Imagine Mars NEWSLETTER

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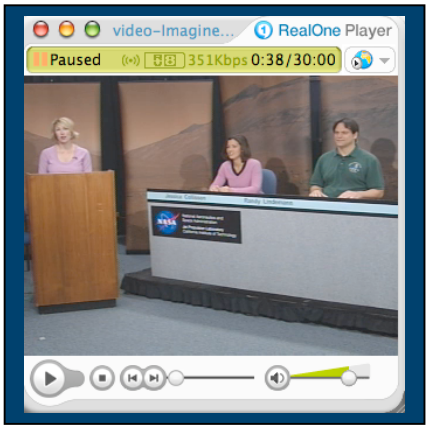
Issue 2

# Webcast Brings NASA Engineers Face-to-Face with Students!

On December 19, ten students from Redd School in Houston, Texas interviewed engineers Jessica Collisson and Randy Lindemann during a live webcast. The students, age seven to eleven, earned the opportunity by working on an Imagine Mars Project that was selected as November's Project of the Month.

At the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, in Pasadena, California, Lindemann and Collisson used images to answer questions about the Mars Exploration Rovers, futuristic communities on Mars and the future of Mars exploration.

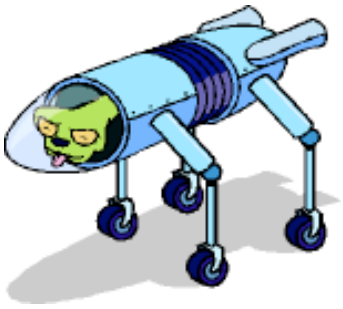
The broadcast was aired live on the Imagine Mars website and on NASA television. The program has been archived and can be seen at http://imaginemars.jpl.nasa.gov/about/webcast_20041209.html




## Would Your Students Like to Talk to a NASA Scientist about Mars?

Just upload your Imagine Mars Project to the Project Gallery and the team at Imagine Mars Headquarters will set up an online chat or phone call with your group and a scientist or engineer from NASA.

http://imaginemars.jpl.nasa.gov/gallery



## PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Students at the Coleman-James Learning Center, a Housing and Urban Development Neighborhood Network in Pasadena California, selected 20 model citizens to make up the first futuristic community on Mars. Students used information about historical heroes like Caesar Chavez, Helen Keller and Sacagawea to come up with character lists and then personally determined which characteristics they would most like to develop in themselves. Finally, the students created their 3-D "model" citizens out of paper and stuffing. Check out their cool project at: http://imaginemars.jpl.nasa.gov/gallery

# Students in the HENNAAC program Imagine Mars!

On November 15, fifty students in the Hispanic Engineers National Achievement Award Corporation (HENAAC) at John Adams middle school in Los Angeles participated in the Imagine Mars Project.

Students worked in teams to create blueprints for the first community on Mars. They became Housing and Materials Specialists, Radiation and Temperature Protection Experts, Food and Water Experts, Transportation Specialists and Community Location Scouts.

The teams completed proposal packets that asked questions like: "How will your community be protected from cold and radiation, and how will you provide food and water for your community?" The winning team proposed an underground community and specialized farming techniques.

## Mars Exploration Rover Update

## Spirit and Opportunity Still Rovin'

December 23, 2004

After six fruitful months exploring the interior of "Endurance Crater," the Opportunity rover has successfully climbed out of the crater onto the surrounding flatland of Meridiani Planum. Opportunity is now making its way toward an engineering examination of its heat shield, which is located about 200 meters (220 yards) from the edge of Endurance.

Meanwhile, controllers directed NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Spirit to back up and turn to try to dislodge a potato-size rock from Spirit's right rear wheel. The rock did not present a threat -- it was sort of like having a pebble stuck in your shoe -- but the rover team was taking no chances that the rock might work its way deeper inside the rover's wheel well. The rock can be seen in the lower left side of this image, which Spirit took with its right rear hazard avoidance camera on martian day, or sol, 345 (Dec. 21, 2004).

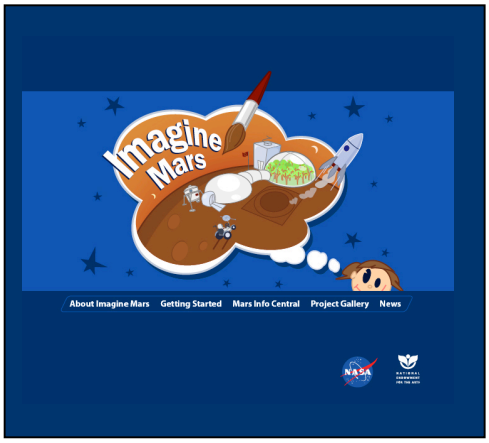
To find out more about the rovers' adventures log on to: http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov

# Become a Cooperating Organization

The Cooperating organization commitment forms are now online on the Imagine Mars Web site. We are seeking the help of education, arts, technology and science-focused organizations to help spread the word about the Imagine Mars project.

Cooperating organizations will receive special advance notification of new site features, special invitations to webcasts and have the opportunity to submit their education-related news for the Imagine Mars e-mail newsletter. The Imagine Mars Project will also recognize cooperating organizations on the project site and link to their websites.

In turn, cooperating organizations will be asked to post an official link from their sites to the Imagine Mars project website and print periodic project-related news in e-mail and print newsletters about upcoming Imagine Mars events. Log on now to http://ImagineMars.jpl.nasa.gov/about/become.html and download your copy of the cooperating organization commitment form and help us on our mission to bring the Imagine Mars project to students everywhere.

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*On behalf of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California manages the Imagine Mars Project as part of the Mars Public Engagement program, which seeks to educate the public about scientific discoveries and benefits of NASA's missions to Mars. JPL is a division of the California Institute of Technology.*

## *About Imagine Mars…*

*The Imagine Mars Project is co-sponsored by NASA and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). It is a Web-based initiative that provides you with lesson plans, Mars facts and other resources to lead student project teams. The goal of the project is to encourage students to explore their home community, to interact with scientists, artists, and community leaders, and to understand the different planetary environments on Mars. Ultimately, students complete a project that highlights the scientific and cultural elements they determine would be important to their imagined community on Mars.*

*The project site, http://ImagineMars.jpl.nasa.gov, contains participation guides, resources for project leaders, profiles of artists, engineers, and scientists, a project gallery and other interactive features.*