



KANT SCIENTIFIC EVENING SEMINAR

We are planning the next scientific evening to share visions on daily realities and contemporary research taking place around us with our school community. With this dialogue we aim at reaching out to connect members of our school community (parents, staff members and students) to different kinds of scholarly work that is taking place in academic institutions such as universities and research centers. Our goal is to invite a wide range of university professors and researchers to present their ongoing research and to engage in a dialogue with our schools community. Don't miss the next event of this special series of scientific dialogues at KANT.

The Truth about Asteroids and Comets: There's Good News and Bad

Alan Harris

German Aerospace Center (DLR) Institute of Planetary Research, Berlin

Tuesday, June 20th, 2017 at 17.00h to 18.30h

Primary Assembly Room, Berlin International School, Campus Dahlem
Lentzeallee 8/14, 14195 Berlin

Most asteroids and comets are thought to be remnant collisional fragments of the building blocks from which planets in our solar system formed around 4.5 billion years ago. Asteroids and comets from diverse regions of the solar system probably enriched the early Earth and other planets in minerals, water, and organic materials essential for the development of life. In later epochs, impacts of asteroids and comets on the Earth may have abruptly altered the course of evolution and paved the way for mankind.

However, mankind should now be aware that this natural process has not ceased. In particular, the current population of so-called near-Earth asteroids contains many objects that are considered potentially hazardous. On the positive side, near-Earth asteroids may prove to be valuable sources of raw materials (metals, water, rocket propellant, etc.) for future generations. I will illustrate the significance of asteroids and comets for life on Earth and describe current research into the relevant characteristics of these bodies.

This research is helping us to better understand the risk of a devastating asteroid impact on our planet: that such an impact will occur one day is beyond question, unless we develop techniques to modify the orbits of hazardous asteroids.

Details:

The session will be held in English.

Please RSVP to Julian Stüven: julian.stueven@berlin-international-school.de.

