I'm Mark Vande Hei and this is Joe Acaba.

We are NASA astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

The space station is a unique, orbiting laboratory where astronauts can live and conduct scientific research in microgravity.

Recently, we received a 2018 calendar that was filled with artwork from 3,000 kids from all over the world.

On the station, we have an opportunity to see the world from a perspective that not many people have had a chance to experience.

At 225 miles up, we see a world of togetherness.

Just like how NASA is working together with commercial companies to transport people to and from the space station, opening space up to more and more people.

This calendar is a welcome surprise, and can help me mark the time I have left here before.
returning home to my family on Earth.

You know, everyone who submitted art for the calendar was between 4 and 12 years old?

That means that they have never known a world that didn't have someone living in space.

And they are the right age to one day be an astronaut who walks on Mars—so keep studying

and keep being creative!

Thank you all for the wonderful art.