



YEAR 3  
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# ASTRO

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2008

## Partner School Science Program Newsletter



PSSP students and teachers from Turkey and the U.S. at Space Camp Turkey

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

Every other week when you check your mailbox, you will find cool pictures, fun, facts, space news, and more....

Being part of the Partner School Science Program and getting the chance to talk to other kids from all over the world can be really fun!

To get the most out of it, make sure to e-mail your e-pal after your teacher assigns you one.

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](mailto:tyildirim@gftse.org) with the photo, story, or link. You might just see it in the next **Astro**!

Teachers can submit pictures and stories of their class to be included in the partner school highlights section!

## **PSSP HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK: Meet and Greet videoconference between Sanko College and Browne Academy**

The first "Meet and Greet" videoconference of the 2008-2009 school year took place between Sanko College (Gaziantep, Turkey) and Browne Academy (Virginia, U.S.A.) on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008.



Students introduced themselves and asked to see their E-pals on the screen together face-to-face.

The two schools chose to work on the NASA topic "Reduced Gravity:

Effects on Human Body".

Students started e-mailing their partners to learn about each other.



Teachers from both sides joined in to experience this unusual event in their school.

**STUDENTS HAD A LOT OF FUN MEETING THEIR PARTNERS VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE!**

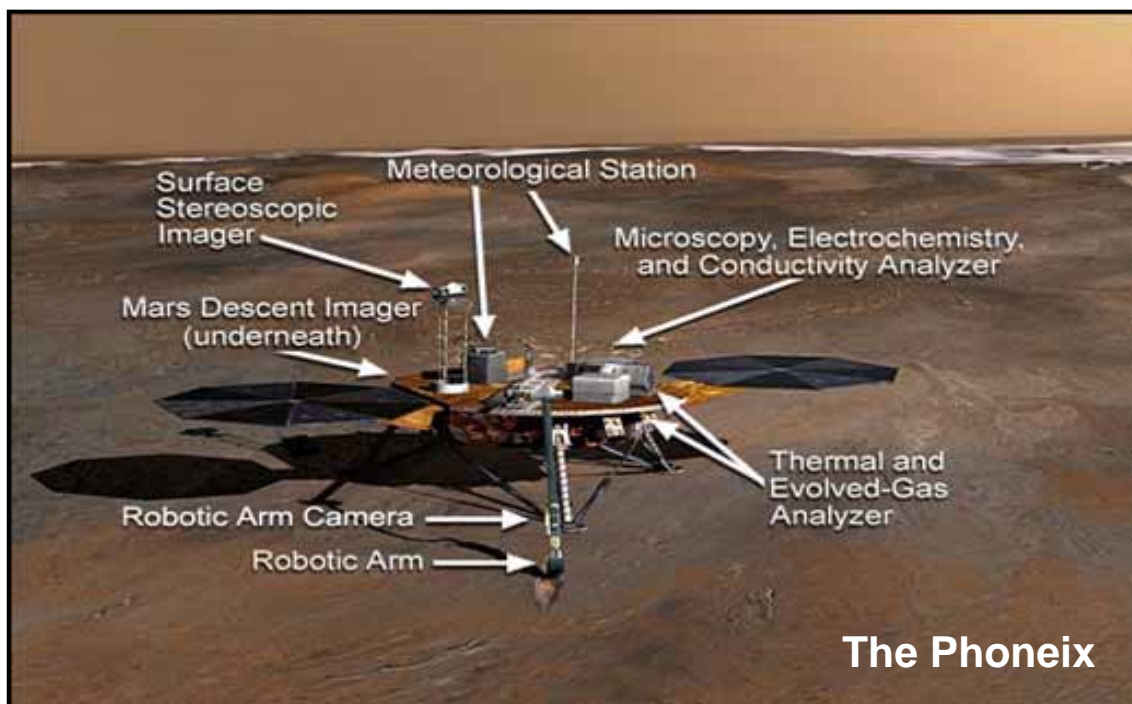
## SPACE STUFF: Mars Phoenix Lander finishes successful work on red planet

NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander has stopped communications after operating for more than five months. This was expected because at this time of year there is no longer enough sunlight to collect the power needed to charge batteries that operate the Lander's instruments.

Launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida on August 4, 2007, Phoenix landed on May 25, 2008, farther north than any other spacecraft to land on the surface of Mars. The Lander dug, scooped, baked, sniffed, and tasted the Red Planet's soil.

Photos taken by the Lander proved the presence of water/ice just under the top layer of soil on Mars. Phoenix's cameras sent more than 25,000 pictures of Mars back to Earth.

Can you figure out how long it took the Lander to travel from Earth to Mars?



The following article is about an astronaut who traveled on a Space Shuttle\* called "Endeavour" from Kennedy Space Center in Florida to the International Space Station\* (ISS); their mission was to make improvements to the ISS.

## **NASA NEWS: When It's Lost in Space, It's Really Lost**

Astronaut Loses Tool Bag During Repair Mission By GINA SUNSERI, HOUSTON, Nov. 19, 2008 

For a split second, astronaut Heide Stefanyshyn Piper thought about going after the tool bag that had floated away.

"I thought maybe I can jump for it and grab it," she said. "But then we would have two floating objects, and one of them would be me -- so the best thing was just let it go, and it was very disheartening to watch it float away."

The price tag for the lost bag was \$100,000.

Piper was several hours into a grueling seven-hour spacewalk

outside the International Space Station when a grease gun exploded in her tool bag.

"Oh great," she muttered, clearly frustrated with the unexpected mess and the expected loss.

She was trying to clean the mess off her gloves and a camera when the tool bag slipped away and drifted off into space.

The tool bag is one of the largest items to be lost on a spacewalk. It contained two grease guns, a putty knife and some cleaning wipes.

\* *The space shuttle is a spacecraft whose purpose is to take astronauts and cargo to space and back to*



*Earth. Endeavour is the fifth and last space shuttle of NASA.*

\* *The International Space Station is the largest and the most complex international scientific project in history. Led by the United States, the international project draws upon scientific and technological resources of 16 nations: Canada, Japan, Russia, 11 nations of the European Space Agency and Brazil.*



WE INVITE SCHOOLS TO CREATE AN ENTIRE  
EDITION  
OF  
ASTRO  
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## **PSSP SCHOOLS 2008 – 2009**

As of this issue, there are 343 students participating in the PSSP from four different countries: Turkey, the United States, Israel, and Bulgaria.

In Turkey the participating schools are: SEV Elementary School and Turk College in Izmir; Istek Acibadem and MEF in Istanbul, and SANKO College in Gaziantep.

In the United States: Browne Academy in Alexandria, Virginia, Hobgood NASA Explorer School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and in New York City several schools at the Mirabal Sisters Campus.

The newest school to join the PSSP is The First Mathematics School in Sofia, Bulgaria.

# COME BACK IN TWO WEEKS FOR MORE!

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