



THE FACULTY CORNER

A WORD FROM ANACAPA SCHOOL ABOUT THE SYNTHESIS UNIT. . .

2012-2013 Synthesis Unit

SPACE: Where Are We Going?

This year's Synthesis Unit—*Space: Where Are We Going?*—was and continues to be an exhilarating experience for Anacapa's students and faculty alike. Due to the energetic brainstorming and planning by math and science teachers under the direction of Levi Maaia, students and faculty had the opportunity to hear many experts in the fields of astronomy, astrophysics, space technology, and space exploration.

NASA astronaut Richard Linnehan electrified the students with stories and information about his various missions in space. A veteran of four Space Shuttle flights, he has spent more than 58 days in orbit, including six Extra Vehicular Activities (EVAs or "spacewalks"), one of which involved a servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope. In addition to our private, on-campus session, Anacapa also hosted a public appearance by Dr. Linnehan at the Santa Barbara Public Library one evening during the Synthesis Unit.

To provide students with an interactive complement to the lectures, Anacapa had its own stargazing party presented by Chuck McPartlin, Outreach Officer of the Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit. The school also toured Vandenberg Air Force Base to see the facilities there.

Later this spring, students and faculty of Anacapa School will have the rare opportunity of making contact via amateur radio with an astronaut currently aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Anacapa has been chosen by NASA to participate in the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, a cooperative venture between NASA and other international space agencies that coordinates scheduled radio contacts between astronauts aboard the ISS and schools. The 10-minute live forum will bounce between Anacapa students and astronauts as the space station's orbit passes over Southern California on a date to be determined by NASA.

Plans are also in the works to see the Space Shuttle *Endeavor* at the California Science Center when the school visits Los Angeles in June for the end-of-the-year trip.

Throughout the Synthesis Unit, students have several tasks they must complete and are graded on. Before the Unit began, students took a brief survey about their interest in space science. During the lectures, the students took notes and asked questions of the speakers. As a follow-up to the lecture portion of the Unit, students have teamed up to research many aspects of space science and history. They are being graded on their participation in group meetings, their individual research papers, and their group presentations.

This year's Synthesis Unit product will have two parts. Each group will report on their findings in an oral presentation to the student body this spring. Students' research papers will then be collected and published in a booklet.

Please note the following due dates:

- March 6th First draft of report due (in paper form)
- April 10th Final draft of report due (in paper and electronic form)
- April 18th Group presentations (tentative)

~ ~ Peggy Lauer