Global Friendship Through Space Education

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Partner School Science Program Newsletter

WELCOME TO 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 MATTHEW@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 WEEK'S ISSUE:

PSSP UPDATE: VIDEO CONFERENCES

NASA NEWS: NEXT STOP, ASTEROID?

PSSP UPDATE: VIDEO CONFERENCES

Students present their projects and ideas to their partner school in the USA as well as NASA.

Students ask questions to the their partner school and to NASA on a variety of topics.

Turk College in Izmir, Turkey and Hobgood Elementary in Tennessee, USA, had a very successful video conference on May 7th.

This isn't the first video conference between the two schools and they were able to share their ideas and projects with not only their partner school but also with NASA at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

The main topic of their video conference was Mars. Students were able to ask experts at NASA questions about travel to Mars and the conditions on the planet.

Students at both Turk College and Hobgood Elementary have been sending messages back and forth as well as seeing each other in video conferences all year. This summer they will get the chance to meet face-to-face at Space Camp Turkey during the special E-Pal week in July.

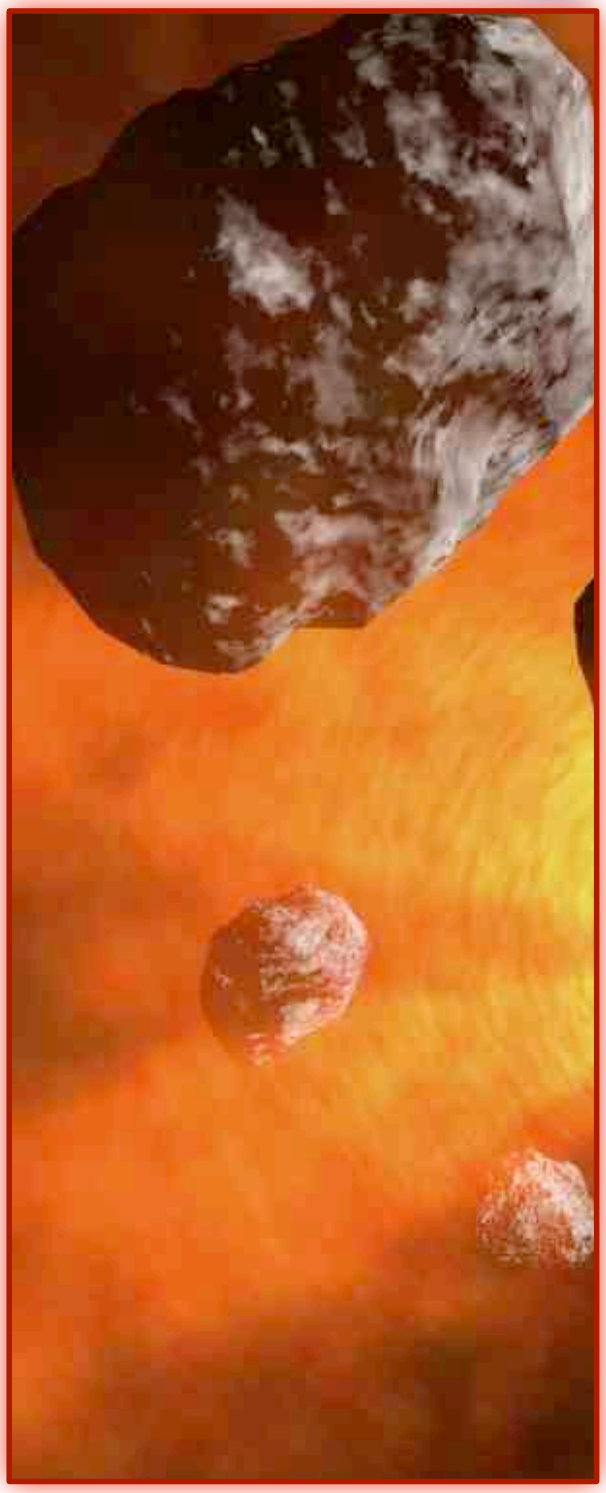
NASA NEWS: NEXT STOP, ASTEROID?

This week NASA announced concept plans to land a spacecraft and possibly even people on a nearby asteroid in 2030.

For centuries scientists and astronomers have feared the extremely unlikely event that an asteroid will one day hit Earth. Most likely any attempt to change the trajectory of an asteroid would have to be done from the asteroid itself, just like in the movie Armageddon.

NASA is taking this once fictional idea to life by planning a series of missions. The missions aren't concentrating on destroying the asteroid like in the movies, but with learning about them. They will do core samples and other experiments to determine what asteroids are made out of.

Each mission is expected to cost around $425 million, but will be able to provide new information never before available to scientists. The asteroid is currently traveling at 28,000mph (45,000kph) and is 40 meters (120ft) wide.



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

This year at the Partner School Science Program has been very successful thanks to all the work that the teachers and students involved in the program put into it. We hope that you have not only enjoyed your experience in the PSSP, but also gained from it: an understanding of other cultures as well as a greater understanding of space exploration and scientific topics.

Many of you will be meeting your E-Pals and the staff of Global Friendship Through Space Education this summer during E-Pal week at Space Camp Turkey. We are very much looking forward to seeing you for this unforgettable week!

This issue of Astro will be the last one for the school year. We hope that you have enjoyed reading them this year. Next September Astro will start back with an all new group of readers. Do you have any comments or suggestions to improve Astro? E-Mail us at matthew@gftse.org.

We hope that all of you have a safe and fun summer!

Check back next week for more!

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