



Global Friendship Through Space Education

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**ASTRO**

JANUARY 8  
2008

# Partner School Science Program Newsletter





**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM  
ASTRO, THE PARTNER SCHOOL  
SCIENCE PROGRAM  
NEWSLETTER!**

**EACH WEEK WHEN YOU CHECK  
GFTSE.ORG, YOU WILL FIND  
COOL PICTURES, FUN FACTS,  
SPACE NEWS, AND MORE....**

**TO GET THE MOST OUT OF  
BEING IN THE PARTNER  
SCHOOL SCIENCE PROGRAM,  
MAKE SURE TO SEND  
MESSAGES TO YOUR E-PAL AS  
OFTEN AS YOU CAN!**

**DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU  
WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN ASTRO?  
IF SO, ASK YOUR TEACHER TO  
SEND AN E-MAIL TO  
TYILDIRIM@GFTSE.ORG WITH  
THE PHOTO, STORY, OR LINK.  
YOU MIGHT JUST SEE IT IN  
NEXT WEEK'S ASTRO!**

**TEACHERS CAN SUBMIT  
PICTURES AND STORIES OF  
THEIR CLASS TO BE INCLUDED  
IN THE PARTNER SCHOOL  
SPOTLIGHT SECTION!**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**ASTRO NEWS: ASK AN  
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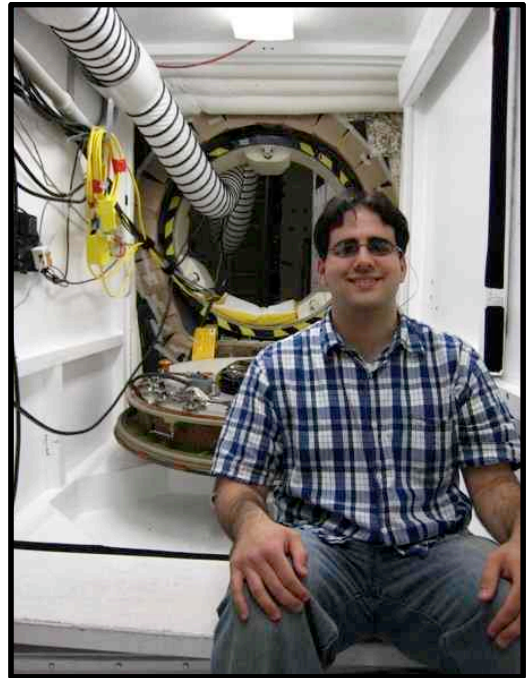
# ***ASTRO NEWS: ASK AN ENGINEER!***

Vincent Vazzo, a former Space Camp student and counselor, works for United Space Alliance on the Space Shuttle Program at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. At the space center, his day-to-day responsibilities involve writing computer software to help NASA analyze film, video, and photos from the hundreds of cameras watching every shuttle launch (including some that ride on the space shuttle itself). When a space shuttle is launched, Vincent also helps review film and video footage from the launch to make sure the astronauts get a safe ride into space.

When we think of a Space Shuttle mission we always think of the astronauts, but without engineers like Vincent building and testing all the parts of the Space Shuttle, no astronaut would ever go to space!

Vincent would be happy to answer any questions you might have about what it's like to work at NASA and help bring astronauts into space and back home safely.

To ask a question, send a message to Tolga Yildirim ([tyildirim@gftse.org](mailto:tyildirim@gftse.org)) that includes your name, school name, city and country by February 1st, 2008!



**Vincent Vazzo with Space Shuttle Atlantis as it is preparing for its next launch.**



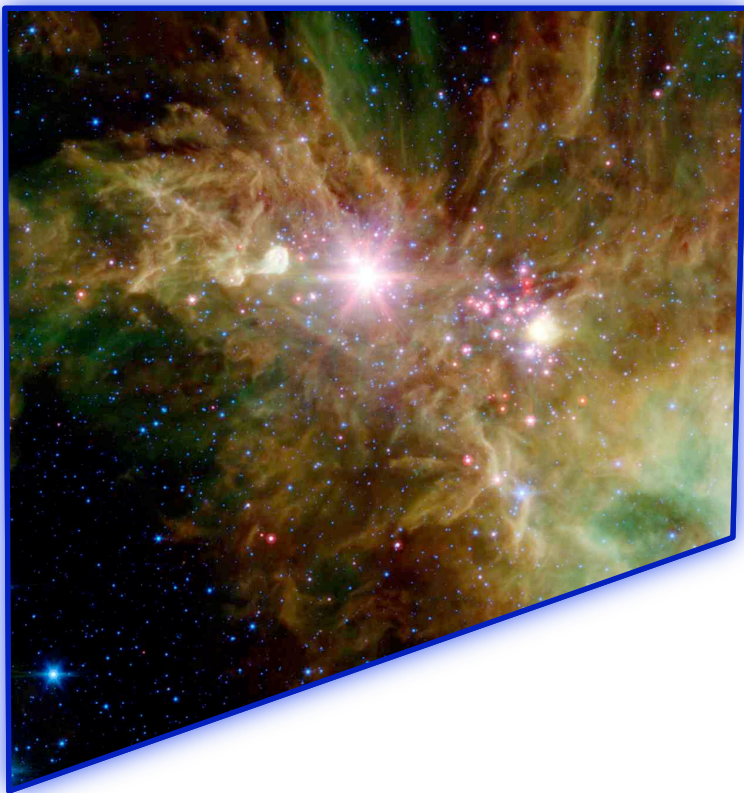
**Vincent at a test firing of one of the Space Shuttle's Solid Rocket Boosters.**



## *NASA PICTURES OF THE WEEK:*



This photo by NASA photographer Bill Ingalls has been honored by United Press International as one of the top pictures of 2007. Ingalls took the photo of the Soyuz TMA-11 spacecraft on Oct. 8 as it was transported by train to its launch pad at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The spacecraft launched two days later, bringing the Expedition 16 crew to the International Space Station. Ingalls has traveled the world as a photographer for NASA since 1989.



Like snowflakes in the night, the strange shapes and textures of the stars in the Snowflake Cluster are found in the Cone Nebula. These patterns are from the formation of the stars known as NGC 2264. Bright stars from the cluster dot the field and they soon heat up and destroy the gas and dust mountains in which they formed.

For more NASA pictures, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/>

## ***SPACE WORDS:***

Soyuz- a Russian-made space craft that can be used just once. It is used today to take astronauts and cosmonauts to and from the International Space Station.

Baikonur Cosmodome- most rockets sent into space by Russia are actually launched from this cosmodome in Kazakhstan.

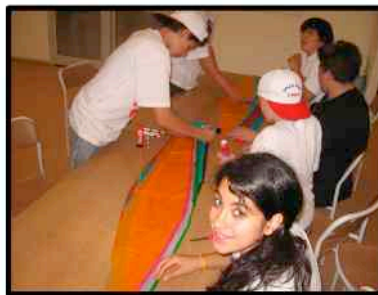
Nebula- a collection of dust and gas.

Cluster- a group of stars close to one another.

## ***ASTRO ANNIVERSARY***

Astro is celebrating its 1 year anniversary this month! Check back next week to see how you can win a GFTSE prize pack in our anniversary contest!

# Check back next week for more!



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