



Global Friendship Through Space Education

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# ASTRO

## The Partner School Science Program Newsletter

### Videoconferences between Partner Schools and NASA



Videoconferences between NASA and PSSP schools are still going strong! Discovery School (Murfreesboro, TN, USA) and MEF Istanbul School (Istanbul, Turkey) participated in their first NASA videoconference of the 2009-2010 school year on March 16, 2010. Five different videoconferences took place during the last two weeks.

The videoconferences were about Toys in Space, which were moderated by NASA Expert Mr. Scott Anderson from Marshall Flight and Space Center.

Students were able to learn about the scientific background of toys. They found solutions to problems about how astronauts play football, basketball, kendama, and boomerang in space.



## First Space Camp Alumnus in Space

It was a bittersweet day for many at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center as the space shuttle Discovery lifted off.

Monday for the first time, a **space camp graduate** turned astronaut traveled into space.



But this comes as NASA's Human Space Flight Program prepares to end.

Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger was on the shuttle Discovery as it lifted off into space.

A 20-year-old dream came true.

"My parents sent me to **space camp in 1990** and I just had a

great week and I had so much fun and I took away from that I wanted to work at NASA someday," said Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger.

That dream is shared by many of the 40,000 kids that attend the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's space camp each year.

"Just knowing that someone from Space Camp went to space means that anyone that's here or me could be in space one day," said 12 year old space camper, Erica Conner.

The 6-day Space Camp Program includes everything from simulations to mission training, but the center's CEO says that may change in the near future.

"We are going to have a tough time here trying to inspire young men and women to do what we want them to do math, science, technology, engineering without a human space flight program," said the USSRC CEO Larry Capps.

With the future of NASA unknown, campers' training will soon change. The curriculum will take emphasis off the launch and put focus on problem solving in space.

New areas, modules and complexes are under construction to emphasis the possible future and fantasy of space exploration.

The space shuttle program is scheduled to end this year.

As of now the government has no plans for NASA to continue human space flight.

But Capps hopes lawmakers put going to the Moon and Mars back in their plans.

"Tell the administration; tell congress that human space flight is important! We have to continue reaching out to new frontiers," said Capps.

No matter the outcome, astronaut Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger encourages kids to continue reaching for the stars.

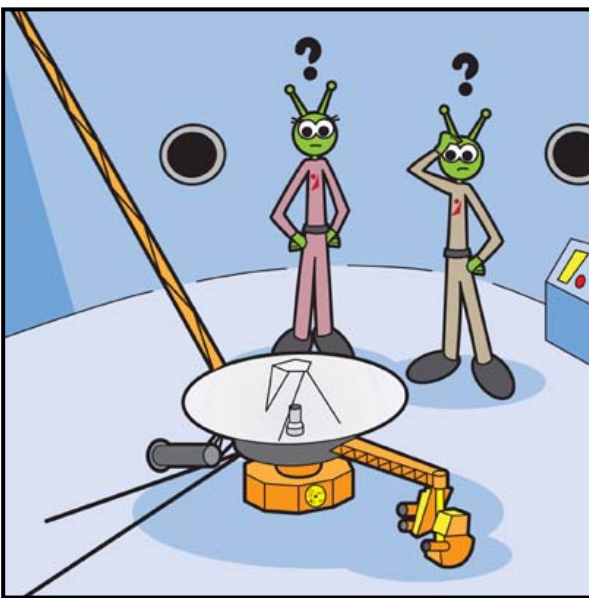
"To all the students, whether they're young or they're graduated from Space Camp, I hope that you pursue things that you are definitely interested in with passion," said Metcalf-Lindenburger.

There are only three more shuttle missions remaining before the program is retired.

## 'Our Message to the Milky Way' By Diane K. Fisher

"Hello, from the children of planet Earth!" Someday, these friendly words might greet beings from another world!

No one knows whether life exists anywhere else but Earth. Even if it does, no one



knows whether any alien life forms might be intelligent, or whether they might be advanced enough to have space travel. But, what if...?

Let's go back to 1977. The United States launches two robotic spacecraft. Robotic means they have no people in them. The spacecraft are named Voyager 1 and Voyager 2. They are exploring the outer planets of our solar system. Voyagers' builders made these to travel far, far from the Sun. The builders hope the spacecraft will one day find the very edge of the solar system. What if -- somebody -- or something --

someday finds one of our Voyagers out there?

Well, a few years before 1977, one of those asking "what if" was famed astronomer Carl Sagan. Sagan and his team gathered sounds and images of Earth. They gathered the sounds of surf, birds, human speech, and human technology, as well as used the languages of science and math to tell when the spacecraft was launched, what gases compose Earth's atmosphere, and other precise information about our world.

They recorded all this information on a golden record. This record is somewhat like an old vinyl record. The listener places a needle on the record and "plays it." The golden record is very much like this. It has a golden cover that shows how to play it.

It is unlikely we or our children or grandchildren will ever know whether anyone has received our message. But we do know that the two Voyagers are still going, still communicating with Earth, 32 years after their launch. We also know that they are only just now reaching the edge of our own solar system.

Soon the Voyagers will be the first interstellar travelers from Earth. Will they also be our first galactic ambassadors?

Want to hear some of the sounds and see some of the pictures carried on the golden records?

Visit [spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/)

*In two weeks you will receive your last Astro for the 2009-2010 school year. This will be your last chance to submit photos of your school and your projects. Send information to [tyildirim@gftse.org](mailto:tyildirim@gftse.org).*