



Radio Amateurs of Canada

Youth Education Program

NEWSLETTER #6

December 13, 2004

*submitted by Brian Jackson
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The students of CLMS have been very busy lately with their use of amateur radio in the classroom. They have been developing their radio skills in a wide variety of activities involving a wide array of contacts.

Eco-Pals

In conjunction with Neil Carleton's (VE3NCE) Grade Six class at R. Tait McKenzie Public School in Almonte, Ontario, the students get together on the radio on a regular basis as a part of a project called Eco-Pals. The program is designed to connect classrooms around the country in a variety of different projects. Our students get to enjoy an added extra by getting together on a number of occasions with their partners over the radio waves. Students exchanged greetings and questions over a three day period. Each week, students contact each other to exchange a "Question of the Week", a data management project that sees each class survey students using a wide variety of topics and questions and then share the results.

Palmer Station

On Tuesday, November 9th, students had a rare opportunity to contact Bill Hance, KD7CW, a Satellite Communications Technician at the Palmer Research Station in Antarctica. Students in two classes spent time researching the station and forming questions that they would like to ask Bill during the contact. Using IRLP node 8838 for a 30-minute question and answer session, it was a thrill to hear about the adventures working in the Antarctic. An even bigger thrill was receiving an E-QSL card shortly after the contact. The whole event was one of the highlights of the year.

Central Middle School

On Wednesday, November 24th, Grade Seven students at our school joined together with a group of students at Victoria's Central Middle School. It was great to hear other students develop their radio skills at the same time we were doing so.

ISS Monitoring

Thursday, December 9th will be a huge day for the Grade Six students in our school. Using a reflector in Saskatoon, we will have the opportunity to monitor a contact between Manordale Public School in Ottawa and the astronauts on board the International Space Station. During this time, students will be recording their thoughts on paper to be exchanged later with our Eco-Pals in Almonte. What a great opportunity to share in a contact in anticipation of our own in the next year or so! Many thanks go out to the ARISS committee and all others who have made this possible.

HF Listening

Thanks to a donation/loan of a Kenwood TS 940S Transceiver and the installation of a single-strand 20 metre antenna, the students of our school are able to listen in on the 20 metre band. We have only been doing the HF listening for a short while but have already monitored contacts from California, Arizona and Oregon.

Upcoming Events:

Plans are underway to include more Grade Six classes in the radio activities in our school. We are contacting our friends in Tasmania looking for an opportunity to call them. Considering the time difference between here and Tasmania, this should be a truly amazing feat. We look forward to researching and formulating questions that we can ask on the radio based on our research.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in last week's communications with the ISS! This was an excellent example of how Amateur Radio can be used to bring the amazing and far-away world of orbital space flight to the classroom through the Youth Education Program.

73,
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