

GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH SPACE EDUCATION

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ASTRO NEWSLETTER

Hello again space enthusiasts! We have some exciting, space related news that we would like to share with you in this issue of Astro.

Our first news is about an ambitious space mission. Billionaire Russian investor Yuri Milner has announced a new space mission to Alpha Centauri, the nearest star system to Earth. British cosmologist Stephen Hawking is also a part of the project. The goal is to send the light-propelled mini space vehicles - each no bigger than a cell phone - to Alpha Centauri, which is 4.37 light years away, or 25 trillion miles, from Earth. They estimate it could take about 20 years to reach the star system from the time of the launch - rather than the 30,000 years it would take with today's fastest spacecraft. The small spacecraft will return images and data to Earth within a generation.



Another great news came from SpaceX. They have finally landed their Falcon 9 rocket on a water platform for the first time. SpaceX has once before managed to set the rocket down on land, but ocean attempts had failed, with the rocket coming close each time but either crashing or tipping over. SpaceX CEO Elon Musk says that being able to return costly rocket parts for repeated use, instead of jettisoning them into the ocean after each launch, will make spaceflight less expensive and less harmful to the environment.

Our lovely students from Hisar School have written some brilliant articles about the Juno spacecraft and the first American woman in space, Sally Ride. Thank you again guys. You ROCK! :)

Juno' Destination Is Jupiter

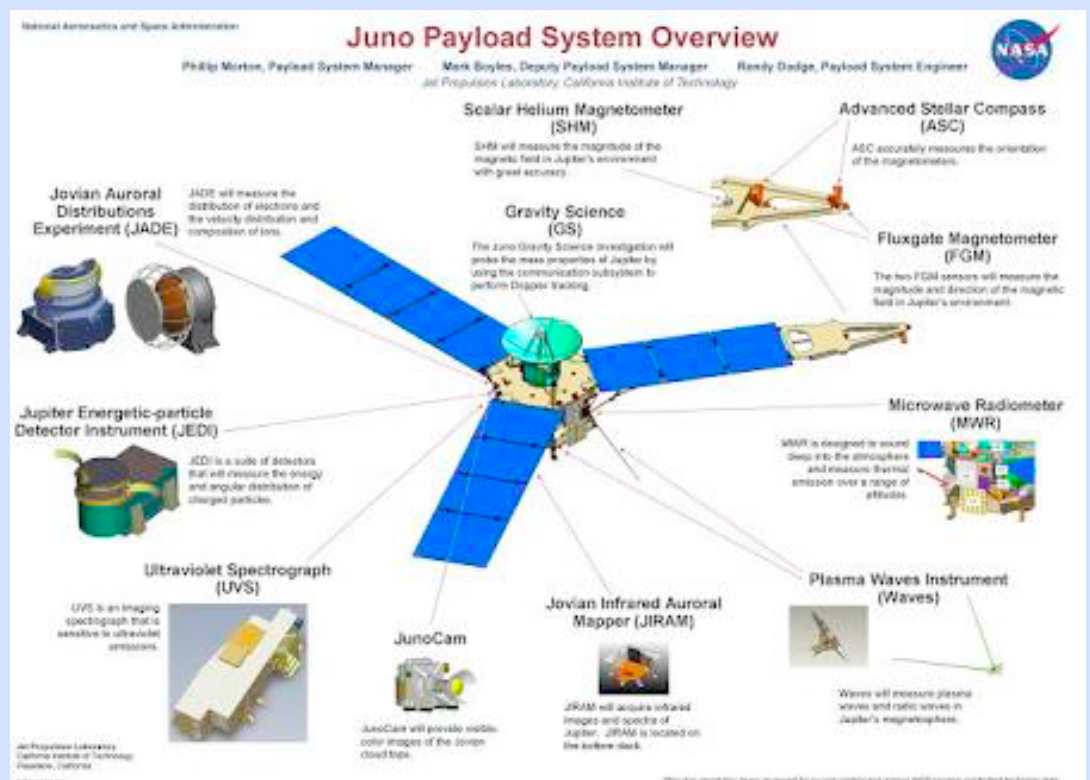
The countdown has already started for Juno! Juno is a spacecraft sent to Jupiter in 2011 and the landing date is so close that even you'll be surprised! Juno will land in Jupiter at July 4 this year, 2016. The space craft will be able to study Jupiter's gravity field, composition and magnetic field but it will also study the Jupiter it self; how it was formed, when it was formed and how it was developed in to fast and furious winds that can even be spotted by innumerable telescopes owned by Nasa. We may not know much as we think we know about Jupiter so Juno will be the telescope that will lighten us in a really short period of time which is about two to three months. Juno will be the second space craft to orbit around Jupiter after Galileo in 1995-2003. The space craft is powered by three solar rays on its side, much like ISS but with huge differences.



