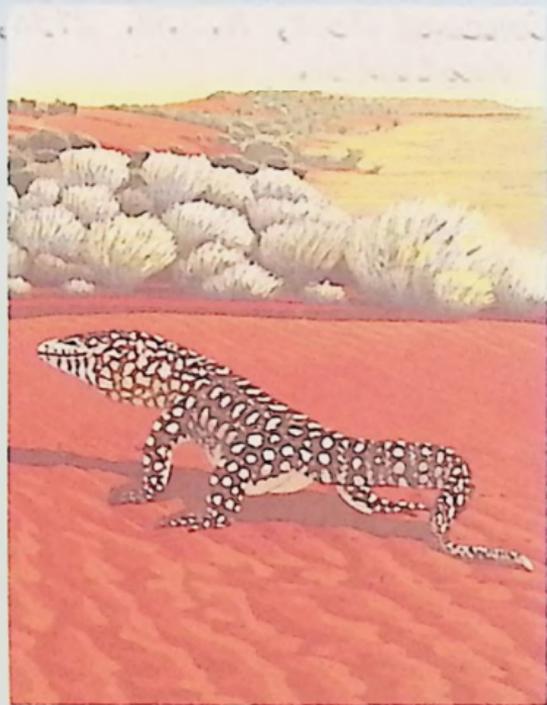


BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION
AEROGRAMME



Perentie Lizard, Simpson Desert, Queensland.



CHECK ADDRESSES
IF INCOMPLETE
ADVISE WRITER



AUSTRALIA 45c

TO The Principal,
Concord High School,
Concord,
New Hampshire,
COUNTRY OF DESTINATION U.S.A.

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Mr. Philip S. Kidner,

Principal,

Concord West Public School,

378 Concord Road, CONCORD WEST,

NEW SOUTH WALES, Postcode 2138.

AUSTRALIA.

FOLD SIDE FLAPS FIRST

FOLD SIDE FLAPS FIRST

NO OPEN SLIT HERE FIRST

Concord West Public School,
378 Concord Road,
Concord West, N.S.W. 2138,
Australia.

The Principal,
Concord High School,
Concord,
New Hampshire, U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of our School - children, teachers and parents - in Concord, New South Wales, Australia, I write to express our concern and condolence at the loss of your teacher, Mrs. Christa McAuliffe in the disaster of 28th January - the destruction of the shuttle, "Challenger".

It must have been a time of shock and anguish after having your expectations raised in the hope and anticipation that surrounds great adventures such as this was for Christa McAuliffe, and then to see them disappear in flame and smoke. It is really beyond our imagining to share your feelings but we do know that it must have been a devastating experience.

The programme of manned exploration and research beyond our Earth's atmosphere has happened because it is the nature of humans to seek to extend their experience beyond previous limits. We could have expected that there would be disasters bringing grief to those who are left by the adventurers, because it has always been that way. We tend to expect that our technological achievements have made us infallible, but this has never been true, and the real adventurer knows the probability of failure and death or suffering. I am sure that Christa McAuliffe would have known in her heart the consequences of her involvement and weighed them up.

You can all be proud to have had an association with a person who chose to risk all for a brief experience, the magnitude and intensity of which, humanity in general will never be able even to imagine.

This being the International Year of Peace it has been suggested that we work towards encouraging communication and understanding between nations through the children of our schools writing to children of other cultures and communities. We would like to make our first Penfriends for Peace at Concord High School and the children will shortly be writing to seek this contact.

Perhaps the younger children here could write to penfriends at an elementary school that may exist in Concord, New Hampshire.

We will look forward to many future harmonious contacts between our two Concords that will be in keeping with their name.

May God bless all who work and learn in your school and bring you consolation in your loss.

Yours sincerely,

Philip S. Kidner

Philip S. Kidner,
Principal.