



# ARISS Newsletter

Mountain View Elementary

Volume 9: May 6, 2024

#TheBestView



#TheSkysTheLimit

## MVES MAKES SUCCESSFUL ARISS CONTACT

### Students speak to NASA Astronaut on the ISS!

**School Contact Brief**

Mountain View Elementary  
Marietta, Georgia, US

Thursday 18-April - 17:48 UTC | 1:48 PM ET  
On the ISS: Jeanette Epps, KF5QNU ISS Call Sign: NA1SS  
On the Earth: Direct via KQ4JVI  
Listen on 145.800 MHz FM | Watch live on YouTube



NASA Photo



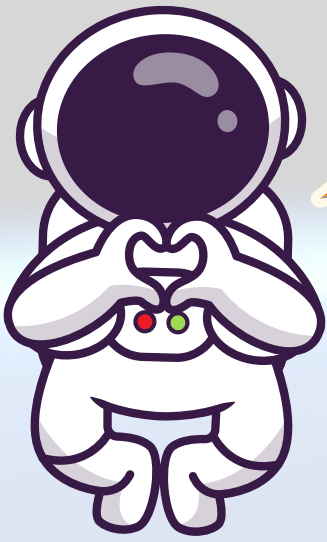
On Thursday, April 18, 2024, after months of planning and preparation, students and staff at Mountain View had the experience of a lifetime when we successfully made direct contact with the ISS! From 1:48pm to 1:58pm, selected students were able to speak to NASA Astronaut Jeanette Epps, asking a variety of questions about what it's like to live and work in space.

Thank you to ARISS for this amazing opportunity!

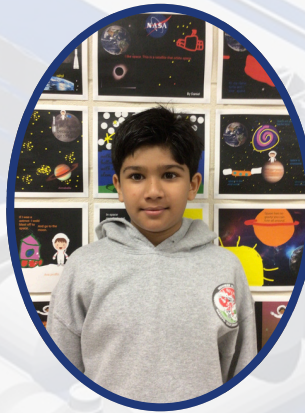
# Congratulations!

**We are so proud of the 20 students who were chosen by their peers to ask Astronaut Jeanette Epps their questions!**





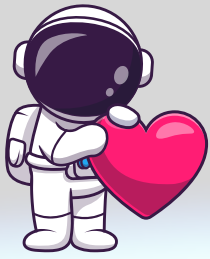
**Thank you to the 4th grade STEM Squad members who took part in our ARISS program!**



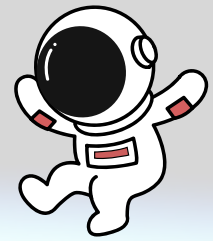
**Emcees Maia and Dhir**



**Presenters: Zachary, Olivia, Matthew, & Mahitha**



# Student Reflections



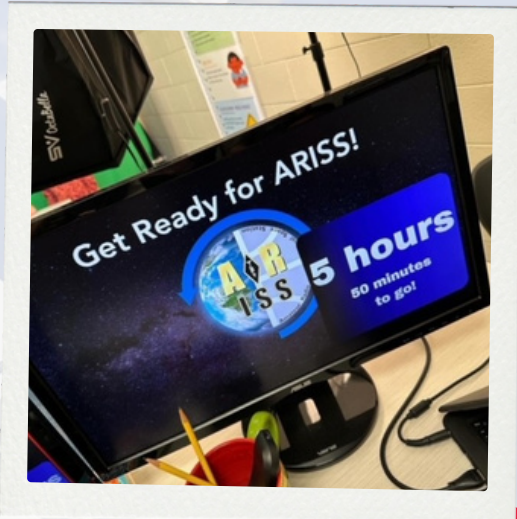
**“I was very anxious for the contact, I really enjoyed it! I don’t think I have any critique for how it happened, I think the event was very well put together. My feelings during the contact was anticipation and excitement. I was very happy to hear Astronaut Epps because Dr. Z told us that there was a chance that the contact wouldn’t happen (the ISS would just fly over us). It was like we were all holding our breathes as we were waiting to hear her voice. Overall, I think ARISS was amazing!” Cathy W.**

**“It was extremely exciting. I also felt like I was super special, because I was actually there to hear the astronaut on the radio. Even though it was hard to understand the astronaut, I thought it was incredible that I got to have the chance to do that. That is what I felt when we got to talk to the astronaut.” Evelyn T.**

**“I thought that the ARISS contact was amazing and was really cool to do. When our school got chosen to talk to an astronaut on the I.S.S. I was shocked that we had been chosen. During the contact when Astronaut Epps was speaking it was just unbelievable to see that we were actually talking to her on the I.S.S. During the contact my thoughts were ‘We’re actually talking to Astronaut Epps!’ When we were talking to Astronaut Epps it felt like the school was on the I.S.S with her.” Zachary O.**

**“I had an amazing time during the ARISS contact. The time when we first got the contact, I felt like I was so happy I got to introduce this astronaut and that it actually worked out and we could hear Astronaut Epps because there were so many things that could have gone wrong. I was thinking about how upset everyone would have been if all of that preparation went to nothing at all. During the contact all I could think was: Oh my god, how is this actually happening. Like Epps was on the ISS while we talked to her.” Matthew G.**