The name of Juno comes from Greek and Roman mythology , this is how they describe the story; The God Jupiter hid himself behind the dark clouds where no one, even other gods and goddesses were able to see him. Though, Jupiters wife; Juno was the only living to peek behind those clouds and see what Jupiter was up to this time. So if you look at it doesn't story an the name make so much sense to you? Juno will be the wife who can peek into the planet Jupiter and know all the stuff that's going on over there. Let's cross our fingers and hope for the best for Juno and see what it will represent to us from its studies!

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References;
nasa.gov



Sally Ride, Hero

Sally Ride was the first American woman and third woman to go to space. Sally Ride was born in 1951 in California. At a young age she was interested in both science and tennis, but she decided to go into a scientific profession. After receiving her Ph.D. at Stanford University, she joined NASA. On June 18, 1983, she became the first American woman to go into space. After she stopped working for NASA in 1987, she started teaching at The University of California in San Diego. She also encouraged other girls to pursue their dreams in science and mathematics. She was added to the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2003. Sadly after all the work she had accomplished, she died at the age of 61 of pancreatic cancer in 2012.

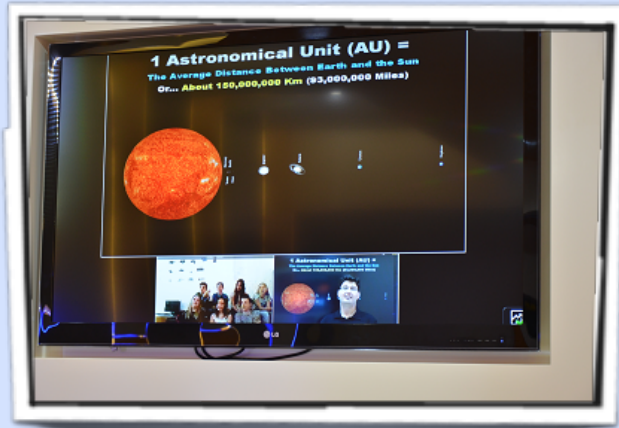


For some people, she was just the first woman to go to space, but for me she is a hero. The reason she is my hero is because she has been a part of NASA and she has been involved in physics. She helped women to become scientists as well. She achieved many goals in her life. It inspires me to know that she devoted herself to physics. She was smart and talented and had many hobbies. She was incredibly successful in her life. She will always remain an important part of science.

