

## GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH SPACE EDUCATION

YEAR 9, ISSUE 02,  
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# ASTRO NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second issue of our Astro Newsletter's 9th year. First of all, we would like to wish a happy new year to all the students and teachers. May this be another fruitful year ahead for us all!



2015 was an incredible year for space exploration. In March, NASA launched its Magnetospheric MultiScale Mission (MMS) into Earth's orbit. Later in the month of March, a revolutionary twin study examining the health effects of long-term space travel began. In July, the New Horizons spacecraft made a historic flyby Pluto. Our study of the Red Planet continued to evolve in 2015. Scientists announced signs of liquid water found on the surface of Mars in September. This is just a glimpse of what happened this year.

We are proud to announce that we will host our **250th** videoconference next week and we are looking forward to hosting many more videoconferences. GFTSE has been hosting videoconferences and bringing young people from a variety of cultures and nationalities together through the study of space-related subjects ever since 2002.

### NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

The ISS Expedition 46/47 crew have launched from Kazakhstan on December 15, 2015 for a 6 month mission aboard the International Space Station. Tim Peake, the first British astronaut to travel to the International Space Station, joins Russian space veteran Yury Malenchenko and Tim Kopra of NASA for a six-month mission on board the ISS. Their launch from the Moscow-operated Baikonur cosmodrome went according to plan.

But after their six-hour journey the astronauts docked with the ISS manually due to a technical glitch. The crew members will install equipment and conduct experiments to help NASA's journey to Mars while making discoveries that can benefit all of humanity.



## Partner School Science Program



MEF school students presented their ideas on how some of the popular toys of our day could be modified to make them work onboard the ISS. They were also informed on the laws of physics and how they apply in space.

Primary School Cerklje ob Krki (Slovenia) students shared their mission patch designs and explained the meaning behind the designs very well.

# Future Explorers Program

## Creativity at its BEST

Past few weeks we have witnessed some amazing creations during our FEP Videoconferences. Not only did the students find clever solutions to make some toys and games playable in space but they also came up with fresh and fun game projects. We are talking about unique games that are specifically designed to be played in space! Games that our Astronaut and Cosmonaut friends could play in microgravity. Once again, the teamwork and cooperation of the students were flawless. As GFTSE, we would like to congratulate each one of them for their performance since the start of our program this year.

During the "Toys in Space" presentation given by our Space Expert, the students had a chance to watch videos of astronauts playing with different toys onboard the ISS.



*Hisar School, İstanbul*



*İsmail Kaymak School, Çanakkale*

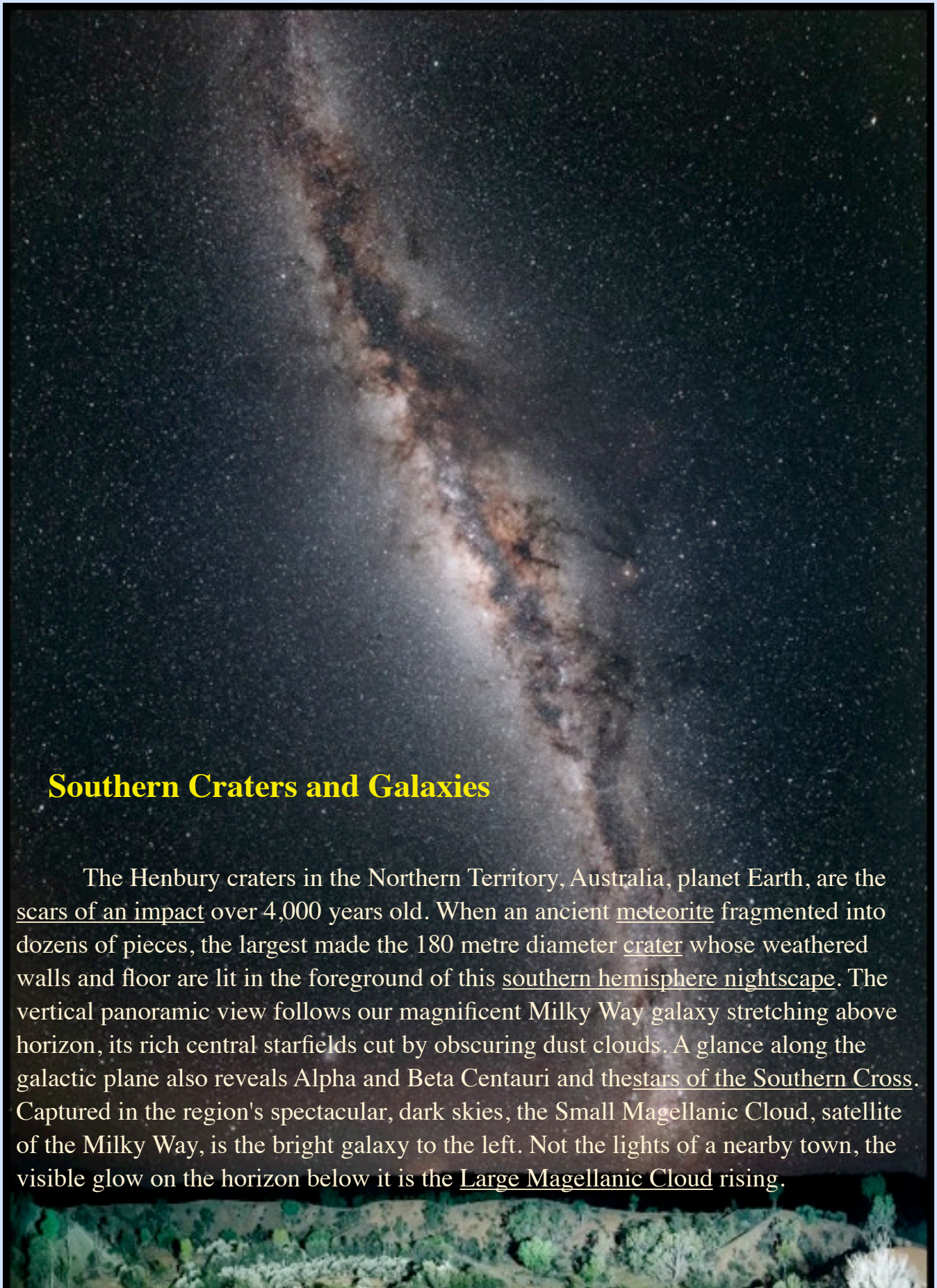


*Samsun Final Schools, Samsun*



*TÜZYEV Mozaik, İstanbul*

## ASTRONOMY PICTURE OF THE DAY



### **Southern Craters and Galaxies**

The Henbury craters in the Northern Territory, Australia, planet Earth, are the scars of an impact over 4,000 years old. When an ancient meteorite fragmented into dozens of pieces, the largest made the 180 metre diameter crater whose weathered walls and floor are lit in the foreground of this southern hemisphere nightscape. The vertical panoramic view follows our magnificent Milky Way galaxy stretching above horizon, its rich central starfields cut by obscuring dust clouds. A glance along the galactic plane also reveals Alpha and Beta Centauri and the stars of the Southern Cross. Captured in the region's spectacular, dark skies, the Small Magellanic Cloud, satellite of the Milky Way, is the bright galaxy to the left. Not the lights of a nearby town, the visible glow on the horizon below it is the Large Magellanic Cloud rising.