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**YUKON STUDENTS LEAD MISSION TO MARS**

WHITEHORSE – Students from Yukon schools will participate in Marsville 2006 at Vanier Secondary School on April 21. Marsville is a national project geared to pique students’ interest in science, space and technology.

“Marsville gives Yukon students the opportunity to use information and communication tools in a real, meaningful way and to share research with other students right across Canada,” Education Minister John Edzerza said. “I commend students in the Yukon for participating in Marsville and wish them all the best on the 2006 mission.”

“Students participating in Marsville are learning about space exploration through a number of different curriculum areas such as technology, language arts and science,” Sofie Maurice, coordinator of Intermediate Programs for the Department of Education, said. “Students have invested a lot of time and energy into this project – for over three months students have been working as part of a ‘mission team’ to prepare for the Marsville launch.”

During Marsville, students launch their trip to Mars, build large space habitats, display their system research, have a student-made space suit exhibition, compete with motorized computer programmed Mars Rovers, and construct an observation tower.

“Marsville has been running in Yukon schools for the past nine years and every year there continues to be a lot of energy and excitement around this project,” Maurice added.

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