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ASTRO

The Partner School Science Program Newsletter

Meet and Greet Videoconference Between Beykoz Doga College (Istanbul, Turkey) and Discovery School (Murfreesboro, U.S.A)



Beykoz Doga School



During the 1.5 hour videoconference, students were able to see and speak to their partners for the first time. The students introduced themselves, talked with their partners, and asked questions to one another.



Discovery School



NASA Launches In-House Patch Contest to Mark Shuttle Era's End

By Robert Z. Pearlman collectSPACE.com



With just five space shuttle flights remaining, NASA invited its past and present space program workers to design an emblem to mark the end of the shuttle era. The winning design will be flown on the shuttle before the fleet retires.

The patch design contest took its inspiration from a tradition among shuttle crew members.

"What we wanted to do was something similar to what the astronauts do with their patches for their flights," said Debbie Byerly, who headed up the contest. "We wanted the employees to help us design an 'end of program' patch."

The shuttle is set to be retired after its 134th mission, currently targeted for launch in Sep. 2010. Over the program's 30 years, the five shuttle orbiters have deployed satellites, planetary probes, and observatories (including the Hubble Space Telescope), as well as visited the Russian space station Mir and led the assembly of the International Space Station (ISS).

The shuttle's legacy is also represented by the more than 350 people who, by the end of the program, will have flown to space aboard Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, and Endeavour.

The contest was open to all current and former employees of the federal agency from any of its 16 centers and facilities, as well as to all current and former employees of NASA contractors.

"It really was an amateur contest," Byerly explained. "We encouraged everybody. It didn't matter if you were a graphic artist: we just wanted your rendition of what the shuttle program means to you and how you would depict that in a patch."

The top winner will see their design become a part of the legacy which their patch is intended to honor. "The person whose art is chosen, we will fly that artwork, and we will manufacture the patches, and then the top winner will get a flown patch along with a big presentation case with their artwork in it," Byerly told collectSPACE.com.

For the contest – which ended in December – workers submitted 85 patch designs. Shuttle program managers, serving as judges, chose their 15 favorite designs to take part in a "People's Choice" poll among employees. The judges will consider the result

of that vote when selecting the winning artwork, which will fly aboard one of the final space shuttle missions.

The employee-only "People's Choice" poll runs from Jan. 11 through Jan. 29. In addition, collectSPACE organized our own "Fans' Choice" poll. Though unofficial, the "Fans' Choice" poll will be open for votes during the same dates as NASA's poll. Will the fans pick the same design as the employees?

View the "Top 15" patches, read the artist-provided descriptions, and vote for your favorite patch by visiting <http://www.collectspace.com/news/news-011110a.html>.

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.