The background of the cover is a child's drawing. At the top center, there is a small, simple drawing of a dog or cat's head inside a yellow circle. Below this, the title 'Polar Bears & Penguins' is written in large, bold, orange letters. Underneath the title, the text 'Woodriver Elementary School, / Queensland School of Travelling Show Children' is written in a smaller, teal font. The central focus is a large, detailed drawing of a polar bear's face, rendered in shades of brown, tan, and black. The bear has large black eyes, a large black nose, and a black mouth with small teeth. The drawing is done with what appears to be colored pencils or markers. The bottom of the cover is a solid teal color with a white, jagged, mountain-like shape at the very bottom.

Polar Bears & Penguins

Woodriver Elementary School, / Queensland School of
Travelling Show Children

ICE E-MYSTERY

Polar Bears & Penguins

A story written and illustrated by pupils at Queensland School
of Travelling Show Children, Eastern Australia and Woodriver
Elementary School, Fairbanks Alaska, USA



Queensland School of Travelling Show Children, Eastern Australia

The Queensland School for Travelling Show Children is recognized as a unique school environment not only in Queensland and across the nation but internationally as well. QSTSC is the only advocate for educational change for the children from families of occupational travellers who derive their livelihood from business practices centred on the agricultural show schedules throughout Australia. The school is rich in history and heritage.

Our two mobile classrooms house approximately 65 students ranging from 5 to 12 years of age. We are proud to be apart of this wonderful experience as we endeavour to provide Excellence in Education to all of our students.

Teachers: Jacqui Liston and Bruce Liston

Students:	Tasman Pickett	Mason Davis
Cody Watkins	Dekoda Miller	PJ Davis
Houstyn Blades	Roy Bell	Pheonix Osborne-Little
Keenan Pink	Nickayla Joseph	Jordan Davis
Myah Roberts	Carrington Miller	Leyton Osborne- Little
Cheyenne Nocen-Phillips	Millacent Miller	
Tanah Nasmyth	Walker Baken	



Woodriver Elementary School, Fairbanks Alaska, USA

Our students are Caucasian, Alaskan Native, Asian, African American, Hispanic, and American Indian so we're a diverse group. Many students walk to school from the surrounding homes but we also have busing for those who live within the school boundary. We have 460 students in kindergarten–6th grade with a staff of 50 teachers and support personnel. Classroom teachers provide instruction in language arts, math, science, social studies, health, technology, and art. We have specialists for music, physical education, library media, special education, and District art teachers that visit several times a year.

Woodriver Elementary School Class 4

Teacher: Kathleen Wright

Students:	Tyler Deweese	Annemarie Timling
Louis Bastille	Dylan Moore	Tane Timling
Scott Jacobs	Nieca Murphy	Charley Myers
Riley Smith	Jules Mermelstein	Kai Biehl
Erik Nault	Branden McDowell	Sarah Satele
Serena Dawson	Jewelynn Henry	Jake Froese
Keira Unangst	Ben Kruse	Piper Brase
Brandon Simons	Sasha Brown	Cole Britton
	Tanner Dragomir	

Polar Bears and Penguins

To The Department of Fishing and Wild Game, Alaska

We are writing to obtain a permit of approval to move Polar Bears from the Arctic to the Antarctic. We are doing this because of the occurrence of global warming. Scientists have used ice-cores as proof that the Arctic is slowly melting.

Because of global warming earth has heated to 1°F higher. The Arctic Ocean is warming and obviously this is endangering all of the animals especially the Polar Bear whose main habitat is the arctic sea ice. Autumn air temperatures in the Arctic are at a record of 5°C above normal and we believe that within the next two years polar bears will be extinct.

As world leaders work on the Kyoto protocol and agreements to cut down CO2 emissions and hopefully reverse global warming our research shows results from these and other initiatives will be too late for the bears.

We are planning to build a polar bear reserve on Mill Island which is located between Casey and Davis in Australian Territory in East Antarctica.

This will be a good location because it has areas of sea ice which are perfect for hunting seals. The polar bear is the largest meat-eating hunter walking the earth today and it's main source of high fat diet is the blubber of seals.



In preparation for the polar bears arrival we have already developed a breeding farm for seals and to feed them we also have farmed fish and krill.

The food chain we hope to recreate is:

Krill – fish – seals – polar bears

Our classroom which will become the command centre, research base and vehicle for relocation of polar bears is in the trailer of a Mac truck. We can fit 30 students at desks and we have 9 laptop computers set up in our wireless network with a satellite internet connection. We have our own kitchen, toilet and shower and we can store large amounts of equipment to travel with.

To get our trucks ready for the trip to the arctic we have put on tyre chains to grip the ice, jets for thrust and wings. Wires go to the truck to control it, solar panels power the jet engines while vegetable oil is used to power the diesel truck engine. The windscreen and windows have double sheets of glass for strength.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Carrington, Professor Dekoda,
Professor Lane & Professor Millacent
Queensland School for Travelling Show Children
(QSTSC).



Protests

Wednesday, August 20th, 2008

To Department of Fishing and Wildlife,

We are writing to complain about the polar bears being moved to Antarctica. These are our reasons:

They will eat all the penguins because they are meat eaters. They are the smartest hunters in the world and they are the biggest meat eaters in the world.

The polar bears will not like the six month cold period. They will not like the icy cold winds blowing on them.

