WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

1577 Wall St. East
Winnipeg, MB R3E 2S5
Telephone: (204) 775-0231

MEDIA INVITE

WSD student science experiments return from outer space

Students to review experiments that were tested aboard the International Space Station

Aug. 27, 2018 (Winnipeg, MB) – After having the ultra-rare opportunity to send their science projects into space—with the assistance of astronauts aboard the International Space Station—WSD students are set to review the results.

Now that their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) experiments have returned to Earth, students will be examining their test modules at WSD's Inner City Science Centre. It will be the culmination of close to a year of work with the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP).

Media are invited to observe and interview students from both projects. The Grosvenor School project is called *Growth of Lacinato Kale in Microgravity* and the Wolseley School project is called *Can Yarrow Germinate in Microgravity?*

The post flight analysis takes place **Tuesday, Aug. 28, 1 PM at the Inner City Science Centre (located at Niji Mahkwa School, 450 Flora Avenue, Room 101). Students have media permission for video, photography and interviews.**

Further background:

• SSEP is a program of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSE) in the U.S. and the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education internationally. It is enabled through a strategic partnership with DreamUp PBC and NanoRacks LLC. Magellan Aerospace is a Canadian National Partner on SSEP, and provided significant local funding support to the WSD STEM program.

• A total of 87 proposals were initially submitted by students from 64 WSD elementary schools. A local committee of 13 community members, professors, science professionals and Winnipeg School Division educators selected the top three experiments. A national review board convened by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education, which administers the program, selected the Wolseley and Grosvenor School experiments for spaceflight.

• The student members from the Wolseley STEM team were Kiara Dayson, Madeline Stewart, Betty Ngo, Sariah Dayson, Emelia Stephenson, led by Suzanne Mole and the Grosvenor STEM team was comprised of Charlie Buehler, Keaton Fish, Quinn McMullan, Kale Peterson, Merrick Williamson, led by Brandy Anderson.

• In June, students travelled to Cape Canaveral, FL to watch the launch of the rocket that brought their experiments to the International Space Station.

• During the mission, the students conducted two identical experiments – one in a mini-laboratory or Fluids Mixing Enclosure (FME) on the International Space Station and another in their classroom – to see how gravity effects the germination of a yarrow seed and a kale seed to determine whether the difference in gravity between low Earth orbit and Earth affects the direction of root and leaf growth in the plants. The students say the results of their experiment could help answer the question of whether life could be maintained in a place other than Earth.

• WSD was established in 1871 and currently has 78 schools, 33,000 students and 6,000 employees. Its purpose is to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student's potential and provide equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

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Media contact: Dan LeMoal, Communications Officer, Winnipeg School Division

Cell (204) 226-4385 • Phone (204) 775-0231 • dlemoal@wsd1.org