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40 PAGES

Students send questions into space

Audio connection
established with
International
Space Station

by Jacqueline Langen

Contributor

School assemblies have reached new limits as H.J. Cambie Secondary School students got the chance to connect with the International Space Station yesterday morning.

The Richmond Amateur Radio Club established an audio connection with International Space Station for a period of seven minutes. Richmond students got the chance to speak with Japanese astronaut, Koichi Wakata.

"We had a contest on our website and students were able to submit their questions...We ended up having about 150 questions and we only needed 20," said Cambie science teacher Karen Ibbott.

Although a connection was made, the clarity of Wakata's responses was barely audible.

When asked what may have caused the interference, Richmond Amateur Radio Club director Urey Chan said that the International Space Station orbit level was lower than planned.

To establish the best connection, an orbit of approximately 70 degrees would be optimal, but this morning's connection was



Jacqueline Langen photo

Grade 12 student Richard Marohn (posing with a cutout of Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield) says that prior to the International Space Station event he had no intention of becoming an astronaut. But now, the thought of going to space interests him greatly.

made with the International Space Station orbiting at 48 degrees.

Chan said that the station orbiting at a lower level may cause the connection to be disrupted by other satellites.

Grade 12 student Richard Marohn was looking forward to the event and dressed for the occasion in a blue NASA space uniform.

Marohn had earlier pitched a video he and another student made to the

Richmond board of education proposing Cambie host the special event.

"The video talked about how this is going to be a once in a lifetime experience for the students here and gave a brief run down of what we'd actually be doing," he said.

Ibbott had the initial idea to contact the International Space Station and Richmond school trustees endorsed it.

"It's giving students the chance to really connect

with learning in a different way," said board of education chair Donna Sargent.

Cambie teachers are also incorporating space education into a number of different courses, hoping to get students more interested in science and technology.

Home economics classes are adopting recipes used by astronauts. Math and science classes are building robot models while learning about surface area. And Ibbott is cur-

rently germinating tomatoes seeds—brought back to earth from space by Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield—in her science classes.

"In a world of 21st century learning, opportunities such as the Richmond Amateur Radio or the International Space Station program allow us to transform the learning process and engage students beyond the walls of the classroom," Cambie vice-principal Erica Schmidt said.

Drunk driver drives himself straight to the cop shop

by Katya Slepian

contributor

A drunk driver drove himself straight into the Richmond RCMP's parking lot Thursday morning—following a crime spree that included vehicle theft and multiple hit and runs and stretched across the Lower Mainland.

The 28-year-old Vancouver resident was driving a 1994 Honda Civic that had been reported stolen in Vancouver earlier that morning. Police were on the driver's tail as he emerged into Richmond out of the Massey Tunnel but were surprised when shortly after the driver attempted to flee, he turned on to No. 5 Road and pulled into the first available parking lot, which conveniently belonged to the Richmond RCMP.

The police promptly arrested the man, who is known to police, without incident and he is awaiting charges relating to vehicle theft, driving under the influence and multiple hit and runs.

Despite the early morning entertainment the driver may have provided, Cons. Veronica Fox of the Richmond RCMP warns that while "drive-in policing" may be humorous, "impaired driving presents a considerable risk to public safety and is treated very seriously by the police."

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review - stories by our youth reporters

Youthful scientists showcase their knowledge

Science Jam packed 1,000 into Aberdeen Centre

by Gillian Chan, Nico Hernandez and Sophie Gao

Youth Reporters

Aberdeen Centre was positively bubbling with youthful energy during Science Jam, part of the Richmond School District's Education Week activities.

Tony Smith, Rosaline Leung and Hanna Dunkley didn't seem at all squeamish about their icky experiment, called Moldy Madness.



The Tait Elementary students re-searched

how food would decompose in different room temperatures, specifically bananas, as part of the 11th annual Science Jam at Aberdeen Centre, which was part of Education Week.

"We found that mold grows faster in warm temperatures than it does in cooler temperatures," said Smith, a finding which supported their original hypothesis.

Grade 7 students Shawna Spottiswood and Teri Rogers from Tomekichi Homma elementary focused their project on water wheels because it was "fresh and unique."

The two demonstrated how water wheels work and explained their functions in everyday life.

Garden City Elementary's Andy Ren and Adrian Fun worked with a classmate on their project, Fizzy Ice Cream, an experiment to see how

dry ice carbonates things. W.D. Ferris' Lucy Lu and Nita Ji studied the relationship between eggs and teeth.

"Our question was, what kind of liquids are bad for your teeth," explained Lu. Added Nita: "We know that eggs have a similar tissue to our teeth."

They left an egg soaking in vinegar for five days, to find that the egg's first layer dissolved after just an hour, and hinting at a similar outcome for teeth.

Dixon elementary's Brianna Baignee, Willow Browne and Katie Conroy's project put some bright lights on the big city of New York City.

"Our project is about electricity and mainly LEDs and how to wire them," said Baignee. "I learned to put a resistor on, so it doesn't blow up, because that's what happened to our last one," she said.

The lesson they learned: "Putting in a battery with too high a voltage is a bad idea," Browne said.

A group of William Bridge elementary students collaborated on Ice Ice Baby.

"Our question was, which ice shape melts fastest, and in water or club soda," said Emma Hodgins. "The star-shaped melted the fastest because it had the most surface area. They all melted faster in water because liquid conducts heat faster than gases."

L'ecole des Navigateurs' Nawal Mustapha and Kaiya Ronalds made thunder and lightning from static electricity using a plastic bag and a metallic fork, along with Playdoh and aluminum plates.

"It was very fun," said Mustapha.

"We do see thunder and lightning often but this time we got to see how it was created," Ronalds said.

Hand-eye co-ordination was the focus of Tait Elementary students Randi Kohar and Manbir Rattin's



Noel van den Hemel photo

Tait Elementary's Rosaline Leung, Hannah Dunkley and Tony Smith, and their Moldy Madness project at Aberdeen Centre during Science Jam.

project, Circuit Game.

Dixon Elementary's Eric Hawthorne and Jordan Loucovic gave a demonstration on electromag-

netism.

They made a train out of aluminum cans, that was powered by an egg, which was the source of

their electromagnetism.

"Science Jam is really, cool. You get to experience new things," said Loucovic."

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Jazz musicians showcase talents

by Angelica Poversky

Youth Reporter

High school jazz ensembles gathered to share their collective talents and fill Gateway Theatre with beautiful music at the annual Jazz Night.

As part of Education Week late last month, teachers and avid listeners came to see what the Richmond District's jazz band programs, and some 275 music students, had in store.

While Matthew McNair made the audience want to get up and dance with rich energetic hot jazz and swing, R.A. McMath stole the hearts of the audience playing soft smooth emotional melodies. In between were various combos, trios of basses, pianos and percussion, with complex rhythms and powerful melody lines.

"It's really fun to play with others and jam. I've made two really good friends out of it," says Hunter Arceses a Grade 12 member of the McMath jazz band.

•See more on this story at richmondreview.com