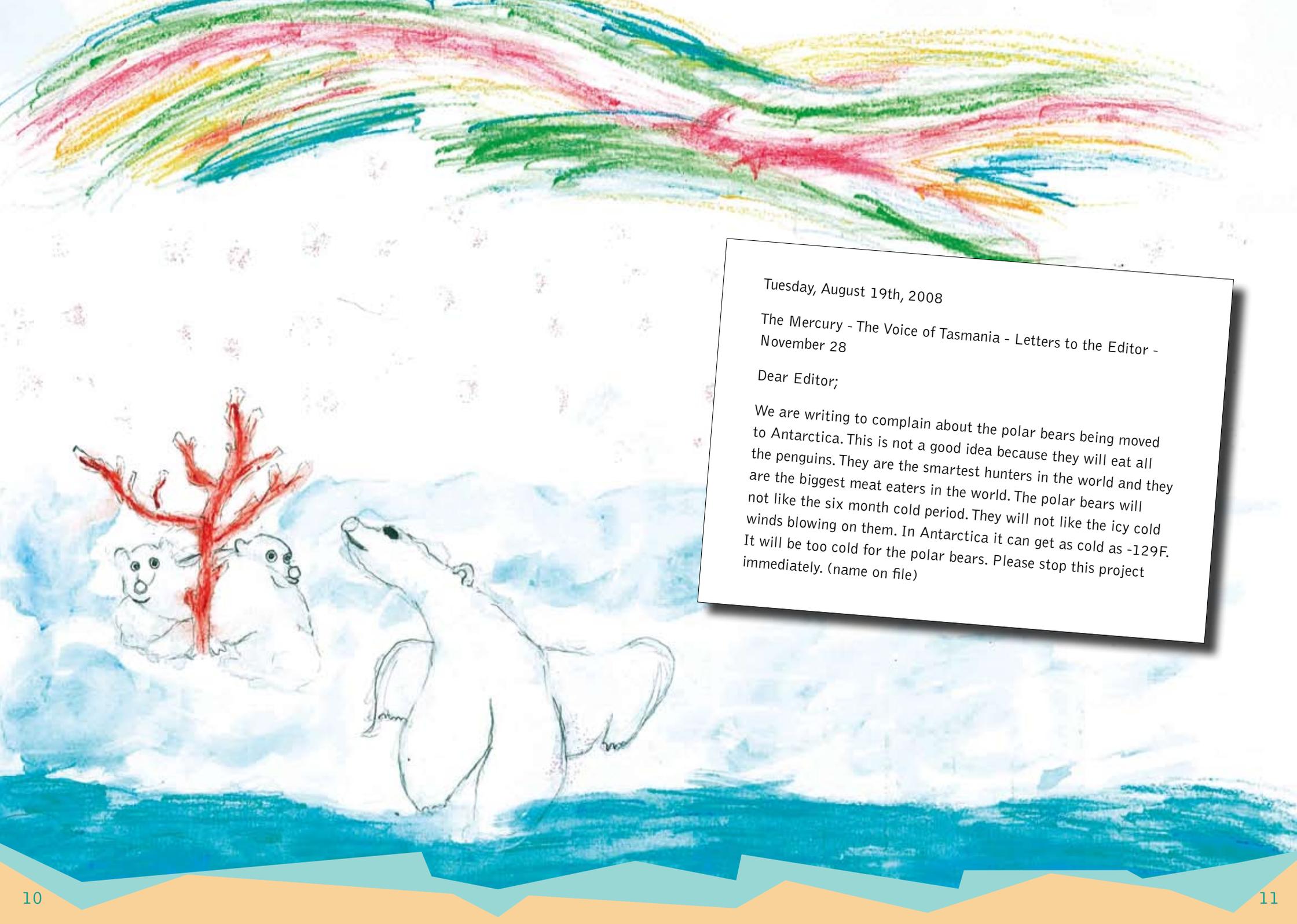
In Antarctica it can get as cold as -129F. It will be way too cold for the polar bears.

Polar bears might die from eating penguins because they have never eaten them before.

When the polar bears are moved to the Antarctic they will spread disease.

Please stop this project immediately.

From,
Anonymous.

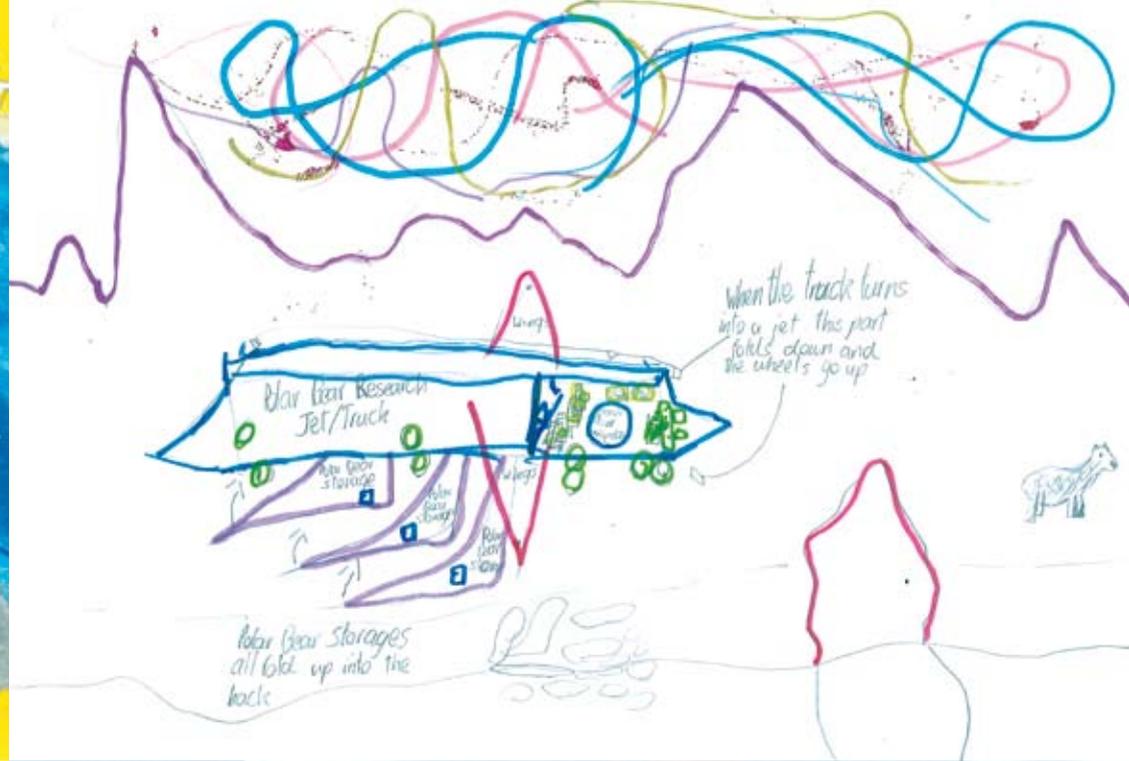


Tuesday, August 19th, 2008

The Mercury - The Voice of Tasmania - Letters to the Editor -
November 28

Dear Editor;

We are writing to complain about the polar bears being moved to Antarctica. This is not a good idea because they will eat all the penguins. They are the smartest hunters in the world and they are the biggest meat eaters in the world. The polar bears will not like the six month cold period. They will not like the icy cold winds blowing on them. In Antarctica it can get as cold as -129F. It will be too cold for the polar bears. Please stop this project immediately. (name on file)



Arctic Mission

QSTSC ... Right now we're in Geelong preparing for a week-long trip. Leyton has loaded the water and food and Keenan checks the lines, plugs, power and fuel. The fire extinguisher is charged and our computers are ready to send messages if something should go wrong. We have made space to fit the polar bears in the vehicle. It's time to take off!

