

# *LET THERE BE NIGHT (LTBN) HIGHLIGHTS*

May 2009

- Launched with grants from Toyota TAPESTRY, Jordan Toyota, PHM Educational Foundation, and private donors;
- Created interactive Second Life site now on Astronomy2009 Island;
- Created original 30-minute animation entitled “Let There Be Night” that is narrated by Galileo character and a companion mouse;
- Produced 2-DVD set that advocates for dark skies, with combination of original material and material contributed by multiple outside parties;
- Distributed 2-DVD set to every Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation (PHM) teacher in grades K-8, to hundreds of planetariums nationwide and in over two dozen countries, and to workshop participants preparing for Globe at Night;
- Created podcast (<http://365daysofastronomy.org/2009/01/18/january-18-gosh-dim-it-all/>) for 365 Days of Astronomy series;
- Presented dark skies programming in the PHM Planetarium to over 7,000 students, 300 teachers, and the general public; practiced observations with star charts and the student recording form in the presence of teachers
- Presented 28 teacher in-service sessions at 14 PHM schools;
- Presented 3 “PBA Day” in-service sessions;
- Presented LTBN resources at conferences and workshops in St. Louis, Chicago, Long Beach, Milwaukee, and Vienna (by Internet);
- Presented LTBN lessons in depth to 14 Student Leadership Teams (SLTs) representing their respective schools on four Saturdays, including live video session with Dr. Connie Walker, an astronomer from the National Optical Astronomy Observatory who coordinates the IYA2009 Dark Skies Awareness programs;
- Supported SLTs from each of 14 schools in quantifying sky glow from school grounds every night March 14-28 using hand-held Sky Quality Meters (SQMs);
- Installed LTBN banners outside 14 PHM schools;
- Inspired student science fair projects, including two 2009 regional award winners;
- Supported teacher-initiated instruction that generated student projects, posters, dioramas, poetry, artwork, digital presentations, activities, and more;
- Created and presented interactive activities, including original Turtle Hatch Activity, Maglite Demonstration, Gelatin Light Pollution Model, and portable planetarium presentations;
- Created extensive LTBN website ([www.LetThereBeNight.com](http://www.LetThereBeNight.com)), featuring LTBN resources, teacher lesson plans, individual school highlights, IYA2009 and Galileo backgrounds, and materials to support Globe at Night;
- Enlisted thousands of students in grades 3-8 to observe Orion March 14-28, 2009, from their homes and to contribute data to community-wide experiment;
- Facilitated student meetings to discuss outdoor lighting issues with the St. Joseph County Council and with Mishawaka Mayor Jeff Rea, who issued proclamation for “Let There Be Night Earth Hour Day”;
- Enlisted WNDU TV to provide daily weather updates for observers;
- Visited a different school each night from March 14-25 during SLT measurements with SQMs; when skies were clear, observed crescent Venus, Saturn with its ring and moon(s), the Orion Nebula, and other celestial objects through a telescope;
- Supported Earth Hour initiative and enlisted local businesses to participate;
- Presented results of community-wide science experiment on May 11, 2009, at PHM School Board Meeting at Bittersweet School.