

Getting Ready!

- Posted by [Kristy](#) on August 11, 2008 at 11:48pm

My date of departure (Tuesday, August 12) has suddenly arrived, and I've been in a whirl of last minute activity. Along with getting my head around packing a parka in the middle of summer, I discovered yesterday that there is quite a bit of technical detail to communicating from an icebreaker in the middle of the arctic – apparently it doesn't just happen like magic! Bruce and our friend Robin have come to my rescue, and set up a webpage that will enable me to send emails, journal entries, profiles, hopefully photos, and updates as we travel through the Northern waters.

Today was very full – A Channel came to our house to interview me...I was on the 5, 6 and 11 o'clock news. They even came into our bedroom to film me packing, and were there when I discovered I was going to need a much bigger suitcase than I had anticipated! I was also interviewed by John Threlfall of Monday magazine – an education issue will come out on August 21st, and there will be a write-up on Canadian Teachers Breaking the Ice in that. It's a bit humbling to receive all this attention from the media. Both Linda and Ellen had equally amazing experiences the past two years, and most teachers I know often undertake unique adventures, and their first hand experiences enhance their teaching. I'm glad to be an "ambassador" for all of us though, and glad that the media is spreading the word about the difference teachers can make when given opportunities such as I'm about to experience.

I'm excited... and nervous! This is a huge adventure for me...I've never been away from my family for two weeks on my own before, let alone in the isolated beauty of the Arctic. I'm looking forward to lots of "firsts", and sharing my experiences with all of you. It occurs to me that the crew on the icebreaker regularly leave their homes and families behind for six weeks at a time and travel the Arctic waters. It will be a fascinating experience to talk with them, and learn firsthand what changes they have observed over the last number of years.

I leave at 6:15 tomorrow morning, fly with the crew to Kugluktuk, where we will be transferred to the ship by helicopter! I will be 250 km above the Arctic Circle. My next posting will be from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier.