

# Journal

November 6, 2007

Dear Fellow Antarctic Travelers,

So many of you commented about the "last sunrise" information in the last weather snapshot from McMurdo Station that I sent, that I thought you might like similar information for the South Pole. The South Pole has ONE sunrise and ONE sunset per year - and this attachment shows the dates for those, which are precisely 6 months apart.

Here, nearly a thousand miles to the north of the Pole, at 77.5 south latitude, we have many more sunrises and sunsets per year. I was still seeing sunsets when I first arrived here, but the last sunset was on October 22. The sun will remain completely up until February 22, 2008.

At that time there will dip for a short while, with increasing amounts of darkness each day until the last sunrise of the year, which will occur on April 24, 2008. That is when McMurdo enters into a long, long darkness - not to see the sun again until next sunrise on August 19, 2008. (Check out [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com))

Imagine what it feels like to see the sun after 4 months of frigid cold, and continuous darkness. That is what the winter-over staff experience here in McMurdo. It is even long and colder at the south pole! Part of me would love to experience



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that - but I don't know that I am tough enough to handle it. (Don't worry - I have no intention of applying to the winter-over program!)

Today I had the joy of calling Bach Elementary School in Ann Arbor on a planned call. I was able to speak to the entire school - and share a powerpoint presentation that I had sent to them earlier in the week. I was able to share news of the beautiful postcards they had illustrated and sent to me, each with a question about ANDRILL or Antarctica on it. Their postcards have been distributed across the ice via helicopter, herc, and oversnow vehicle - to be answered by "qualified" people. The ANDRILL drill site is handling some of the questions, the mechanics are answering some, the field cooks are answering others, and the ANDRILL team is answering the rest. Please see my blog to see some of the beautiful postcards

(<http://www.andrill.org/iceberg/blogs/index.html>). A reporter from the Ann Arbor News was at Bach covering the students' response to talking to Antarctica. I can't wait to read it! (Someone - please send it to me tomorrow!)

Tonight is the second live broadcast of the Today Show from McMurdo Station. I am going to try to stay up until the wee hours to wave an Ann Arbor Public Schools banner for all the world to see. Let's hope the weather holds...







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Now I am off to dinner at Scott Base, the New Zealand station just a few miles from here. They have a beautiful view looking out over the Ice Shelf. I will send you a picture...

As always, thanks for sharing this adventure with me!

Robin

