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Chalk Talk

coed — The Company for Education Communications Inc.

PLEASE SHARE *CHALK TALK* WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

Before there was daycare, pre-school and junior kindergarten, there was **Romper Room** — a live television broadcast that featured a female school teacher as its host along with a well-dressed and well-coifed group of children. It was here that the *under 5* crowd learned about the world, our 1-2-3's and ABC's.

'Miss Nancy' is the one that I remember. Story-telling, playing games and promoting good behaviour were her specialties. I recall that kids would send in their artwork, pictures or birth-days, and if you were very lucky, you might be featured on the program. But the highlight for me came at the end of the show when Miss Nancy would look straight into the camera through her 'magic mirror' and address us using our names. "I can see little Tommy and Susan", she would say, "and Happy Birthday to Johnny who is turning 4 today". I just knew she could see me, and oh, how I wanted her to say my name!

Today, interactive learning has come of age, video conferencing and webcasting have never been so accessible and fun. Not only can we view events live but we can help to shape the contents of the programming by posing ques-tions via email and through websites.

This week's issue of ***Chalk Talk*** has information about how your classroom can take part in a series of live, science-based event program-ming. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at 4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

As always, we'd love to hear your thoughts.

Mary Kovack

INTRODUCING — 'BIG LIVE EVENTS'

Beginning next week and continuing throughout 2007, ***DiscoveryChannel.ca*** will be broadcasting a series of science events live **available ONLY on the Internet**. These web-only video broadcasts will also include web-exclusive video segments related to the live event. Students and teachers will be able to inter-act in real time with the personalities presenting these curriculum-related events via chats and Q & As.

The series kicks off on March 2 & 3 with a LIVE Lunar Eclipse. Other live events will feature space-based events including eclipses, me-teor showers, and tracking the International Space Station; natural science-based events such as seeing part of a dinosaur dig live, experiencing 24 hours of a bear's life from the bear's perspective, and exploring underwater in a mini-sub that viewers can direct! The series will also offer a space shuttle launch from the perspective of a Canadian astronaut, a ringside seat to watch the world's largest 'robot games', and what it would be like to train for a proposed mission to Mars.

For more information on the live Lunar Eclipse and future webcasts in the BIG LIVE EVENTS series, go to **www.discoverychannel.ca/bigliveevents**.

To review educational resources from A to Z available at ***DiscoveryChannel.ca***, click here.

Attention Science Enthusiasts! Discovery Channel will be RELAUNCHING its website on March 15, offering a more viewer-driven environment which will make it easier to access information and will feature journals written by producers on the latest video, text, and interactives on current happenings in the world of science.

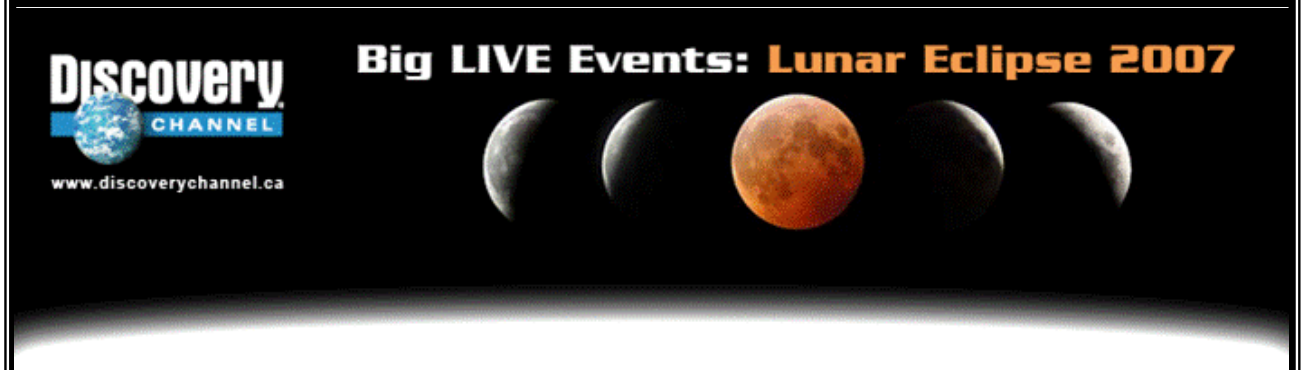
Quote of the Week

The moon made it possible for man to evolve and so exist.

The moon made it possible for him to develop mathematics and science.

The moon made it possible for him to transcend Earth and conquer space.

— Isaac Asimov, Russian-born American scientist and prolific writer, describing what he referred to as The Triple Triumph of The Moon in 1972



The first webcast in the BIG LIVE EVENTS series on **DiscoveryChannel.ca** will be launched on March 2 and 3, 2007 when **Sara Poirier**, staff astronomer at the Ontario Science Centre, and **Peter McMahon**, lead web producer for Discovery Channel Interactive, host a LIVE, interactive special featuring a lunar eclipse as witnessed from the shores of Lake Ontario.

Lunar eclipses are rare and only take place when the Earth passes between the Sun and the Moon, plunging our neighbour in space into an eerie, orange shadow. Visible from Eastern Canada, LIVE footage of the Moon fully eclipsed will be shown along with a series of **exclusive mini-documentaries** on eclipses, manned missions to the Moon, and tips on how you can enjoy the Moon everyday!

