Student experiment to travel to International Space Station



Seniors Kaitlyn Bloch and John Gonzales receive certificates and a proud handshake from Principal Ada Bohlken as they are honored for their experiment that will be sent to the Internation! Space Station.

By Zack Necesito

Seniors Kaitlyn Bloch and John Gonzales competed against thousands of students from across the country to have their experiment proposal accepted and conducted on the International Space Station in outer space.

The Student Spaceflight Experiment Program in a way," Gonzales said.

asked Earth and Space Science students from all over the nation to propose an experiment that tests the rate of cell division of plants in microgravity. In other words, the students had to design and create an experiment that could show whether or not plants in space grow the same way they do on Earth. The students who presented the most viable idea, taking size and expense into consideration, would have their experiment conducted in space by the National Center of Earth and Space Science Education.

The efforts of Bloch and Gonzales earned them the privilege of having their experiment chosen at the national level. In a contest with thousands of participants, theirs came out on

"There are about 2000 projects sent overall, and 70 were chosen for district, three for semifinals and out of those three, we were chosen." Bloch said. The two received very little interference from their Earth and Space Science instructor, David Powell.

"My role is really more of an encourager, kind of a guide to facilitate their thinking," Powell said.

A lot of time was taken from the students in order to excel in this competition. This time was not provided by the school.

"I had to do a lot of revisions to the project over Thanksgiving break while they were finalizing their decisions," Bloch said. Today, the two are still processing the impact of their accomplishment, and are extremely proud.

"I honestly feel surprised still, but I kind of like it ber tubes by Bloch

seeds planted in

two seperate rub-

and Gonzales start off at Holmes High School on Earth.

STEP 3) Once on board the International Space Station, tube B will be periodically unclamped, and shaken by scientists in sync with a schedule of unclamping and shaking of tube A on Earth. Both tubes will only be unclamped and shaken during this time; nothing more can be done to them. STEP 2) While tube A is kept here on Earth, tube B will be placed on board a shuttle headed for the International Space Station as a part of NASA's ISS Mission Seven. STEP 1) Two radis STEP 4) After the given time of growth is over, the growth of the rad-

ishes in both tubes will be measured and compared. Any significant

differences in growth could tell us whether or not growing crops in

microgravity would be more or less successful than here on Earth.

MARCH 2015

confession

Edgar Vasquez, and Angelica Rodriguez

We asked you to tell us about your good and bad habits in school, and what you're planning on doing next. You answered. Here are the most interesting results:

What have you decided to do when you graduate?



St. Mary's U

3.95%

Not planning to attend college

UT Austin

13.16%

18.42%

25%

Have you ever copied part or all of something from the internet for your own essay without giving credit?



YES: 45%

Have you ever shared answers with a classmate to help them pass?





