



# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Sundance Elementary Students to Talk to Astronaut in Space**

On Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at 1:00 pm, a Space Talk is scheduled to take place at Sundance Elementary School with Commander Mike Fossum onboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Wendy Smith Rogers, Sundance Elementary principal, said, "Thanks to several local ham radio operators, Sundance students will listen to history in the making. What a wonderful opportunity to encourage an interest in science and math in our young citizens."

Sundance successfully applied to NASA to host a direct radio link between the school and an astronaut in the ISS. This contact is part of a project called "Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS)" which is supported by amateur radio operators and NASA's education division. The program is designed by NASA to get students around the world interested in math and science. An amateur radio station is operational onboard the ISS. Most astronauts have an amateur radio license and operate the onboard station to contact radio amateur ground stations in their free time.

Traveling at more than 17,000 mph, the space station will orbit in range for about 8 minutes. Students will ask questions about space, food in the ISS, scientific studies, and potential changes to the astronauts' bodies after six months of space travel.

With help from Amateur Radio Clubs and ham radio operators, ARISS has contacted more than 500 schools around the world.

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