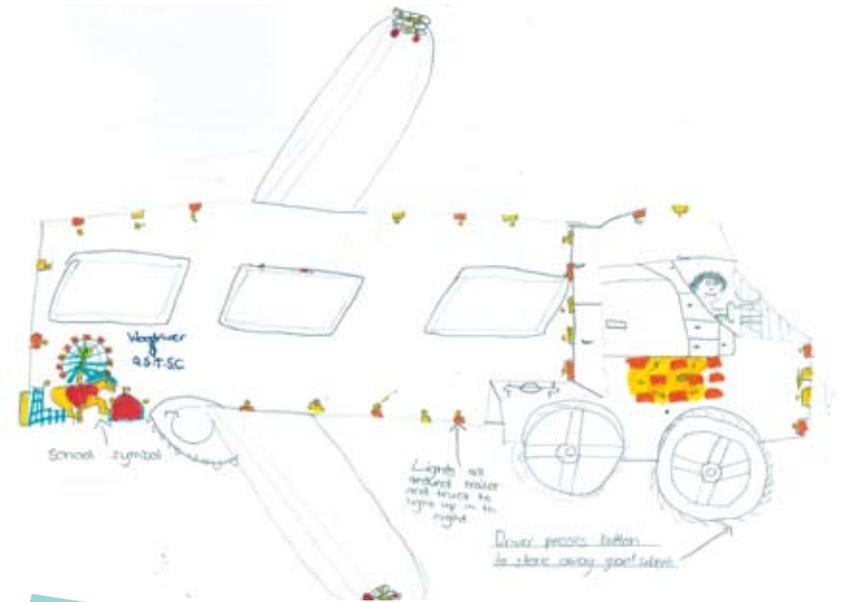
Rocky flicks the switches to start the jets and the truck goes forward and begins speeding up. We get up to 1,000 km/hr and suddenly we're in the air. We fly North trying to stay in the smooth jet stream but the trip is bumpy. Playing "Bop It" helps pass the time on this long trip. The views are spectacular from the jet truck.





Well this is harder than we thought. Everything just seemed to go wrong when Tia was in charge of the net. Luckily our Fairbanks friends were along because when they took over, we captured our first polar bear! It was a cub so we practiced on a smaller bear and got pretty good at it. Then we put the bears on the lift one at a time and fit as many as we could in the jet. But we realized it was going to be too heavy to take off!

“What are we going to do?” asked Leyton. “We’ll have to leave some of you here and come back for you later,” explained Rocky. So we did as we were told and stepped off the plane. As we watched the plane take off, we wondered how long we would be waiting for it to come back. We set up camp and set off for the nearest village to get more biofuel for the jet-truck. We found a village called Kavik and talked with Sam at the local store where we bought all the vegetable oil for reserve fuel on the trip to Antarctica.



Kavik City News

December 1

POLICE BLOTTER

Locals report unusual activity. It appears that strangers have been scouting out polar bear dens. Reports of suspicious persons asking questions of villagers and buying provisions at the general store are surfacing. Sam Bowers mentioned that folks in yesterday were buying up all his vegetable oil. He overheard them talking about global warming and polar bears becoming extinct. He thought they said they were from a place called Kyoto Protocol.

Freeze! Fact

Polar bears in Alaska are facing a serious threat because of the retreating sea ice. Polar bears use the ice to hunt seals, their main prey. Their favourite food is the ringed seal. In 2007, there was a major loss of sea ice. 2008 was a close second. Polar bears have to ride the ice too far North or stay on land where they would be competing with grizzly bears for food. Some scientists predict that polar bears will be gone from Alaska by 2050 or sooner. Alaskan polar bears are now endangered.

Freeze! Fact

Sam thought Kyoto Protocol was a place down south. Fortunately, as word spread through the village, his nephew's son, Issac, overheard the elders. Issac's fourth grade class at Kavik Elementary School had just been reading about polar bears and global warming in their Scholastic News. He told them that the Kyoto Protocol was an agreement by many countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in an attempt to reduce global warming. Global warming is affecting the ice that the polar bears depend on.

Kavik City News

December 2

POLAR BEAR CUB MISSING

Foul play suspected. In a possible case of bear napping, a young male polar bear was reported missing by two Fish and Wildlife biologists, Ken White and Barry McNabb, during a routine check on the general health of the mother.

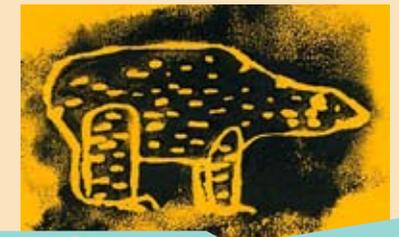
With no predators in the area and no disturbance noted at the den site, the cub was apparently abducted from the den 20 miles from Kavik.

Villagers are mystified. "We respect the Nanook. None of our people would take a cub from the den," said elder Peter Tokpok. With the white out conditions and fierce winds, tracks may have been covered quickly. Villagers set out on snow machines to check out the den as word spread quickly through the village.

Officers White and McNabb will be interviewing locals for possible leads. Alerts are being issued.

Freeze! Fact

Polar bears are born in snow dens in November or December and they stay in the den where their mother feeds them until March or April. Then they stay with their mother to learn how to hunt until they are 2 to 3 years old. There are usually two cubs in a litter but sometimes there are three. The female polar bear only has a litter of cubs every three years.



December 2: Investigative Crime Report

Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Report violations 1-800-978-0155

Our motto: Help curb unlawful fishing and hunting in Alaska -
Promote fish and game protection

Troopers at 10:37 am received a report of a missing polar bear cub from a den 20 miles W of Kavik. Investigation is ongoing.

