



Yuri's Planet

Image Credit: ISS Expedition 30, NASA

On another April 12th, in 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Alexseyevich Gagarin became the first human to see planet Earth from space. Commenting on his view from orbit he reported, "The sky is very dark; the Earth is bluish. Everything is seen very clearly". On yet another April 12th, in 1981 NASA launched the first space shuttle. To celebrate in 2013, consider this image from the orbiting International Space Station, a stunning view of the planet at night from low Earth orbit. Constellations of lights connecting the densely populated cities along the Atlantic east coast of the United States are framed by two Russian spacecraft docked at the space station. Easy to recognize cities include New York City and Long Island at the right. From there, track toward the left for Philadelphia, Baltimore, and then Washington DC near picture center.

Videoconference with Space Camp Turkey

Reported by Elzbieta Gwiazda-Szer

On the 27th of March our school ABiS - School4child (Lodz, Poland) attended a three-way-videoconference with our Turkish partner school Kurtkoy Doğa College (Istanbul, Turkey) and with Space Camp Turkey. At first both schools presented themselves to a Space Camp Turkey expert and then we proceeded with our 'mission'. The topic of the videoconference was 'Mission Patch Design' and we had a chance to present our designs to the Space Camp expert in English. Our team never felt stressed about doing so. Then we watched a video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KF3d_9zMGSo, after which the expert asked questions to us and our Turkish partner. Thanks to additional classes our team showed their knowledge instantly. The video taught us facts about first missions in space and what feelings can accompany a real designer and the mission crew during the creation of a mission patch. It is the second year we attend the PSSP program and each year we can't wait till the next meeting online. It fosters communication in English as well as educates and enables young people to boost their social skills. For the teachers, it is an excellent way to try something new, innovative and so up-to-date.



After the three-way-videoconference, both schools: School4child and Kurtkoy Doğa College, stayed online to continue their meeting in the form of a 'Meet and Greet' videoconference. Our students were very excited to see their E-pals again. We prepared some posters especially for our Turkish partner, which accompanied our meeting. Next time, we plan to

discuss them more in detail. 45 minutes run very fast when young people have fun. We can't wait to see each other again.