



Global Friendship Through Space Education

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ASTRO

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Partner School Science Program Newsletter



**WELCOME TO ASTRO, THE
PARTNER SCHOOL SCIENCE
PROGRAM NEWSLETTER!**

**EVERY OTHER 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:

SPACE STUFF: AURORAE

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SPACE STUFF: AURORAE



Aurorae (the plural of aurora) are known to most people as the northern or southern lights. The northern lights are often called "aurora borealis" from the Greek word meaning northern wind.

Aurorae are caused by charged particles, electrons and protons, in the Earth's magnetic atmosphere.

The light green and red lights you see are caused by atoms of Oxygen, while blue, purple, and dark green lights are caused by atoms of Nitrogen.

In 1859, scientists in Boston and Portland USA were able to talk to each other using telegraph lines for two hours without any electricity! The aurora was actually able to power and transmit the messages between operators better than their batteries were able to.

Still not everything is known about aurorae and many people consider it one of the most amazing natural phenomenae!



The northern lights as seen above Bear Lake in Idaho USA.



An aurora seen behind a sign showing major cities around the world.

NASA NEWS: STS-119



As Space Shuttle Discovery is being prepped for its latest flight to the International Space Station (pictured right), the crew of STS-119 is doing last minute training and preparations for their mission.

This mission is extra special for schools around the world as educator astronaut Richard Arnold will be flying onboard as Mission Specialist.

STS-119 will be completing the Integrated Truss Structure of the International Space Station, a huge part of the Space Station, by installing the last of the solar array panels.

Discovery started its roll to the launch pad on Wednesday January 14th and is scheduled for lift off on February 12th.

This will be Discovery's 36th flight and the 156th American manned space mission. Check out <http://www.nasa.gov> to learn more about the latest mission!



COOL WEBSITE (ASK THE EXPERT):

Something been on your mind lately that you have been trying and trying to figure out? Now you can ask an expert! Several libraries here in the US are offering a free service where you can send an e-mail or join a chat to ask library researchers questions you have on any topic. Check it out at:

New York Public Library: <http://www.nypl.org/questions/>

Maryland Public Library: <http://www.askusnow.info/>

SPACE WORDS:

Telegraph: an old way of sending text based messages between two points.

Phenomena: a general word used to describe a unique event.

Charged Particles: an atom that either has a negative (-) charge like an electron, or a positive (+) charge like a proton.

Check Back In Two Weeks For More!!!



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