The missing cub was from the Beaufort Sea bear stock. Wildlife troopers from Fairbanks received a report of the illegal polar bear abduction on December 1 and visited the village a few days later to investigate.

“We can’t tell for sure if this is the only cub missing,” said Lt. Ron Smith, commander. “We’re concerned about illegal hunting, killing, or capturing of any protected species. We ask that anybody with knowledge of this crime talk with us or call our 800 number to report any violations.”

“This kind of stuff will not be tolerated,” Kavik mayor Tom Ootuk told the Fairbanks News-Miner. “We still live a subsistence way of life and we need to make sure it’s protected. We were taught to respect our animals. We don’t like it when something like this happens.”



Freeze! Fact

The Beaufort Sea bear population is one of two in Alaska. The other stock, the Bering-Chukchi bears on the Northwest coast, are shared with Russia.

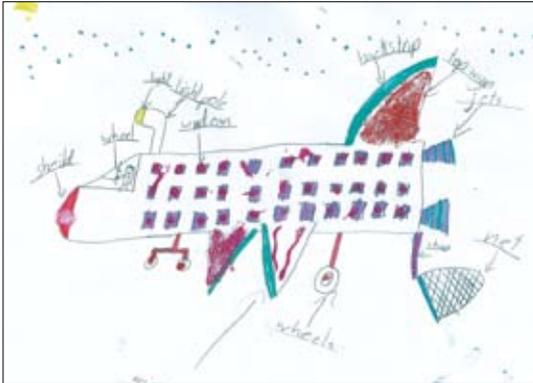


Kavik City News

December 4

LOCAL MUSHER FINDS CLUE TO MISSING POLAR BEAR

Pete Waloo was checking his trapline yesterday afternoon when his dogs caught a strange scent. “They just started howling and pulling real hard toward a low rise in the distance,” Pete reported. He said they heard a low rumble and what looked like an alien spacecraft was hovering over them. “It was low light but I could see real good. This thing was like a semi with wings,” according to Waloo.



They mushed up over the rise and saw an area the size of the city basketball court where the snow had been trampled. Then Waloo said his lead dog, Akluk, got his nose down and started sniffing.

Buried in the snow, Akluk uncovered a stained book “Aussie Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi” that had a travel log tucked inside and a strange jar labeled Vegemite. Waloo turned both items over to the Troopers.



Alaska State Troopers Press Release

of Saturday, December 13

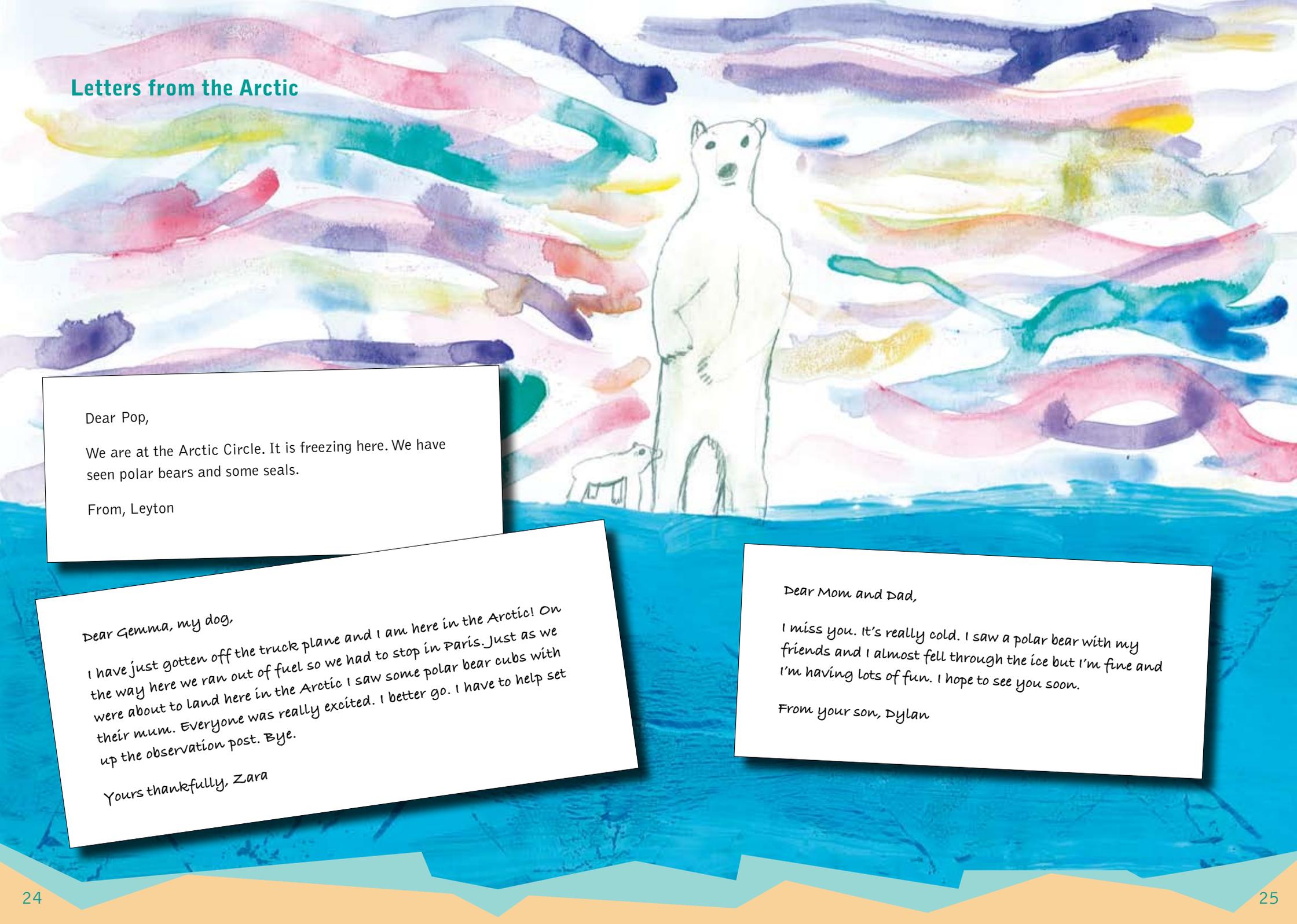
Location: Kavik

Text: On 12-1 at 1037 hours the Alaska State Troopers were notified of possible wildlife violation

Troopers responded and interviewed villagers. Investigation revealed polar bear was airlifted to the Antarctic. Alaska State Wildlife Troopers have identified four suspects in what they are calling a case of misguided effort to save polar bears from extinction.



