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Contact: Patricia Tribe
(250) 328-3043
Patricia.Tribe@gmail.com



ASTRONAUTS TO READ CHILDRENS BOOKS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

WASHINGTON, DC – On January 8, 2014, Orbital’s Cygnus spacecraft will carry a collection of books written by Jeffery Bennett to the International Space Station (ISS). As part of the *Story Time From Space* (STFS) program, Astronauts will be recorded reading the books on the space station. Then, the videos will be used in curriculum that combines literature with science education to inspire school children and families around the world. The Story Time From Space program was conceived by educator Patricia Tribe and NASA astronaut Alvin Drew.

“What you cannot imagine, you cannot do. When the Apollo missions blasted off and went to the moon, I was right there with those crews -- landing lunar modules and cantering along on the surface of the moon,” says Alvin Drew, NASA Astronaut and Cofounder of STFS. “Story Time From Space is intended to ignite children's engines of adventure, imagination and curiosity and to let those engines take them to any place and time of their choosing.”

The first launch of five books is currently scheduled for launch on January 8, 2014 aboard the “Orbital 1” resupply mission to the ISS. Orbital 1 will launch with an Antares rocket and ferry supplies aboard the Cygnus space vehicle built by the Orbital Sciences Corporation. The mission will launch from NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

The program was successfully tested during Alvin Drew’s flight aboard the final mission of the Space Shuttle Discovery in 2011. Drew read an [electronic copy of the book *Max Goes to the Moon*](#), by astrophysicist/author Jeffrey Bennett. Tribe and Drew chose this book because of the unique way in which it combines solid science with an inspirational story, which makes it a perfect springboard for the *Story Time From Space* goal of combining literature with science (STEM) education.

“STEM & Literacy are both very important for our future” said Patricia Tribe, educator and cofounder of STFS. “By combining them in Story Time From Space we can help teachers & families accomplish both without sacrificing one for the other”

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The STFS team worked with NASA and the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) to arrange for physical copies of books to be launched to the International Space Station, so that the astronauts will be able to hold the books in their hands while reading to children around the world.

For the upcoming launch, Tribe and Drew chose the complete current set of Bennett's "science adventures": *Max Goes to the Space Station*, *Max Goes to the Moon*, *Max Goes to Mars*, *Max Goes to Jupiter*, and *The Wizard Who Saved the World*. Each book covers a different set of science concepts tied to a story designed to provide what Bennett calls "education, perspective, and inspiration" for children and adults alike.

For more information or to sign up for updates about developments in the program, the public is encouraged to visit the STFS website www.StoryTimeFromSpace.com and on www.facebook.com/storytimefromspace.

About the Story Time From Space Team: Story Time From Space was started by educator Patricia Tribe and astronaut Alvin Drew, and also now includes educator Debbie Brown-Biggs and veteran astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason who is designing the science demonstrations. The fifth team member is author Jeffrey Bennett, who joined the team after his books were chosen and has granted permission for all his work to be used at no cost by the team.

Story Time From Space is working with numerous partner organizations including the NASA astronaut office, CASIS, the University of Denver, the University of Toronto, York University, QDAC Systems, Education Pathways, the Pearson Foundation, MILAD Technology, and P&P Optica.

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