



# NEWS RELEASE

SD69 QUALICUM

## Get Out, Vote and Send Artwork to Space

(PARKSVILLE, B.C., Canada – February 14, 2019) The Old School House Arts Centre will be getting a little spacy next week with an exhibit of student art. The images, developed by kindergarten and grade one to twelve students, from across School District 69, are astronaut uniform patch designs and two will be heading to space via the International Space Station (ISS).

The winning patches will accompany an experiment designed by five students from École Ballenas: Growth Patterns of Alfalfa (Medicago Sativa) Sprouts in Microgravity: A Potential Nourishment for Future Manned Spaceflights.

Both the patches and experiment are part of the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP), an initiative based in the United States. SSEP provided the opportunity and \$18,000 of funding, donated by the Karen and Fred Green Fund (held at Vancouver Foundation) and Magellan Aerospace, allowed it to happen.

“It’s wonderful how science and art are coming together for this real-world learning experience,” said Gillian Wilson, Assistant Superintendent. “This opportunity has the potential to really influence a student’s direction in learning and in life. Astronauts will conduct the student experiment in space and NASA will provide certificates to verify the patches have been on the ISS. We feel very honoured to have both student artwork and a student science experiment heading for the stars.”

“To view the artwork and cast your votes, visit The Old School Arts Centre, between Tuesday, February 19 and Saturday, February 23,” suggested Corinne James, Executive Director, The Old School House Arts Centre. “You can also enjoy the exhibitions in the three galleries featuring work by Birgit Coates, Jacqueline Dunn and Valerie Giles as well as artists Brian Buckrell and Katarina Meglic.”

The public can cast votes in two categories: kindergarten to grade seven and grade eight to twelve. In both age categories, the artwork, which receives the most votes, will head into space.

### ABOUT THE STUDENT SPACEFLIGHT EXPERIMENTS PROGRAM

The Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) is an initiative of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSSE), located in the United States, and the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education, which works internationally. It is enabled through a strategic partnership with DreamUp, PBC and NanoRacks, LLC, which are working with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory.

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