Letters from the Arctic



Dear Pop,

We are at the Arctic Circle. It is freezing here. We have seen polar bears and some seals.

From, Leyton

Dear Gemma, my dog,

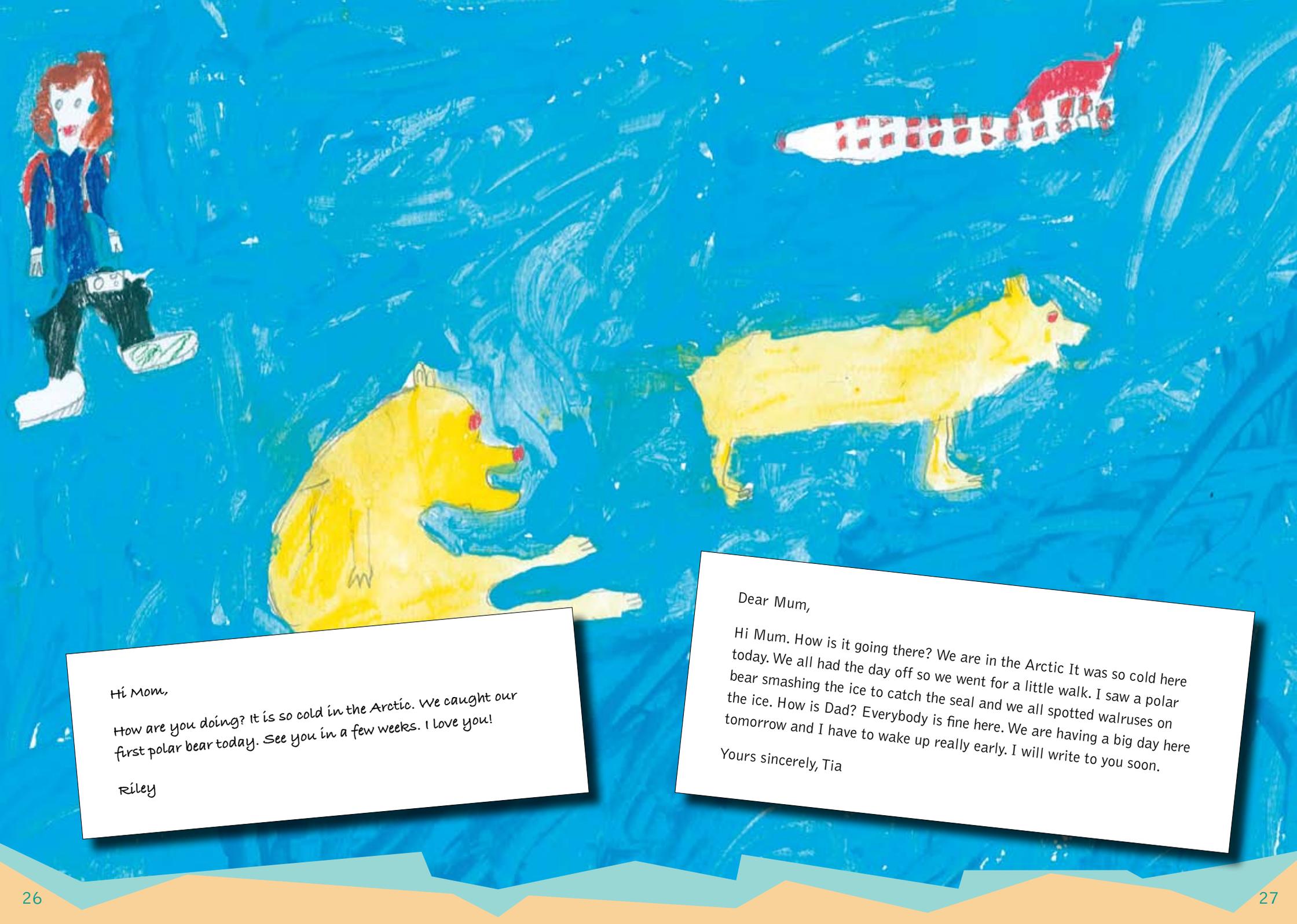
I have just gotten off the truck plane and I am here in the Arctic! On the way here we ran out of fuel so we had to stop in Paris. Just as we were about to land here in the Arctic I saw some polar bear cubs with their mum. Everyone was really excited. I better go. I have to help set up the observation post. Bye.

Yours thankfully, Zara

Dear Mom and Dad,

I miss you. It's really cold. I saw a polar bear with my friends and I almost fell through the ice but I'm fine and I'm having lots of fun. I hope to see you soon.

