

## In this Issue

**IPTV Plans for  
NASA Downlink**

**PBS Debuts PBS  
KIDS Tablet**

**PBS Announces New  
Program *Splash and  
Bubbles***

**Research Proves  
PBS Kids Resources  
Creates Successful  
Learners**

**Check out the back  
page to view our  
upcoming events**

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# Iowa Public Television Secures NASA Downlink



Iowa Public Television has been awarded an exclusive NASA downlink from the International Space Station (ISS) for a one-on-one interview with Astronaut and Iowa native, Dr. Peggy Whitson. Dr. Whitson is on Expedition 50/51, her third long-duration mission to the ISS. IPTV and NASA will provide all Iowans a glimpse into the life of Dr. Whitson and the ISS in January by a shared broadcast as well as an online live stream.

IPTV has invited fourth graders from Oskaloosa and Mt. Ayr Community Schools to its Johnston studios to

participate in the downlink and enjoy hands-on STEM activities provided by the South Central STEM Region manager, FIRST Robotics and Grout Museum. Students will attend a live, interactive performance by Josh Denhart, The Chemistry Guy. During the 20-minute downlink, students will ask Dr. Whitson questions about space and her current mission.

"Mount Ayr Elementary is excited and honored to participate in this event! Peggy Whitson is a graduate of Mount Ayr Community Schools and well-known throughout the area. We look forward to learning more about her and supporting her on this mission," said Chris Elwood, Elementary Principal of Mt. Ayr Community Schools. Dr. Whitson graduated from Mt. Ayr Community High School and Iowa Wesleyan College.

Be sure to follow IPTV Education on Facebook and Twitter for developing news on this exciting live stream opportunity.

## IPTV Local

### **PBS Debuts PBS KIDS Tablet**

PBS KIDS is announcing the launch of its first tablet: the Playtime Pad. Produced by Ematic, the 16 GB kids' tablet provides a one-stop destination for PBS KIDS educational content, including games, video clips and music videos pre-loaded, along with 100+ hours of video on the PBS KIDS Video App. The Playtime Pad is available at various outlets now. Learn more at <https://goo.gl/ajrxD7>.



# STEM Resources

## Multimedia



## Design Squad Global Club

DSG clubs connect kids ages 10-13 in informal education programs around the world. Kids explore engineering through fun-packed, high-energy, hands-on activities—and they partner with a DSG club from a different country! Choose between two options (a 6-week or a 12-week program) and they will match you with a partner club.

Find out how kids in Design Squad Global clubs explore engineering and invention with an international partner. Kids in DSG clubs use the design process to solve problems and discover that engineering is a powerful tool for making a difference in the world. And, they begin developing their “global competency”—the ability to communicate and collaborate with people from different backgrounds, cultures and perspectives.

Interested in leading your own DSG club? Learn more at <https://goo.gl/D0m0ZH>

## Programming

# Splash and Bubbles

Dive in with **Splash and Bubbles**, a new PBS KIDS series from the makers of **Sid the Science Kid** and **Dinosaur Train!** Splash, Bubbles and their best friends, Dunk and Ripple, go on epic adventures, discovering marine biology and oceanography as they meet all kinds of “citizens of the sea.” With lots of play, comedy and music, these Reeftown Rangers explore the one big ocean we all share. **Splash and Bubbles** premieres on IPTV on November 23. Learn more about **Splash and Bubbles** at [pbskids.org/splashandbubbles](http://pbskids.org/splashandbubbles).



## IPTV Local

# Iowa Learning Online Accepting Spring 2017 Enrollment

Iowa Learning Online (ILO), a partner in education with IPTV, is an Iowa Department of Education initiative designed to help local Iowa school districts expand learning opportunities for their high school students through high quality, rigorous courses delivered online. Students are enrolled in ILO courses through their local school district. All courses are taught by Iowa licensed and appropriately endorsed teachers. Spring 2017 enrollment is open until January 10 at 4 p.m. Spring semester begins January 3 and ends May 5. Visit [lowelearningonline.org](http://lowelearningonline.org) to learn more about this opportunity.



## Programming

# Tesla

Nikola Tesla became famous in the late 19th century for his invention of a system of alternating current that made possible the distribution of electricity over vast distances (the basis of the electrical grid that powers our modern life). But he imagined so much more -- robots, radio, radar, remote control, wireless transmission of messages and pictures, and harnessing the wind and sun to provide free energy to all. His fertile but undisciplined imagination was the source of his genius but also his downfall. To learn more about Tesla visit <https://goo.gl/QYA2Kh>



## PBS LearningMedia Collections

**PBS LearningMedia** is your destination for direct access to thousands of classroom-ready, curriculum-targeted digital resources. It builds on the strength of public media and is designed to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement.

