

Launching a Satellite in a Coke Can



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The King David School's co-curricular Science programs, which are sponsored by the Robert Feigin Memorial Scholarship Trust, provide students with unique opportunities to participate in cutting-edge science activities. Amongst these is the advanced Space Science Program which has drawn the attention of Dr Naomi Mathers from the Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC). The advanced nature of this program developed by the Senior Science Faculty, and the passion of the students participating in this program has resulted in The King David School being nominated to

represent Australia in the 2011 International CanSat competition. This international competition will be held at a French military base in Biscarrosse (southwest France) in August this year.

As part of this competition students are required to design, build and program a small scale satellite that can fit inside a soda can. This "satellite in a coke can", better known as a CanSat, is then launched either aboard a high power rocket, or from a helium blimp. At apogee, the CanSat is then deployed and commences its primary

mission of measuring and transmitting data (e.g. air pressure, temperature, humidity) as telemetry to the ground station. Students then select a secondary mission for their CanSat to complete, such as undertaking advanced telemetry, landing as close as possible to a designated landing site, simulating an exploration flight to a new planet, or Terraforming.

A dedicated team of King David students are working hard under the guidance of past-students (acting as mentors), their Physics teacher Milorad Cerovac and VSSEC's Dr Mathers. Apart from the fun of seeing soft drink cans falling out of the French sky, students and mentors have been quick to accept the challenge of being the Australian representative in a contest which simulates an actual space mission with all its associated problems (and all of which require solving!). For the mentors, the program provides an added opportunity to help out the current King David students. For more information on this project and our ongoing progress, please visit our website at: www.vssec-kds.weebly.com.

*Milorad Cerovac
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Jarred & Sean working with mentor Boaz Ash