

College freshman, 9, trying to prove existence of God by becoming astrophysicist

Move over Stephen Hawkins, there's a new kid in town and he's got sky high goals — literally! WMeet Will Maillis of Penn Township, Pennsylvania, probably the youngest college attendee at nine years old.

Starting with algebra at age 4, he's now working towards an doctorate astrophysics degree at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University. Focused on refuting Einstein and Hawking's idea of "super massive" black holes, he plans to master the workings of displacement of space-time, singularity and pure gravity to ultimately prove the existence of God.

Declared a "pure genius" by college administrators after IQ tests, Will doesn't take notes like the other students, but simply listens, reads and absorbs the material.



Neil Roberts

The Sky's the Limit

Maillis's father Peter, a Greek Orthodox priest, might have had some influence on his Christian upbringing, but his best advice has been. "God gave you a gift. The worst thing would be to reject that gift and not use it for the betterment of the world."

Sky watch

On Monday, Dec. 12 after sunset, look at the moon from about 6:30 p.m. as it hides red giant star Aldebaran until about midnight.

On Thursday, Dec. 22 after 2:30 a.m., follow the rising moon with Jupiter

and binary star Spica until dawn.

We actually have two mild meteor showers this month. The Geminid peaks Tuesday, Dec. 13 just after midnight, but the full moon will block much of it in the constellation of Gemini. The Ursid shower peaks Wednesday, Dec. 21 after sundown, when the earth moves through the centre of the dust trail left behind by a comet. But the half moon will reduce visibility. Check out the International Meteor Organization at www.imo.net/calendar/2017 for more information on all meteor showers.

Wednesday, Dec. 21 is officially the shortest day of the year. Depending on the Gregorian calendar, the December solstice occurs annually on a day between Dec. 20 and Dec. 23. On this date, all places above a latitude of 66.5 degrees north

are now in darkness, while locations below a latitude of 66.5 degrees south receive 24 hours of daylight.

Public events

On Friday, Dec. 9, starting at 7:30 p.m, it's the last stargazing session of the year, so check us out if you haven't and celebrate the sixth anniversary of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada hosting stargazing sessions at the Trek Station with cake and refreshments.

There will be a short indoor presentation on "Christmas in the sky" followed by stargazing through our 11-inch Celestron telescope.

Treats and refreshments are provided free of charge, and all are welcome. Contact Vulcan Tourism at 403-485-2994 or visit the website www.vulcantourism.com for more information.