From your son, Dylan



Hi Mom,

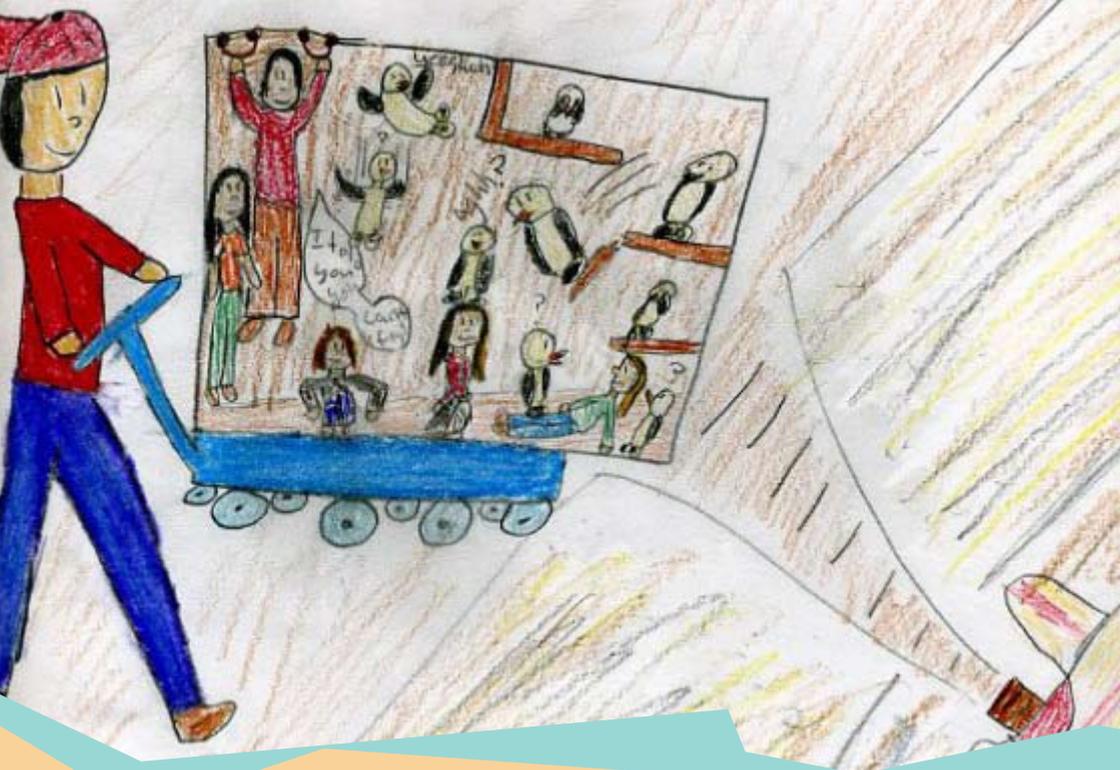
How are you doing? It is so cold in the Arctic. We caught our first polar bear today. See you in a few weeks. I love you!

Riley

Dear Mum,

Hi Mum. How is it going there? We are in the Arctic It was so cold here today. We all had the day off so we went for a little walk. I saw a polar bear smashing the ice to catch the seal and we all spotted walruses on the ice. How is Dad? Everybody is fine here. We are having a big day here tomorrow and I have to wake up really early. I will write to you soon.

Yours sincerely, Tia



Dear Dad,

Hello Dad. How are you? I'm OK. I have been working so hard. We saw a family of polar bears today and we caught them all successfully. It was hard work but we did it. My highlight of the day was watching the Aurora Borealis lights. It was beautiful! How is everybody going there? We are all great here. Good luck with the show tomorrow.

Yours truly, Tia

Dear Mum and Dad,

How are you? I am great. At the moment we are in the Arctic. It is freezing here. We are so excited because today we caught our very first polar bear. Anyway, today we are flying down to Antarctica to set the polar bears free. Wish me luck!

Yours sincerely, Tia

Letters from Antarctica

Dear Dempsey,

Hi bro. How are you? I'm fantastic. Today we have landed safely in the freezing Antarctica. When we parked the truck, we had a bit of fun in the snow. Tonight I have to cook dinner. I hope it turns out all right. All the polar bears got out of the truck safely and are fitting in well. I'm so excited about coming home tomorrow. Hopefully, I will see you this week.

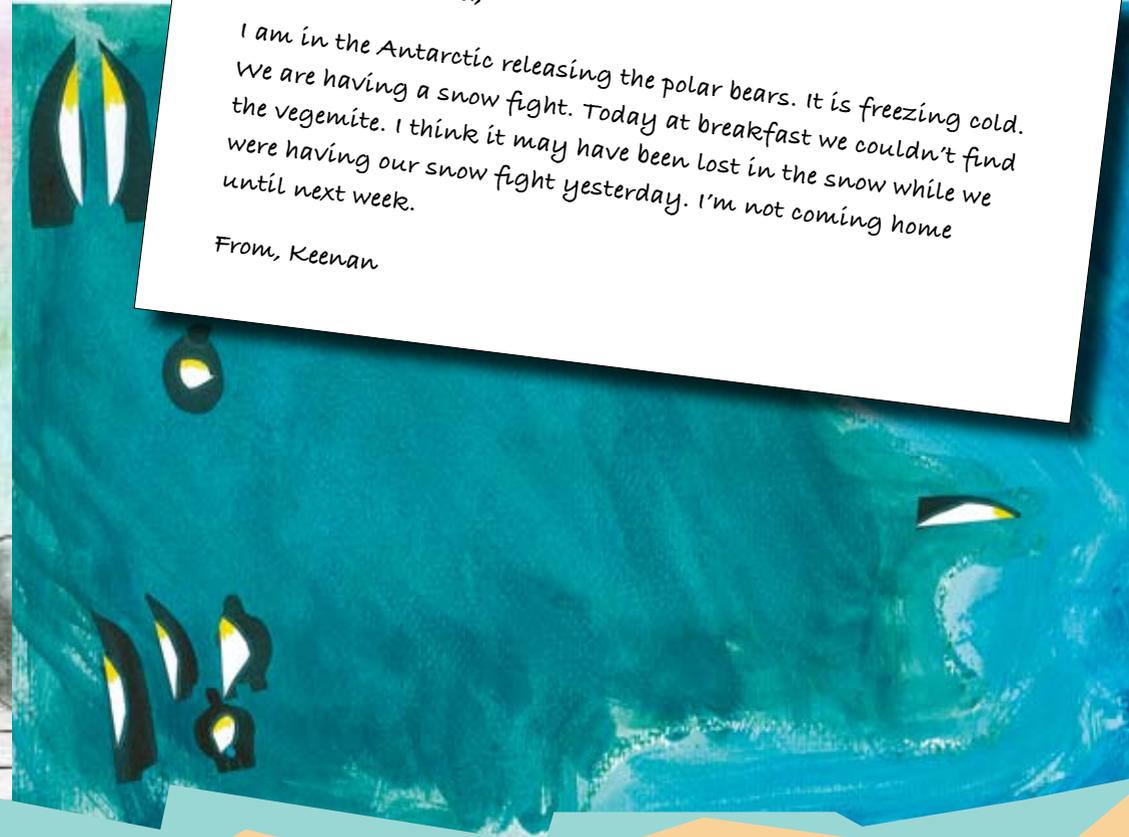
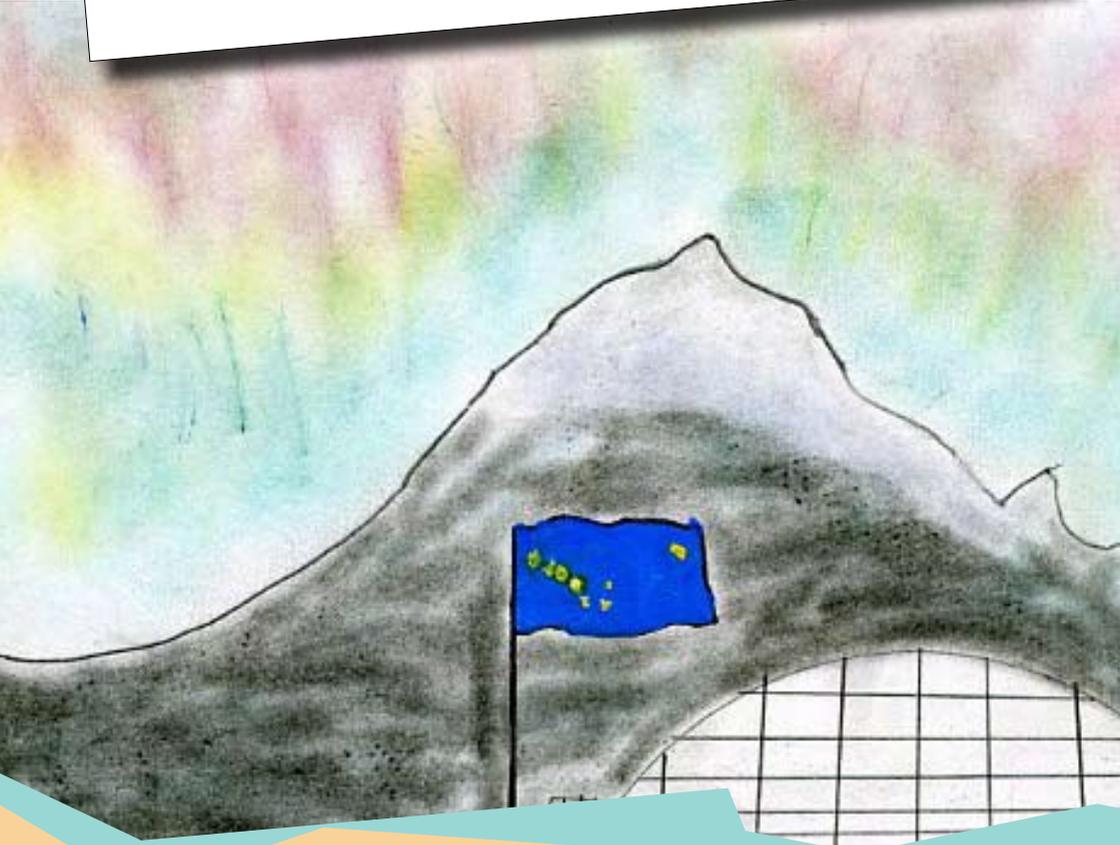
Yours sincerely, Tia

