Interesting Facts from the Life of Mikolaj Kopernik also Known as Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543)

- Mikolaj Kopernik developed a heliocentric model that placed the Sun rather the Earth in the center of the universe.
- Kopernik's primary language was German as he was born of German heritage.
- He was the youngest of four children.
- As an adult he spoke German, Polish, Latin, Greek and Italian.
- Most of Kopernik’s work was in Latin which at the time was the language of academia in Europe.
- Kopernik’s skills were not limited to astronomy. He was also a physician, translator, artist, scholar, economist, mathematician and diplomat.
- Kopernik was an important person in bringing a monetary reform to Poland and Prussia with a study he wrote called Gresham’s Law.
- Kopernik led the Royal Polish defense forces of Olsztyn in the Polish-Teutonic war (1519-1521).
- The first proof of Kopernik's theory came in 1609 when Galileo saw (through a telescope) moons revolving around Jupiter.
- The change in ideas brought by Kopernik is known as Copernican Revolution.
- When his famous book *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres* was published (May 1543), Kopernik was very sick. It is believed that he died holding a copy of the printed book in his hands.
- He had two funerals: one in 1543 and one in 2010.
- He is buried in the Frombork Cathedral, Frombork, Poland.
- There is a countless number of schools in Poland named after Kopernik.
- There are also streets, hospitals and housing estates named after Kopernik.
- There are Kopernik monuments across the country (Poland).
- It also appears on 1000 złoty banknote from 1965 and 1982.
- The chemical element Copernicium is named after Kopernik. It has the symbol Cn and the atomic number 112.
- Mikolaj Kopernik crater on the Moon was named after Kopernik.
- Also named after Kopernik are: Mikolaj Kopernik Planetarium in Nuremburg, Germany, Kopernik Science Center, Warsaw, Poland, Kopernik Observatory & Science Center, Vestal, NY, USA.