

# NASA Explorer Schools News

*A monthly newsletter  
from the teachers of  
tomorrow's explorers*

## Featured Mission

### HOME ON THE MOON

NASA sent six manned missions to the Moon between 1969 and 1972 as part of the Apollo Program. The astronauts on the first Moon mission spent just under one day on the Moon. The sixth mission team only spent three days there. NASA plans to return astronauts to the Moon for much longer periods



of time. In 2008, NASA will send the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) to the Moon. The LRO will send information back to Earth. Scientists can then study the Moon's surface in more detail than ever before. Scientists will study temperature, radiation, lighting and detailed images to pick landing sites. Robotic missions will study the Moon to figure out what resources there could be used in the future. One big question scientists hope to answer is whether or not there is frozen water on the Moon.

Future missions to the Moon will require longer stays and more equipment than the Apollo missions. NASA will need to build a base on the Moon. A Moon base will require many of the same life support systems used in the International Space Station. NASA supports a project called the Mars Greenhouse that is working on ways to grow plants in reduced gravity. What they learn could help astronauts grow crops on the Moon and Mars. The space agency is also designing a new Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) to carry astronauts to the Moon. The first tests of the CEV will be held in 2008. NASA hopes to put astronauts back on the Moon by 2020.

[lunar.gsfc.nasa.gov/lro-plan.html](http://lunar.gsfc.nasa.gov/lro-plan.html)

## NES Spotlight

### Wendover Junior/Senior High School

**Students:** 186

**Teachers:** 15

Wendover Junior/Senior High School is located in Wendover, Utah. It is just across the state line from Nevada. Wendover is a city with a rich history. During the Second World War, the town supported an army base. In the mid 1960s, Wendover converted much of the old base into a school. Wendover's students used to have to a boarding school 85 miles away to complete their secondary education. In 1967, the first nine students graduated from the combined junior and senior high school. Most students at Wendover Jr/Sr High School are Hispanic or Native American. Students receive personal attention from their teachers. They are encouraged to ask for individual help. Some math and science classes are taught by two teachers working together. These teams can meet the students' needs better than a single teacher can. Wendover also provides an opportunity for its students to get college credit for some of their high school courses. Talk about getting a step ahead!

## NESN Puzzler

*In what year was NASA created? Who was the President at that time?*

The **first ten individual students** to send the correct answer will win a NASA prize! Send us your name, your teacher's name, your school's name and the school's address. Last month's answer: star sailor

## NASA Explorers are people like you

**Name:** Connie Lehan

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Theory

**Job Title:** Vehicle Processing Engineer ~ Atlantis

Connie is part of the Space Shuttle safety team at NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC). Connie has the important duty of making sure all of the jobs required to safely fly the Shuttle are completed. Connie thinks the best part of her job is getting to see the Shuttle up close every day. She also likes to take people on tours to see the Shuttle. "Watching their excitement and awe over the Shuttle reminds me of how awesome my job is," she says. Connie grew up in Titusville near KSC. Her father worked in the Space Program. She grew up knowing she wanted to work at KSC. She always dreamed of "pushing the button" that launches the Shuttle. Now Connie knows there is no such button. She still gets to say, "I launch Shuttles," when asked what she does at work.



## Activity Corner

Try your hand at being a reporter and record history. In 1969, half a billion people watched on television as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the surface of the Moon. We want you to revisit the historic Apollo 11 mission. Interview your family members, teachers or neighbors who remember the first Moon landing. They may have read about in the paper or listened to it on the radio. Ask them where they were and how they felt when they heard Armstrong say, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Write down their stories and send them to [NESNews@nasa.gov](mailto:NESNews@nasa.gov) by February 28. Please include your name, your teacher's name and the name of your school. One participating student will be picked to be featured in the May issue of NESNews!



## Bytes and Bits

NASA is preparing to begin flying Space Shuttles again in May. To help prepare for the "Return to Flight", NASA received its first redesigned booster tank in January. The new tank will make Shuttle launches safer than ever.

[www.nasa.gov/news/highlights/returntoflight.html](http://www.nasa.gov/news/highlights/returntoflight.html)



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