



The Bathroom Sensation That's Sweeping the Nation

Hey, Cougars! As spring start, there's not much happening this week, so I get to yap about whatever I want! Within reason, of course. One of my friends recommended I talk about planets in this edition, so this one is for you <3

Interplanetary Fun Facts

Planets are cool! I tried to find some lesser known facts, but some of these might be common knowledge. Enjoy!

- Uranus spins sideways! Some speculate that the planet underwent a major collision in the past, but the awkward orientation leads to more severe seasons on its surface.
- Jupiter's moon, Io, has hundreds of volcanoes that send plumes of sulfur over 190 miles into its atmosphere. This is because of the forces exerted on Io by Jupiter's magnetic and gravitational fields.
- A volcano larger than Hawai'i exists on Mars, titled Olympus Mons.
- Pluto is not the only dwarf planet in orbit. Ceres, in the asteroid belt, and Haumea, Makemake, and Eris in the Kuiper Belt beyond Pluto.
- It takes Venus 225 days to orbit around the Sun, but it takes a total of 243 days to spin on its axis once – Venus' days are longer than its years!
- Venus is called both "the evening star" and "the morning star" because ancient people believed it was two different stars.
- Auroras on Jupiter are the brightest in the solar system, and they are, like the solar storms, caused by Io, one of its 79 moons.
- Saturn is less dense than water!

The Difference Between Space and the Ocean

We've all heard the stat that we know more about space than the ocean, but why is that? Why is it easier to look through space than it is to explore the ocean, which is closer to us than space is?

One of the main problems with exploring the ocean is the way pressure gradually grows and grows, while the pressure in space is quite literally nothing. The average pressure on us at sea level is 15 pounds per square inch, and on a dive to the bottom of Mariana Trench, about 7 miles deep, is 1,000 times the pressure exerted on us at the surface, according to Dr. Gene Carl Feldman, who works as an oceanographer at NASA.

However, oceanographers also use satellite technology to record the color of the ocean, which allows scientists to observe the distribution and abundance of phytoplankton. The same information mapped by satellites would take boats 10 years of sampling to get to.

Both oceanographers and astronauts battle with pressure-related issues. Our bodies are meant to function under literal pressure, so the systems that are intended to divert the effect of pressure and gravity may harm the astronaut in space. For example, our bodies pump more blood from our feet and extremities to our head and chest, because under normal circumstances, it pools there. Astronauts also lose 1% of their bone mass for every month they're in space.

Upcoming Events

Monday 2/26	Tuesday 2/27	Wednesday 2/28	Thursday 2/29	Friday 3/1	Saturday 3/2
Lunch LinkUP @ Room 212 (both lunches)		Night of One Acts @ Auditorium (6:30pm)		Boys Swim and Dive v Liberty @ Liberty (4pm)	