



Students Hear from NASA Astronaut Live From the International Space Station

By Da Vinci Science Center

LEHIGH VALLEY - Da Vinci Science Center recently delivered an extraordinary STEAM experience that brought space exploration directly to our community. More than 400 students from across the Lehigh Valley gathered at the Science Center for a live Earth-to-space program featuring NASA astronaut Chris Williams, who joined from aboard the International Space Station to answer students' prerecorded STEAM questions in real time.

Prior to the event, students recorded thoughtful questions on topics such as how astronauts prepare for missions, what daily life is like in microgravity, how scientific experiments are conducted in orbit, and how research aboard the ISS benefits life on Earth. Hearing a NASA astronaut respond to their questions from 250 miles above the planet gave students a rare and powerful look at the reality of human spaceflight.

This program offered students far more than a glimpse into life aboard the ISS. It helped them understand how astronauts contribute to scientific discovery, how space-based research drives innovation on Earth, and how STEAM careers open doors to exploration and problem-solving. It also showcased the collaboration and technology that make Earth-to-space communication possible, drawing on more than 25 years of continuous research aboard the ISS in fields such as medicine, engineering, climate science, and deep-space exploration. Bringing this work into a local learning environment gave students and guests a meaningful look at the global effort behind space science and the importance of continued exploration.

This experience is a powerful example of how Da Vinci Science Center, through the leadership of the Jared and Monica Isaacman Next Generation Science Institute, has expanded its educational programs to include robust space-related programming, special exhibits, signature events, and inspiring guest speakers such as Jared Isaacman, Dr. Bill Beletic, and Dr. Sian Proctor, all of which enhance meaningful learning experiences for both students and educators.

By connecting students to real scientific work happening far beyond Earth, the Science Center continues to bring science to life and lives to science, inspiring curiosity and empowering the next generation of explorers and innovators.

Stories like this one are powered by partnership—by sponsors, donors, and advocates who understand that lasting impact requires shared and sustained investment.

We invite businesses interested in strengthening education in our region to sponsor the Science Soirée and STEAM Scholarship Awards, the largest annual fundraiser for the Linny Fowler Scholarship Fund.

Community support for Da Vinci Science Center strengthens educational access, economic development, and community connection, all while illuminating a night dedicated to discovery, celebration, and possibility.

Learn more about ways to get your organization involved with the Da Vinci Science Center here and ways to get involved as an individual community member here <https://www.davincisciencecenter.org/individual-support/>.



Celtic Cultural Alliance Announces 2026 Parade of Shamrocks

By Jayne Ann M. Recker / Executive Director - Celtic Cultural Alliance

Bethlehem, PA – Celtic Cultural Alliance (CCA) announces the 16th Annual Parade of Shamrocks.

The parade will be presented live in the streets of Historic Downtown Bethlehem on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 1:00pm by the Celtic Cultural Alliance in partnership with The City of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem will be filled with shenanigans and be green all day! The parade will feature the sights and sounds of pipe bands, marching bands, Irish dancers, local cultural and community organizations. There may even be a treat or two for the kids.

Participant registration is open and all are welcome! Community organizations, Girl & Boy Scout Troops, school teams & clubs, dance schools and local businesses are encouraged to join the shenanigans. It is a great opportunity to gain visibility. Participants are encouraged to hand out information and every group will be recognized on the Astound Broadband television broadcast.

The activities start before the parade and continue after the parade ends. The Downtown Bethlehem Association has a full schedule planned beginning with the Historic Leprechaun Hunt at 10:00am. Find all the details at: www.visithistoric-bethlehem.com.

CCA is appreciative of the support they have received for the parade from Presenting Sponsor, Historic Hotel Bethlehem. Strong community support is a big part of the Parade of Shamrock's success. This year Astound Broadband, Banko Beverage, Select Sales, Community Bank, WDIY, Altek Business Systems, IBEW Local #375, Viamedia, Homewood Suites Center Valley, Knights of Columbus and The Chemo Bag are sponsors of the event as well.

For more information about the Parade of Shamrocks, Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival and other Celtic Cultural Alliance events, visit the organization's website at www.celticfest.org and follow them on social media on Twitter (@CelticClassic), Instagram (@CelticClassic) and Facebook (facebook.com/CelticClassic).

Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival, Parade of Shamrocks, Lehigh Valley HopsFest and CCA event logos are trademarks of Celtic Cultural Alliance in the U.S. and/or other countries.

About the Celtic Cultural Alliance

On Columbus Day weekend in 1988, the first Celtic Classic was presented by a small group of individuals. The goal of this dedicated group was to create an event that symbolized the Celtic spirit and history and to provide the impetus for an organization that focused on promoting the Celtic culture. This group evolved into Celtic Cultural Alliance, a non-profit organization, to better communicate the overall goals of the organization.

The CCA has expanded with year-round programming to support the mission of promoting and preserving Celtic Culture through arts, music, literature, dance, and history programs.