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ASTRO

The Partner School Science Program Newsletter

Obama Talks to the Space Station (The Washington Post)

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2009/03/24/obama_talks_to_the_space_stati.html



President Obama, joined by Congressional leaders and middle school students from the Washington, D.C., area congratulates the astronauts from the International Space Station and the Space Shuttle Discovery on a very long distance phone call. (Bill

O'Leary/The Washington Post)

Updated 1:05 p.m.

By Michael A. Fletcher

Flanked by curious middle-school children and several members of Congress at the White House, President Obama placed a congratulatory phone call to the astronauts who just installed new solar wings at the International Space Station.

Speaking on a telephone hooked up with the space station, Obama complimented the astronauts for their work at the space station.

"We are really excited about the project you are doing," Obama said of the work, which doubled solar power for the space station.

Obama said the project was especially exciting because of his administration's emphasis on solar energy and other forms of renewable energy.

The president also cracked a few jokes and conveyed some questions from his guests during the 28-minute call.

The astronauts laughed when Obama told them "we're glad you are using the hands-free phone," as they orbited the Earth at 17,500 mph.



The students wanted to know whether the astronauts can play video games in space, how they exercise in the weightlessness of space, what the astronauts eat and whether they've found any life forms or new planets. Space shuttle astronaut John Phillips

said he occasionally played a video game when he lived on the space station for six months in 2005.

Another astronaut said the food was pretty good. He said most of it is dehydrated and military-style ready-to-eat meals.

Obama couldn't resist asking astronaut Sandra Magnus, the only woman onboard, whether she was tempted to cut her hair, which floated above her head in the weightlessness of space on a video monitor as the president spoke. She said short hair is probably ideal, except it is not her best look.

"I think it's a real fashion statement," Obama assured her.

When the satellite linkup with the station was coming to an end, Obama told the students to wave to the astronauts. "They're all beaming," Obama said into the phone.

The call over, the astronauts started floating away in the video link. "Look, look!" Obama said to the students. "That would be a pretty good way to take off."

PSSP NEWS: A REUNION DINNER IN NYC

On March 23, New York students and teachers who had been to SCT had a reunion dinner. In attendance were Dr Lynn Hunter and Ms Marilyn



Intermediate School 90 students in 2004

Anderson, teachers from IS 90 in NYC, and their students Inez Gonzales '04, Pratyush Narayan '04,



in 2009

Joel Mena '04, Joskari Diaz '05, Ashley Morales '05, Hector Colon '05, and Antonio Cesares '05.

Another teacher, Mr Victor Sta Ana phoned in from Albany where he is about to graduate from medical school.

In addition to reminiscing about their wonderful time in Turkey, the students were eager to learn the winner of the competition for this year's SCT internship. The winning essay will be printed in the next ASTRO.

TWO BULGARIAN PSSP STUDENTS AT SPACE CAMP TURKEY

On April 4 - 14, a group of fourteen students from five different cities in Bulgaria participated in one of Space Camp Turkey's five-day programs.



Two of the students, Vladislav Parushev and Alexander Marinov, were from the First Private Mathematics School, one of our Partner School Science Schools;

they are partnered with a middle school in New York City.

We hope to see a delegation of students from Bulgaria at Global Friendship's E-Pal Week, July 5-11, 2009. The First Private Mathematics High School is the first Bulgarian school to participate in the Partner School Science Program.

*Every other week when you check your mailbox, you will find a link to reach cool pictures, fun, facts, space news, and more in the **Astro** Newsletter.*

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!

*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 the next **Astro**!*

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

COME BACK IN TWO WEEKS FOR MORE !

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