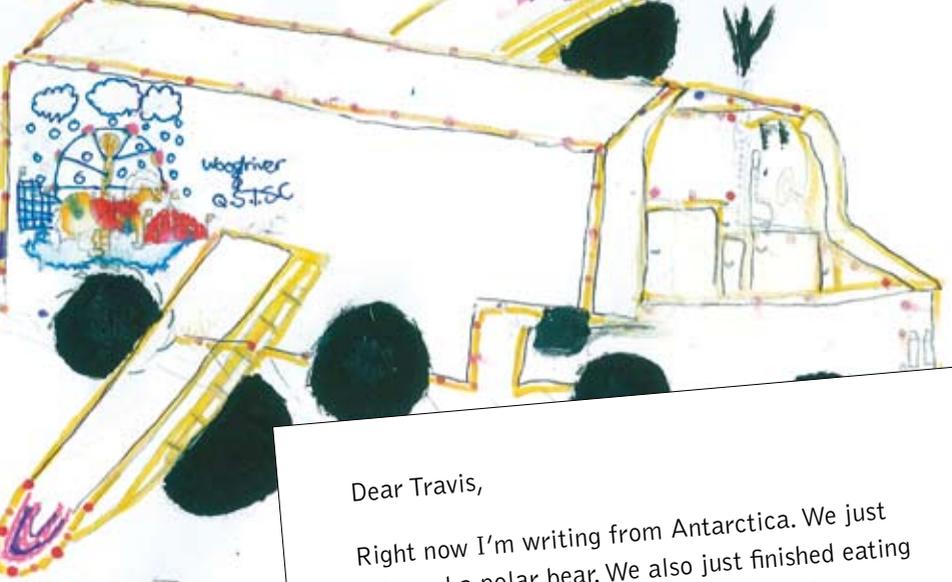


Dear Mum and Dad,

I am in the Antarctic releasing the polar bears. It is freezing cold. We are having a snow fight. Today at breakfast we couldn't find the vegemite. I think it may have been lost in the snow while we were having our snow fight yesterday. I'm not coming home until next week.

From, Keenan





Dear Travis,

Right now I'm writing from Antarctica. We just released a polar bear. We also just finished eating dinner. Some Australian kids came and they said we could help release some polar bears in Antarctica. That's why we're down here.

Your sister, Piper
PS I really miss you guys. I'll probably be back in about a week or so.



Freeze! Fact

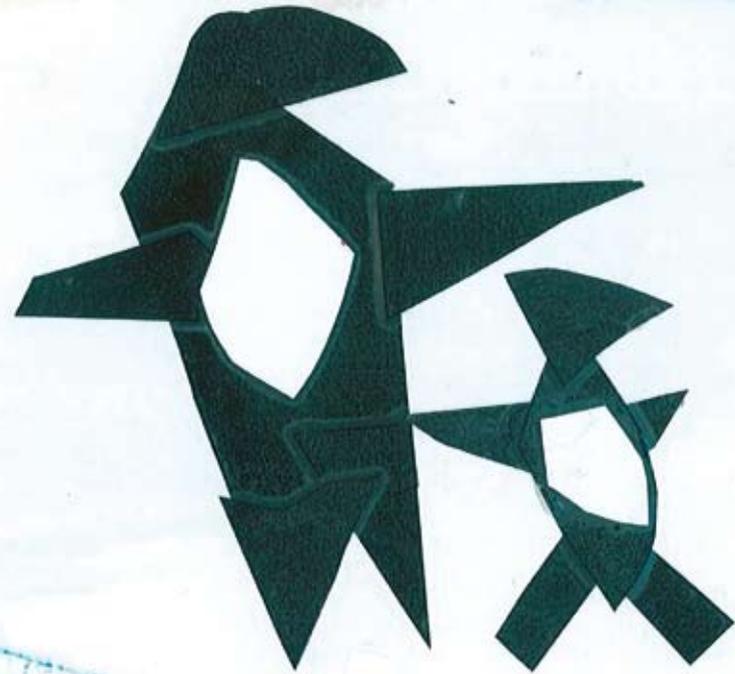
Fish: Kinds of fish in Antarctica are Antarctic cod, ice fish, crocodile fish, dragon fish, robberfish, rat tailed fish, hagfish, skates, and Antarctic toothfish. The mackerel icefish eats krill. The yellow rock-cod is common close to shore.



