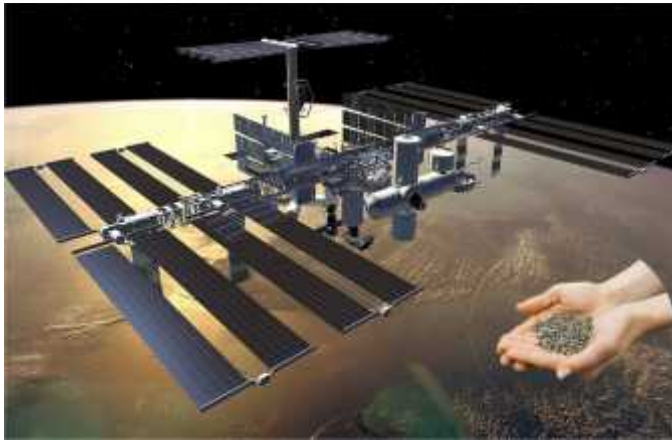


From Seeds to Partner School Science Program

Everything started when Global Friendship Through Space Education (GFTSE) team members had the idea of bringing Turkish and American schools together through the Seed Project. At the beginning there was one interested U.S. school, but no Turkish school was available for the program. Over time we began to



question whether we would find a Turkish school in time and concern grew as we wished to begin our Seed Project.

The plan: find two schools interested in partnering together to send seeds to space, and then sharing the seeds between the schools after a safe trip back to Earth.

It was good idea to send seeds into space, to share the seeds with partnered schools, and to let each school grow controlled and irradiated seeds. The students would compare the observations to see if there were differences between controlled and irradiated seeds. In the end, students would share the information with their international partners. In the very root of the idea seeds were representing strong relationships between students and different cultures.

A member of GFTSE visited SEV Primary School and met with Seran Dumlu, who was ready for the utopia-like project of sending seeds to space. Global Friendship Through Space Education made all the necessary arrangements and applied to NASA for project approval. After many anxious days, good news arrived from NASA officials. The project was accepted, and our seeds were going to space on the next Shuttle Mission. However, when the Columbia disaster occurred on February 1, 2003, NASA cancelled all shuttle flights for a couple years, including the GFTSE flight.

It was the end of the dream of sending seeds into space. In spite of that, it opened new doors for the people who believed there were benefits to be had from the cooperation between countries through space education. Brain storm meetings took places for several weeks, and new ideas were brought together. As a result of the meetings, Partner School Science Program was born. The initial idea was to bring students from around the globe together by using NASA's Digital Learning

Network, organizing videoconferences and exchanging emails. Now Partner School Science Program is 10 years old!



HamRadio contact with International Space Station - 2003

In the past 10 years, two Bulgarian, one Canadian, four Israeli, one Polish, 25 Turkish and 19 American schools--totaling more than 5000 students--have worked together.

Not only has this program changed student's lives but also it has caused major changes in schools', Space Camp Turkey's and teachers' lives. Some of the projects, changes and initiatives PSSP brought are:

- NASA experts and astronauts were invited as guest speakers to meet with PSSP students and teachers.
- Space Camp Turkey hosted two Ham Radio contacts with the International Space Station, which was the first contact from Turkey.
- In 2004, a Turkish and a U.S. school had a videoconference together with NASA at the same time.
- More than 120 videoconferences were organized between schools and NASA.
- NASA clubs opened in the schools, allowing students to become NASA club members.
- Students wanted to learn more about space and science.
- PSSP teachers and students were able to meet with astronauts.



The first videoconference between schools in 2004



U.S. Astronaut Shannon Lucid with campers

With the help of dedicated schools, teachers and students, PSSP is now one of the best and most sustainable international programs in Turkey. We would like to thank our supporters so much for believing in the idea of bringing people together through space education and supporting us in all our new activities. **Happy 10 years to all!**



Founder of Space Camp Turkey and Global Friendship Through Space Education Foundation, Mr.Kaya Tuncer with students at graduation ceremony.