



IGNITE AND EXCITE: AEROSPACE EDUCATION OUTREACH

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WIREGRASS MATH AND SCIENCE CONSORTIUM

Volume 1, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- **Contact the Aerospace Resource Center at 983-6556, extension 290 or sgarmstrong@troy.edu**
- **Try www.teacher tube.com if you have problems with accessing www.youtube .com in your classroom**

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CONSORTIUM NOW SPONSORED BY MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

Troy University recently received word that the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama would support the continuation of the Wiregrass Math and Science Consortium, which is housed on the Troy University, Dothan campus.

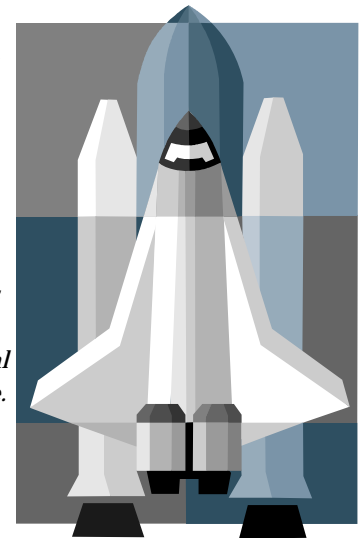
In the past, the Consortium has been supported by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education with an emphasis on teacher professional development. With the notification of the NASA Unsolicited Grant, the focus has shifted to include summer technology and engineering camps for rising 6th–10th graders in the Dothan City School System.

Also included in the grant is

limited professional development for teachers during the summer of 2010 with NASA and the Civil Air Patrol. The current Consortium office in Dothan will remain open as an Aerospace Resource Center which will support teachers in the area with books, equipment, and audio visual materials for classroom use.

There will be a bi-weekly newsletter linked through the Consortium website which will contain lesson plans and current happenings in the aerospace world.

The Consortium’s Annual Aerospace Day will resume in the fall of 2010 with the students who participated in the summer camps as special



invited guests for the event.

Sandy Armstrong, the program director, will be available to do presentations in schools and help with science related activities and programs in area classrooms.

TREES GROWN FROM SPACE FLOWN SEEDS PLANTED IN ALABAMA

When Webb Elementary teacher and long time Consortium member Diane Watson first took the apple seeds flown in space on board STS 89 by Alabama astronaut Joe Frank Edwards, she was unaware that they would produce some of the few trees that actually germinated after the flight.

The trees grown from those seeds have made Diane and her students minor celebrities and afforded them unique opportunities that she had not expected.

Diane’s current Webb Elementary School students and others were recently sponsored by Senator Harri Ann

Smith to the U. S. Space and Rocket Center for a day of fun and new experiences that few children in our area have the opportunity to be a part of.

After a very impressive dedication ceremony of the apple tree, which is planted on the grounds of the NASA Educator Resource Center at the

EXCITING THOUGHTS TO MAKE YOU SOAR



“As teachers, we aren’t the wings. We are the wind beneath the wings.

Rosanne Emmerich

Can you name the truly great teachers you may have had in your past? Can you name the truly great teachers around you? What makes them really stand out?

You would probably guess that they didn’t just teach, they influenced and led others. Even after many years out of the classroom, their lives are still influencing others in many different ways.

These Hall of Fame teach-

ers were more than the “sage on the stage.” They were a model that caused others to remember them for what they stood for as well as what they taught. They were excited about their subjects and they excited their students about those subjects.

Make it your goal to affect not only the minds of your students, but their lives as well. One quote that I often use with my daughters who are teachers is “Your students don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

SPACE TREES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Space and Rocket Center, the excited Webb students were treated to an IMAX movie and tour of the museum.

According to Diane, the whole trip was made worthwhile by the expressions of awe on the children’s faces as they saw the IMAX movie for the first time. “They really got into the shuttle launch in the movie.

They participated in the countdown and screamed as the orbiter left the launch pad. What an experience for our kids!”

One of the other apple trees landed in Huntsville, too, when a resident contacted Diane to see if she would let him buy it to plant and donate the money to her school.

