

Yes I Can!

Science Video Conference

A group of Grade eight students from Maple Grove Public School in Barrie, Ontario had the amazing opportunity to take part in the Yes I Can! Science Video Conference. The students used Polycom video conferencing software in order to learn about Space from specialists in the field. They also connected with other learners by collaborating on the Yes I Can! Blog. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to have their questions answered by science experts.

The Yes I Can! Dr. Thomas Stiff and Diane Hammond designed the Yes I Can! Science web site. The site manager is Susan Stiff. The purpose of the site is to provide a database of science materials that promote higher thinking in our future scientists. It is an excellent educational resource for teaching science and technology.

We signed up in September for the video conferencing activity. The project was completed in January. The students met regularly in the library to find out information about the space shuttle program. The last two shuttles will launch sometime this year. Then the International Space Station will rely on the Soyuz rockets to keep them supplied.

The following are excerpts from the student's essays about their experience.

"In Yes I Can! Science we broadcasted with a bunch of other schools from other provinces and the United States and had the chance to talk to astronauts like Clay Anderson and Dr. Bob Thirsk. We were allowed to ask them many questions about their job and what they do in space. One of the questions I wanted to ask was "What is the next planet you're supposed to be going to?" We also got to blog and ask questions and hopefully wait for our questions to be answered if we didn't have enough time to ask them during the broadcast. Students, teachers, and even the astronauts could answer our questions we would write on the blog. We learned about the mission to Mars and a robot called Dexter because he has dexterity in his robot fingers so it's more human like and we can communicate and control it easier and sometimes even get to places faster too. He is also attached to the Candarm and replaces broken pieces on the International Space Station"

By Ryan

