

# GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH SPACE EDUCATION

Special Edition - New Beginnings - Jan. 8, 2015

# ASTRO NEWSLETTER

**New Year -**

**New Look -**

**New Beginnings**

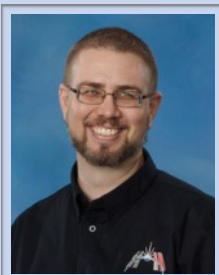
**Looking Towards the Future**

We have been very busy here at Global Friendship Through Space Education (GFTSE) over the past few months. There has been the new construction of our Digital Learning Center (Photos - Right and Following Page), new programs, curriculum development, redesigning websites and even redesigning our beloved ASTRO Newsletter. All of these in an effort to take GFTSE to new heights and reach more students and educators across the globe in new and exciting ways. Stay tuned for more updates and renovations as 2015 progresses!

## FUTURE EXPLORERS PROGRAM (FEP)

The Future Explorers Program (FEP) connects teachers and students to Space Camp Turkey (SCT) and uses space education to expand their knowledge of the world around them. The program utilizes our state-of-the-art Digital Learning Center, collaborative research, hands-on science, and space education as tools to encourage young children to study science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) related topics. Our curriculum is designed to challenge students to explore their own potential as well as the universe, and truly become the next generation of explorers.

Along with the new FEP comes the Future Explorers Summit this summer during our 6 Day Summer Camp Programs. There will be a special guest that week, International Space Station Flight Director Ed Van Cise. Van Cise is a former Space Camper himself and Space Camp Hall of Fame Member - he has been serving as a NASA Flight Director for the ISS since January 2010. He will visit SCT during the Summit week, August 2-6, 2015 and give a special inspirational talk to all campers that week.



**TRANSITIONING PHASE FOR GFTSE** - Unfortunately due to governmental budget cuts for 2015 - NASA is slowly scaling back funding to its Digital Learning Network along with many of its educational ventures of the past. We have benefitted greatly and are very thankful for our good relations with NASA over the past 13 years, in particular Scott Anderson from Marshall Space Flight Center. Sadly after this videoconference season, we will no longer have the opportunity to directly work with NASA here at GFTSE but are making a smooth transition into our new system and Digital Learning Center. This smooth transition is largely due to the efforts of Scott Anderson going way beyond his job description and assisting us with constructing our own unique curriculum at GFTSE bringing together a special blend of NASA based learning materials and European Union approved teaching standards and methods.

With the closing of one Chapter in GFTSE history, comes new Chapters and new opportunities with the hiring of a new member to our staff in our new Distance Learning Specialist - Joe Payne out of Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. This was done to continue our videoconference successes and collaboration with both the Partner School Science Program (PSSP) Schools and the new FEP Schools that have recently partnered with GFTSE.

**NEW DISTANCE LEARNING SPECIALIST** - Joe is the newest member of the team here at GFTSE and has been a part of the Space Camp Turkey family since 2010 - first as a summer counselor in both 2010 and 2012, then as a full-time International Programs Counselor from 2012-2014. Joe has a background in Social Sciences and holds a Dual Bachelor's Degree in both History and Geography. He is also currently pursuing his Master's Degree in Education. With interests all over the academic spectrum and as a self-proclaimed "life-long learner" and Space Expert, it is his blend of witty personality coupled with his vast knowledge and love for everything to do with space science and space travel that will be inspiring the future leaders of tomorrow.



## DIGITAL LEARNING CENTER (DLC)

Undoubtedly the highlight of any new tour of Space Camp Turkey is the brand new Digital Learning Center. Construction began in October and lasted until December 2014. The DLC is the new site for all of the FEP Videoconferences and some of the PSSP Videoconferences for 2015. This is the newest component to GFTSE and what will carry GFTSE into the future, on the cutting edge of Distance Learning and reaching out to more and more children from all around the world using space sciences and space travel.

We are excited and honored to get the opportunity to work in such a new and exciting way. Special thanks to the whole renovation team involved and everyone who assisted with the construction. (Some Pictured on Right and Bottom)

### RANDOM PHOTOS FROM VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION BELOW