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References;
nasa.gov

Videoconference Photos



Cerklje ob Krki, Slovenia



Ekin College, İzmir

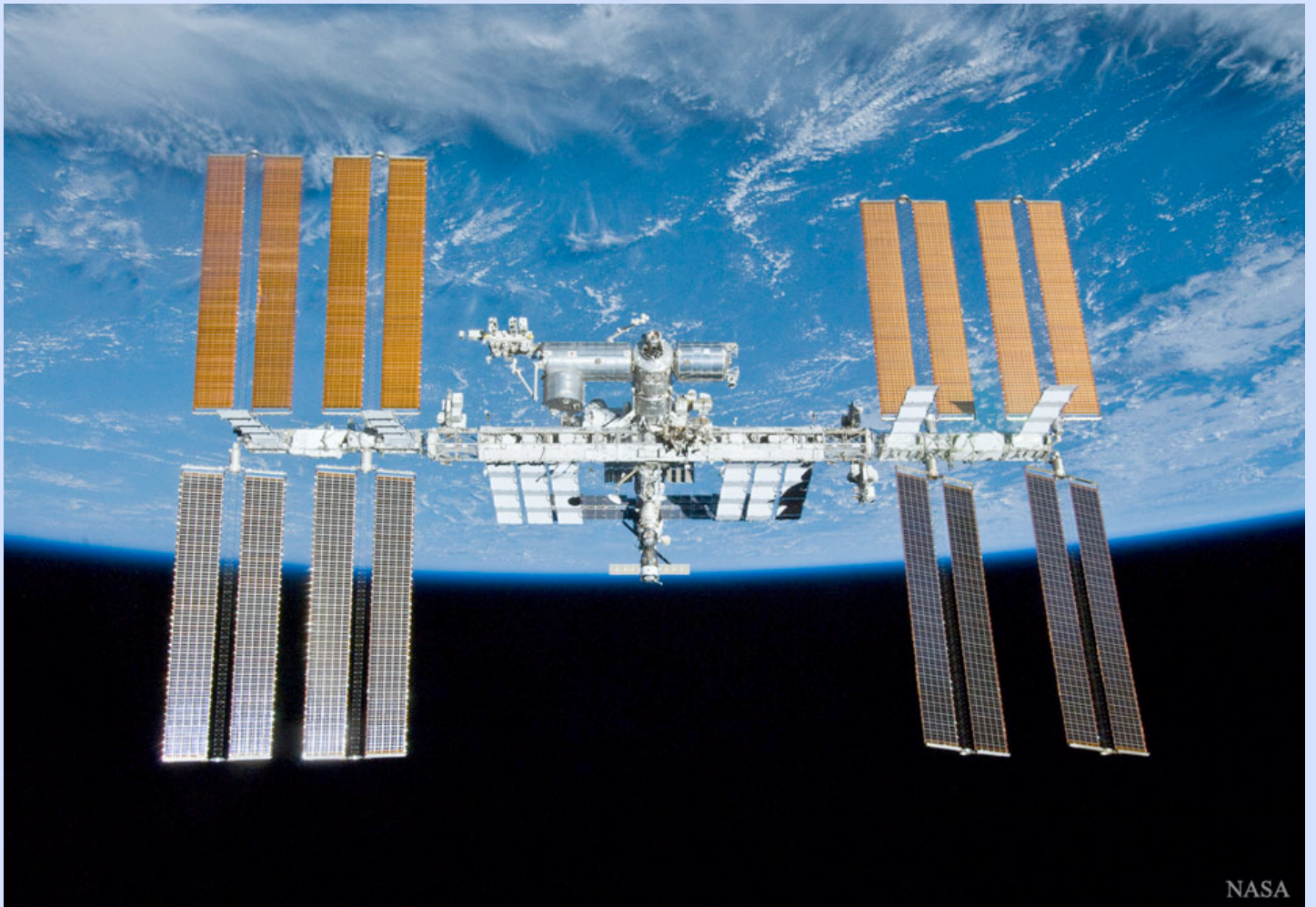


Ataşehir Doğa College, İstanbul



TÜZYEV Mozaik, İstanbul

ASTRONOMY PICTURE OF THE DAY



The International Space Station over Earth

Image Credit: STS-132 Crew, Expedition 23 Crew, NASA

Explanation: The International Space Station is the largest object ever constructed by humans in space. The station perimeter extends over roughly the area of a football field, although only a small fraction of this is composed of modules habitable by humans. The station is so large that it could not be launched all at once -- it continues to be built piecemeal. To function, the ISS needs huge trusses, some over 15 meters long and with masses over 10,000 kilograms, to keep it rigid and to route electricity and liquid coolants. Pictured above, the immense space station was photographed from the now-retired space shuttle Atlantis after a week-long stay in 2010. Across the image top hangs part of a bright blue Earth, in stark contrast to the darkness of interstellar space across the bottom.