

Fast Facts

Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind

Founded: 1839
School Colors: Black, Red & White
School Mascot: Cardinals
Enrollment: 150

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Front Cover Design by Brandon Surber

In Memoriam



On January 16, NASA's space shuttle Columbia roared into blue morning skies above Kennedy Space Center on STS-107, the first shuttle mission of 2003. But this is not a picture of that launch! It was taken on the morning of January 16 though, at sunrise, looking eastward toward Lake Ontario from just outside of Caledon, Ontario, Canada. In the picture a sun pillar, sunlight reflecting from ice crystals gently falling through the cold air, seems to shoot above the fiery Sun still low on the horizon. By chance, fog and clouds forming over the relatively warm lake look like billowing smoke from a rocket's exhaust plume and complete the launch illusion. Amateur photographer Lauri Kangas stopped on his way to work to record the eye-catching sun pillar launch.



Space Shuttle Columbia with its crew of seven was lost Feb. 1, during its re-entry to Earth's atmosphere following a mission that began Jan. 16. Dead are Air Force Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson, payload commander; Navy Capt. David M. Brown, mission specialist; Kalpana Chawla, mission specialist; Navy Cmdr. Laurel Blair Salton Clark, mission specialist; Air Force Col. Rick D. Husband, mission commander; Navy Cmdr. William C. McCool, pilot; and Israeli Air Force Col. Ilan Ramon, payload specialist.