



Teresa Sindelar explains the concept of solid fuel by showing what happens if a cotton ball drenched in liquid oxygen is set alight. Helping her is Duncan Chase of the Chase Foundation involved in student exchange programmes.

Nasa inspires Pretoria pupils

Alet van der Merwe

About a thousand pupils from schools all over Pretoria sat glued to their seats when two Nasa (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) education specialists told them about the world

out there.

Teresa Sindelar, camp programme manager and Joel Walker, director of education at the Kansas cosmospere and space centre gave an interactive presentation on exciting career opportunities in science, technology and space explo-

ration.

The children were astonished by the impressive visuals and demonstrations used to explain certain concepts in space flight.

Two of the highlights were when Teresa demonstrated how quick liquid oxygen evaporates by try-

ing to pour it out of a cup onto the floor as well as when she lit up a cotton ball drenched in liquid oxygen, creating a big explosion.

Joel explained what exactly happen to a person when in space and answered questions like how

does one eat, go to the toilet and why it is important to exercise in space.

This event was hosted by the CSIR and forms part of the Meraka Institute's young engineer stars initiative.

It is aimed at making science and engi-

neering attractive topics for children.

According to CSIR spokesperson, Hilda van Rooyen, the goal of this specific event was to inspire pupils whose ideas, successes and inventions will shape the future of space flight.

