Middle School

Students: 849

Teaching staff: 47

Florence Middle School sits in the heart of Florence, Mississippi, just south of Jackson. Built on the site of the first schoolhouse in what used to be Steen's Creek, Florence is proud of the fact that principal Henry Whitfield went on from leading the school in the 1890s to become governor of Mississippi. FMS encourages learning through five open pods in the school. They are open areas, outside teachers' classrooms, where students interact with one another for lessons and to promote problem solving skills. FMS certainly has a successful educational environment. Recently the school achieved a 100% pass rate on the State Algebra Exit Exam! Student teams from FMS also received top honors at the International Destination Imagination Competition in Knoxville. Way to go Florence Middle School!

www.rcsd.k12.ms.us/~web20/homepage.htm



National Aeronautics and
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