

School Solutions: Siberian Expedition Creates New Learning Opportunity

Through web cameras and the internet, students are able to watch their science perform experiments in Siberia.

Greensboro, NC - A Triad teachers science expedition has become a rare learning opportunity for students.

Tim Martin left his post at Greensboro Day School to study climate change in Siberia. Through web cameras and the internet, students are able to watch Martin perform experiments.

WFMY News 2's Tracey McCain takes us to his first on-line class in this School Solution's report.

It's safe to say, students at Greensboro Day School have never traveled to Siberia, Russia. But they'll still know what it's like to be there, thanks to a close connection.

"We're able to learn from our science teacher who is around the world, that still astounds me," said Harper Weissburg, an 8th grade student at the school.

Tim Martin is in the arctic studying global climate change at a remote lake.

"The purpose for being on the research team is to investigate the different weather through time periods going back 3.6 million years," explained Weissburg.

The scientists are drilling on the frozen lake to collect data; all while showing children across the world their research.

"Besides the fact that it is very cold, we learned about the meteorite that had crashed there," said Aditya Badve, who is also in the 8th grade.

This day's web-cast roll call included eight school. Martin's wife listened in from Moses Cone and his dad a retired astronomy teacher and Martin's substitute sat in the session.

"We have Mr. Martin's father, so we have poppa Martin filling in for Tim Martin right now.

Greensboro Day School is using the free phone and internet program, Cisco to connect via satellite with Martin in Siberia.

"They get access to information that they may not ever be able to experience. So these kids in the 8th grade in particular have gained access through his blog and now talking with him," said technology director Dana Smith. "They get both the written version and they get to hear his voice. They get to share in his whole experience," she said.

The available technology is a benefit students appreciate.

"Just actually sitting there seeing him talking from Siberia one of the most remote locations in the world, it still astounds me that we can do that," said Weissburg.

But having the ability to use the world as your classroom holds the true value.

"Mr. Martin has always been like the adventurous type of person. And he's taught us a lot," said Badve. "We get first hand whatever new happens on his blog that he always keeps up to date. It's just a lot of fun."

Tim Martin keeps in touch with his students through email and updates his online journal daily. You can follow along with Martin's trip on his blog. Click [here](#) to view it.

Source: WFMY News 2