All Grades

### Do You Want to use PBS LearningMedia in Your Classroom?



If you are interested in learning about **PBS LearningMedia** for your classroom, contact us! We travel to schools across the state to showcase more than 100,000 resources that are waiting for you online! We can customize a session to meet your needs and even help your students create accounts. IPTV is finding great success in providing teacher trainings first, allowing teachers to become familiar with our resources, then returning to train your students and help them to create accounts. We can also return to assist in a parent or community night to show families how to use our resources to further learning at home. To learn more, contact Angela Hiatt at [angela.hiatt@iptv.org](mailto:angela.hiatt@iptv.org).

Grades K-12

### NGSS Demystified: A Toolkit for Training Teachers

When educators step into a training about the NGSS, they often arrive with a number of burning questions they hope to have addressed. To put their minds at ease, start your very first training by addressing some of the more straightforward questions about the NGSS. Once this basic introduction is out of the way, your participants will be able to focus on diving more deeply into exploring the three dimensions. The activities below are not intended to be an individual learning experience, but they are designed to help you facilitate successful NGSS training for a team of educators! Learn more at <https://goo.gl/kPyLCB>

Grades 3-13+

### High Definition Films from the Morrison Planetarium

These award-winning shows, originally designed for an immersive planetarium dome at the California Academy of Sciences, have been reformatted as stand-alone films for your science classroom. For any of the videos, you can click the settings cog in the YouTube footer to adjust the Quality to up to 1080HD, and you can also toggle on full screen. Closed Captions are available in over a dozen languages, including Spanish and Chinese! Learn more at <https://goo.gl/3TyQLW>

Grades 9-12+

### TED Talks on PBS

**TED Talks on PBS** is a three part PBS series of one-hour television specials recorded at the Town Hall Theater in New York and features TED Talks from some of the world's greatest thinkers and doers. The programs also feature performances and short independent films. Hosted by author and comedian Baratunde Thurston, each program highlights speakers and films that focus on a different theme. The Engagement Guide offers suggestions on how to use **TED Talks on PBS** content to inspire deeper conversations and engagement in the classroom and community. Bring people together to watch and discuss innovative ideas that are changing our world. Learn more at <https://goo.gl/G7y16a>

## Classroom Strategies

### Technology



## Digital Innovator Aaron Maurer

Aaron Maurer, a former Master Teacher for IPTV, is one of Iowa's PBS Digital Innovators. Aaron, an instructional coach for Bettendorf Middle School, runs [coffeeforthebrain.com](http://coffeeforthebrain.com), an inspirational website which engages educators to become innovative in the classroom. Aaron says "technology is currently allowing many new things to develop, but the one thing that can never be replaced is the power of connection between a teacher and student. This is something that I value deeply. One of my missions as a teacher is to create a climate in my classroom where students feel empowered and connected." Congratulations Aaron on being selected as one of this year's PBS Digital Innovators.

## Early Childhood

# Research Proves PBS KIDS Resources Create Successful Learners



Research is the vital component in determining effectiveness of curriculum, educational games and shows. This is done through a variety of means, one being the Ready to Learn grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Iowa Public Television has participated in these studies and is committed to doing so in the future. Review the research of the shows and games your children interact with. Learn more at [pbskids.org/lab/research/](http://pbskids.org/lab/research/).

## Elementary

# Learning about the first Thanksgiving



Most people think that Thanksgiving was first observed by the Pilgrims in 1621. It wasn't. In 1619, a group of English settlers landed on the banks of the James River in Virginia and gave thanks for safe passage. This was America's first official Thanksgiving. Pair this video with the included background essay, discussion questions and activity on PBS Learning-Media. Learn more at <https://goo.gl/tzBnWB>.

## Secondary

# The Art Assignment

Can you think outside the box? Join curator Sarah Green as she interviews some of today's most inspiring artists and offers a historical exploration behind their methods and techniques. Whether it's transforming materials to help people look at the changing environment with new eyes, or taking classic artistic trends and adding a modern twist, **The Art Assignment** shows that true art can come in many shapes and sizes. Learn more at <https://goo.gl/HxQ5IL>.



## Upcoming with IPTV

### Visit Us Here



Each month IPTV Educational Services attends conferences, contributes to events and even offers customized webinars. Our list of upcoming events is below. Contact us if you'd like to schedule a training or invite us to one of your events.

**November 28**  
**Family Literacy Night**  
Ruthven, IA

**November 30**  
**ASPIRE Program Event**  
Afton, IA

**December 1**  
**Family Literacy Night**  
Pocahontas, IA

**December 28**  
**Mitchellville Library  
Storytime**  
Mitchellville, IA

**January 19**  
**NASA Downlink**  
Johnston, IA

Find ongoing information on [Iptv.org/education](http://Iptv.org/education)