In-between live shots of the Moon while eclipsed, Peter and Sara will take viewers on a guided tour of the lunar surface, talk with astronomy club members who are watching the eclipse through 'backyard' telescopes, show you how to photograph the Moon and other objects in the sky with a common digital camera, and explore tantalizing "what ifs'" like "what would happen if the Moon didn't exist?"

Exclusive Opportunity for Educators and Students across Canada: You can have direct input into the topics covered during the program by submitting questions to the experts either, **in advance** by emailing Peter and Sara at **pmcmahon@discovery.ca**, or by logging onto the Eclipse page located on the DiscoveryChannel.ca homepage. Questions will be answered LIVE on camera during the webcast and Peter and Sara will mention the name of the teacher, class, school or club during the show! You'll still be able to ask questions with the general public during the live webcasts, but a few of advance e-mails will be selected to be answered LIVE.

Ontario Science Centre astronomer Sara Poirier will answer your space questions LIVE

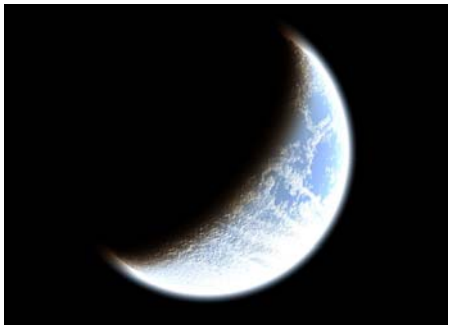
Don't miss the opportunity to join other science and space enthusiasts for this fun, interactive learning experience!

Coverage begins **Friday, March 2, 1:00 - 1:30 pm ET** with a 30-minute preview webcast and talk with Sara and Peter, who'll answer your space questions LIVE. **Coverage of the LIVE Lunar eclipse** takes place **Saturday, March 3, 6:00 - 7:15 pm ET**

To view the complete **WEBCAST SCHEDULE**, simply log on to **http://www.discoverychannel.ca/bigliveevents/eclipse2007/**.

[Source: DiscoveryChannel.ca]

Facts & Figures — The Moon



- The Moon's diameter is about a quarter the size of the Earth's, and its mass is about 80 times less.
- The Moon completes one orbit of the Earth every 27.3 days (a sidereal month) at an average distance of about 384,400 kilometres. The orbit of the Moon is not perfectly circular, and its distance from the Earth will vary through the sidereal month. When the Moon is at its closest (~ 360,000 km) it is said the Moon is at perigee, and when at its furthest (~ 410,000 km) it is at apogee.
- Because the Earth is moving in its own orbit around the Sun during the sidereal month, it actually takes the Moon an extra 2 days and 5 hours to return to the same spot in the sky with respect to the Sun (a synodic month). For this reason, the lunar cycle (time for the Moon to go through a complete set of phases), is 29.5 days.
- Interestingly, the Moon has a synchronous orbit, revolving once on its own axis in the same amount of time it takes to orbit the Earth so that we always see the same "face" of the Moon.
- This occurs because the Earth exerts tidal forces on the Moon, causing its near side to be held in place facing the Earth.
- The far side of the Moon was not seen until space probes photographed it for the first time in 1959. It is a common misconception that the far side of the Moon is actually the "dark side of the Moon". In fact, the far side of the Moon gets sunlight just as the near side does; we just can't see it from the Earth.

[Source: Canadian Space Agency online, Educators' Resources]

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News & Links

NASA to build Moon base by 2024 — Peter McMahon, *DiscoveryChannel.ca*, December 5, 2006

"NASA announced Monday that its plans for a return to the Moon will now take the shape of an ambitious permanent base, fully staffed by 2024.The outpost would be built and inhabited only four years after NASA said it would send people back to the Moon for the first time since the 1970s. The full-time settlement is the key element separating this Moon-shot with the Apollo missions of more than a generation ago.Unlike the race to the Moon in the 1960s - mired in Cold War one-upmanship - NASA is inviting other nations to partner with the U.S. space agency to build the base."

$20M offer to science superstars; Ten-year health research funding aims to attract Nobel Prize talent to province -- Jodie Sinnema, The Edmonton Journal, [canada.com], February 15, 2007

"A scientific superstar in medicine could be heading to the University of Alberta soon, drawn by the largest health research funding package available in Canada, valued at $20 million over a decade. "Let's go and try to recruit one of the world's stars whose trajectory, scientifically, is rising and who is already recognized as an international star," said Kevin Keough, president of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, which announced Wednesday the richest award for medical researchers in Canada. "We are looking for people who could, in five to 10 years, potentially be Nobel Prize winners."

History of the Canadian Astronaut Corps — Canadian Space Agency website

"The Canadian Astronaut Program was established under the management of the National Research Council of Canada in 1983, when the United States invited Canada to fly an astronaut on the space shuttle. This invitation led to the creation of a permanent corps of Canadian astronauts to co-ordinate and conduct Canadian experiments in space. That same year, in response to the first call for Canadian astronauts, the Canadian Astronaut Program received more than 4000 applications."

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