

More Visits to Goddard Explorer Schools; Education is the Key

By Dewayne Washington

Photos by Chris Gunn/293



Alison McNally and Al Diaz watch as Sheridan students give demonstration.

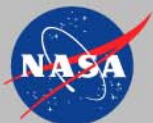
During the month of April, students at Explorer Schools in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts had the opportunity to hear from NASA Headquarters and Goddard Space Flight Center personnel about current and future space exploration efforts.

The presentations were part of a continuing agency-wide effort that involves every NASA Center Director and members of the NASA astronaut corps making visits to Explorer Schools across the country. The visits give NASA personnel an opportunity to present information to students, teachers, parents and local officials about near-term and long-range NASA activities. The up-close and personal touch provides a unique forum to explain the new exploration initiatives being undertaken by NASA. The visits are also meant to impart to students the importance of education and how they are indeed the next generation of explorers.

Continued on page 13

Table of Contents

Explorer Schools	Page 1
Safety Alert	Page 2
Counseling Service	Page 2
Earth/Mars Comparison ...	Page 3
What's in That Building? .	Page 5
IS Division	Page 6
Neutron Star	Page 7
Honor Award Recipients ..	Page 9
Employee Spotlight	Page 10
Severe Weather Season .	Page 11
GSFC Engineers Inspire .	Page 14
APA Heritage Month	Page 15
OHR Changes	Page 16
Goddard in the News	Page 17
ES Education	Page 17
GEWA Activities	Page 18
Announcements	Page 19
Events	Page 21



NASA's Mission:

- *To understand and protect our home planet
- *To explore the Universe and search for life
- *To inspire the next generation of explorers as only NASA can

For further detail of the NASA mission, go to:
<http://www.nasa.gov/bios/vision.html>

Severe Weather (cont'd)

storm names was adopted, alternating between male and female hurricane names. Names are retired by the World Meteorological Organization when hurricanes result in substantial damage or death or for other special circumstances. Some famous "retired" names include Bob in 1991, Andrew from 1992, Fran in 1996.

Last September's Isabel was a tropical storm when it reached the Chesapeake Bay, Washington, DC and Baltimore and the damages are still being repaired more than 6 months later, with costs in the millions. This year, National Hurricane Preparedness week is May 16- 22, 2004.

What Watches and Warnings Mean

The National Weather Service issues "watches" when conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, or floods to occur. "Warnings" are issued when a severe thunderstorm is happening, a tornado has touched down, or an area is flooding.

Being prepared and knowing the weather before you go outside will always be a surefire way to be safe. Use the Internet, listen to the radio, watch television, be prepared and be safe.

WEBSITES TO LEARN ABOUT SEVERE WEATHER AND SAFETY:

For up-to-the-minute Weather Radar for the Baltimore-Washington, DC area:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/radar/loop/DS.p19r0/si.klw.shtml>

For up-to-the-minute forecasts from the NWS:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/forecasts/MDZ013.php?warncounty=MDC033&city=Greenbelt>

Severe Weather Watches and Warnings in the USA, please visit:

<http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov/iwin/nationalwarnings.html>

NOAA weather radio:<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/nwr/radio.shtml>

Red Cross Web Site on Severe Weather Season Preparedness:

http://chapters.redcross.org/ks/wichita/preparing_for_disaster.html

NOAA Storm Prediction Center:

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/>

The National Hurricane Center:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

To learn more about Tornadoes and Tornado Safety:

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/> ■

Explorer Schools Visit (cont'd)



Photos by Chris Gunn/293

(l to r) Al Diaz, astronaut Dan Barry and Sheridan School principal Thomas McCarthy talk with students.

Michael O'Brien, assistant administrator, NASA Office of External Relations spoke to the students at Central Park Middle School in Schenectady, N.Y., on April 6. Goddard was represented when the Center Director carried the message to the next generation at Sheridan Communications and Technology Middle School in New Haven, Conn., on April 8. On April 14, John Campbell of Wallops Flight Facility visited the students at Matthew Kuss Middle School, Fall River, Mass.



The community came together to proudly display that they are one of only 50 NASA Explorer Schools.

In all school events, NASA personnel emphasized to the students that the beginning of the 21st century is an exciting time for space travel. They emphasized that the United States is in the midst of a great era of exploration not unlike the time of the Lewis and Clark expedition that ventured to uncharted territory of the American west 200 years ago.

The students were also made aware that they are living in a time when there will always be men and women living and working in space.

The NASA presenters also stressed that being successful in school is the best path to a future that could be filled with great adventures and wonderful discoveries in whatever career fields the students pursue. ■