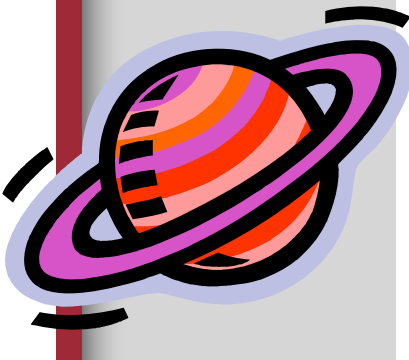
DO YOUR STUDENTS WANT TELESCOPES FOR CHRISTMAS?

Do you ever get questions from your students or their parents about buying a telescope for their child? Don’t have any ideas or know what to say when they ask?

This year’s #1 reflector telescope at a relatively low price is the Celestron Astromaster 114 EQ. The best beginner Celestron telescope is available at Telescopes.com for \$149.98.

Want to learn about telescopes? Visit this new feature sponsored by Telescopes.com at <http://www.spaceref.com/telescopes>. There are all sort of links about telescopes and star parties for your kids to be found on this site for you to use.

Remember the best time for sky watching is now until the end of February. Cold, clear nights make the best viewing, so bundle up and enjoy our universe! Have hot chocolate, Mars bars, and Milky Ways for snacks.



NASA NOTES: <http://beamartian.jpl.nasa.gov>

NASA and Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington have collaborated to create a Web site where Internet users can have fun while advancing their knowledge of Mars.

Drawing on observations from NASA's Mars Missions, the "Be a Martian" website enables the public to participate as citizen scientists to improve Martian maps, take part in research tasks, and assist Mars science teams in studying data about the Red Planet.

An example of fun and educational activities on the site include actually counting craters on the Martian surface for research purposes, which has been a real challenge in the past because of the vast numbers involved.

By contributing in the crater counting activity, Web users will win game points assigned to a robotic animal avatar which they select. This is only one of many activities to be found on the site.

MATH CONNECTIONS ONLINE

A super website for utilizing aerospace education online for teaching math is the NASA Ames Smart Skies program at <http://smartskies.nasa.gov/flyby/index.html>.

The site has fun and educational learning activities for teaching time, distance, and rate problems for grades 5-9. View a short 2 minute video, read an overview of the problem, see an explanation of the problem, read about relevant experiments, and then consider the mathematical methods needed to solve it, all online.

TECHNOLOGY TIDBITS AND BYTES

This is the first of the bi-monthly newsletters which will be sent to you from the Aerospace Resource Center recently established in the Wiregrass Math and Science Consortium office on the campus of Troy University, Dothan.

The newsletter will be accessed through the Con-

sortium website at www.troy.edu/consortium. In that way, the past newsletters will be archived and accessible to visitors on the Consortium website.

Various outstanding websites that our readers may not be familiar with will be spotlighted in this column

in each twice monthly newsletter.

Please feel free to contact us if you have a website which you find especially beneficial to you and your students. This will allow for increased on-line sharing between teacher participants in the program.

**Wiregrass Math and Science Consortium
Aerospace Outreach Center**



The Wiregrass Math and Science Consortium's mission is to provide quality aerospace education professional development to teachers, excite the future generation of explorers with engineering and technology summer camps, and to serve as a resource for teachers in the Wiregrass Area of Alabama through the sharing of ideas, resources, and printed materials in regional and even statewide classrooms.

Contact Consortium Director Sandy Armstrong at sgarmstrong@troy.edu or by phone at 334-983-6556, extension 290 for more information.

We're on the web at
www.troy.edu/consortium

NASA INVITES SCHOOLS TO APPLY FOR FREE SHUTTLE ARTIFACTS

NASA invites eligible educational institutions, museums, and other organizations to register, screen, and request potential space shuttle artifacts when the program is ended.

Included in this are small items such as astronaut helmets, gloves, and boots, and large items such as simulators and trainers.

NASA will retire the Space Shuttle Program at the end of 2010 and is eager to share the wonders of space exploration through donations to museum and library

exhibitions.

This is your opportunity to own and display Space Shuttle artifacts in your school library.

In order to receive an ID and password to access the web site, schools must register using their IPED or NCES numbers. Information on registering and links to find the IPED and NCES numbers are available on the U. S. General Services Administration Website.

The artifacts are free, but the school recipients must pay shipping and special

handling fees.

For the latest information about NASA shuttle transition and artifacts, visit www.nasa.gov/artifacts.

Please contact the Aerospace Resource Center if you are interested in pursuing any of this for your school library.

Your school can own a piece of the space program for free!