# THANK YOU!

*Our Mountain View family loves Dr. Z and Ms. Farah, our STEM Team leaders! Thanks to their vision, leadership, and dedication to our students our ARISS contact was possible!*



**“ARISS was a day to remember here at Mountain View. 1st grade would like to thank Dr. Z. for all of her hard work organizing this special radio event with the ISS and Dr. Jeanette Epps. Our students were so excited to learn about what she does in Space and what it is like to be a real astronaut. We are all incredibly grateful for this once in a lifetime experience. Thank you to Mrs. Farah for helping organize the event as well. It was truly a day to remember. Thank you!!”**

**Courtney Kopriva (STEM Team) & the 1st Grade Team**

**“A HUGE shoutout to Dr. Z and the rousing success of the ARISS contact we had! What would have normally been just a once-in-a-lifetime event for our students may have sparked that sense of wonder for space and science for so many of our kids and hopefully many more will follow their science passions to peruse more opportunities like this in the future! We are grateful and look forward to many other exciting opportunities like this in the future!”**

**Anthony Saputo, 5th Grade STEM Team Rep**

**“Making contact with astronaut Jeanette Epps was an amazing and inspiring experience! Thank you to Dr. Z, the STEM Key Team members, admin, and everyone who made this event possible! We are so grateful to have had this once-in-lifetime opportunity!”**

**Danielle King (STEM Team) & the 3rd Grade Team**





"ARISS was an experience like no other and words could not describe it. Collaborating with Dr. Z and alongside the STEM team allowed me to understand more about space and how much goes into being an astronaut and running the space program. The students were asking amazing questions that upon connection with the astronaut, we were able to hear a clear answer to each one. I want to say thank you to all who made this possible and have an experience like this one."

Shelby Russell, Kindergarten STEM Team Rep

"When we first heard the voice of Astronaut Epps responding on the radio, I wasn't sure if 900 kids plus teachers and guests were going to remember Dr. Z's instruction NOT to cheer. For a split second I was 100% certain that the gym would erupt in hoots and hollers. I could literally feel the collective restraint in the room ready to burst at the seams. But we held it together long enough to Q&A and put all of that excitement into the most heartfelt "thank you" I have ever heard 1000+ people yell in unison. I still cry every time I think about the love and commitment to our community that was on display that day."

Kate Drewicz, Media STEM Team Rep

**"Our ARISS contact was a once in a lifetime experience! Even in the time leading up to the event, participating in the planning knowing what went in to it, I still didn't appreciate how exciting it would be to hear Astronaut Epps respond back to our call! I cannot even begin to understand how much work it was for Dr. Z to coordinate with so many groups, get clearance from the county, organize 800+ students, teachers, staff, guests and rearrange the dismissal time for the whole school in such a smooth and organized process! With so many moving pieces, it's amazing it went so seamlessly. Mary Ann gave us some incredible academic blueprints to follow to ensure that our kids got the most out of this experience and that no matter the child's grade or academic level, they were going to learn new skills and information to really feel a part of the process!"**

Lisa Lichfield, 2nd Grade STEM Team Rep

**“The only limit to learning something new during your lifetime...is oneself!”**

**Dr. Z**



***“Talking with Jeanette Epps was truly a once in a lifetime experience!”***

***Mary Ann Farah***



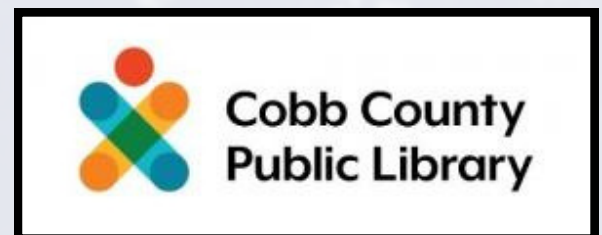
"In order to succeed you have to do well and preform well. Don't do less and accept less. Put in the time and complete the task. You want to be a contributing member to every group you are part of."

*Jeanette Epps*

AEROSPACE ENGINEER AND ASTRONAUT



We have the best community partners! Thank you all for your support in helping this day happen for our school!



# MORE ABOUT OUR CONTACT FROM OTHER SOURCES

Article from CCSD:

[Mountain View ES Gets Spaced Out in Connection with ISS Astronaut](#)

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II Alive Coverage:

[News Broadcast](#)

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Marietta Daily Journal:

[Out of This World Experience](#)

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Video of ARISS Contact at Mountain View Elementary School



**From ARISS-Weekly Reports:**

April 18: *After preparations over several months, students at Mountain View Elementary School in Marietta, GA had their wish come true, talking with Jeanette Epps on the ISS; she answered 11 of their questions. 838 students, 88 teachers and 118 VIPs and other guests sat in the gym. Media people provided coverage for two TV stations, one radio station, and the Cobb County school district. The latter published a fine write-up at [https://www.cobbk12.org/\\_ci/p/97720](https://www.cobbk12.org/_ci/p/97720). The story reported that students loved the school's annual Launchapalooza and launching a satellite that collected data on burning biofuels. The story quoted ARISS teacher Dr. Zielinski saying, "I've heard more times than once that they're too young and can't handle it. I guarantee you they handled it!" Preparations also involved using ARISS SPARKI kits and downloading ARISS Slow Scan (SSTV—picture downlinks) images.*