Dear Connor,

We are having fun here in Antarctica. The polar bears have been hunting seals and are getting very healthy. A polar bear bit my finger off. Our doctor stitched it up but it sure did hurt and it feels weird. It is hard to hold things and eating is a bit tricky. The doctor said it will feel normal in a couple of months. We still have work to do but I will write again soon.

Yours sincerely, Keenan



Dear Mom,

It is not so good here but the plane was not as bumpy as I thought. The next day, I got frostbite but it's gone now. I still get it once in a while. Oh, yeah, when I first got out of the plane, I almost froze. I'm writing in a cave. I wonder if Antarctica is colder than the Arctic. On the plane I made a few friends.

Love, Jewelynn

Hi Bab,

I got chased by a polar bear when we were in the Arctic. I did not know that I was his food. I started to slide and glide and he stopped chasing me. Then in Antarctica, I sat on a leopard seal 'cause I thought it was a rock. He went wild and tossed me off and broke the ice. I'm having fun.

Scott



Freeze! Fact

Leopard seals eat penguins, fish, squid and krill. Did you know that they are the only seals in the Antarctic that eat other seals? Leopard seals catch penguins by their feet and then beat them back and forth on the surface of the water to skin them. Then they eat the carcass.

Dear Ash,

How are you? I am fine and warm inside our truck in Antarctica. Last night I saw krill frozen in the ice. I went swimming to get the box of food that fell in. I had to wear a thick rubber wetsuit. I had to be on watch for seals. I really enjoyed seeing the penguins.

Yours truly, Myah

Dear Mama,

I am feeling good. How are you? Today earlier, I saw Adele penguins. They are so cute! How is my brother doing? I am having lots of fun. It is so much colder than I thought. I hope to be home in a week or two. I miss you!

Love, Annemarie

Hello Mom & Dad,

I am in Antarctica. I am almost done with this mission. It is super hard trying to help some kids who came here. So we just finished for the night. When I go outside it is super cold. Every time I see some penguins they always come to me and just stare at me.



Freeze! Fact

Adelie penguins breed only in Antarctica. They are only kept captive in a few places like the Sea World parks. Adelie penguins make nests out of small stones. They can dive up to 500 feet! but they prefer to dive shallower to catch prey. They eat krill and small fish.

Dear Cole,

I'm in Antarctica. It's freezing but I found an ice cave and started to dig a hole. While I was digging, I noticed different forms of ice and I found a small meteorite! Then I decided to mine meteorites. I set up bridges and zip lines to get around the cave Well got to go. I think I see a meteorite!

Tane

Dear Brother Brody,

I am just on my way back to the tent after releasing the polar bears. It was twenty five below zero today which is pretty normal. I have had heaps of fun helping the polar bears and I can't wait to see you next week.

Yours truly, Zara

Dear Nan,

How are you? I am having fun in Antarctica. It's freezing but warm in the Truck. At night the Aurora Australis comes out and is so pretty.

Yours sincerely, Tanah





Dear Nan,

We are on our way home. We successfully released all of the polar bears. When they walked out of their crate they jumped straight into the water and caught some fish. It has been a very cold summer but I still enjoyed it. On one mission when we were seeing if the temperature in Antarctica was suitable for polar bears, a huge albatross flew over my head. It was the biggest bird I have ever seen. See you tomorrow.

Yours faithfully, Zara

Dear Pop,

Hello Pop. I am currently in Antarctica. We have just released all of the polar bears and are getting ready to come home. One polar bear is pregnant so we have to take extra special care of her. We think she is going to have twins. We released her in a place where she can happily build her den. I can't wait to come home. I am really missing all of you. I will see you on Friday.

Yours truly, Zara



Talina,

The pregnant polar bear just had cubs! Soon it was time to pack up to go back to the Arctic to bring more polar bears.

Louis at Antarctica



Ice E-Mystery

This book is one of a series of e-books resulting from a collaborative writing project between Australian and Alaskan school classes based around polar science. The ICE E-MYSTERY: Global student Polar e-books project ran through 2008/9 and involved over 400 students in 24 classes from these two countries.

The Ice e-Mystery Project explored polar science through an innovative approach to science, art and literacy education. Students from throughout Australia and North America worked together (paired classes across the hemispheres) to write and illustrate on-line e-books in a predominately mystery genre focused around the themes of polar science. Students were guided by Teacher Associates trained in Antarctic science, classroom teachers trained in the project methodology and polar sciences and resources from national research organisations such as the Australian Antarctic Division, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Tasmanian and Museum and Art Gallery and Antarctic related Cooperative Research Centres. Classroom activities were augmented by visits to museums, science organisations and contact with researchers in Antarctica.

A key outcome of the project was the development of an international learning community of school students, teachers, postgraduate students and scientists.

The project workspace can be viewed at www.iem.tmag.tas.gov.au where students drafted their collaborations and posted comments to each other on developmental ideas. The full range of e-books in the series is also viewable at this site.

The project was coordinated by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Key partners were the Australian Government, National Science Foundation (USA), University of Alaska (Fairbanks), the University of Tasmania and the Education Departments of Tasmanian, Queensland and Alaska.

Acknowledgements

Andy Baird	Project Coordinator
Sandy Zicus	Deputy Coordinator
Elena B. Sparrow	Alaskan Convener
Martha Kopplin	Deputy Alaska Convener
Alan Miller	Project liaison Alaska
Joel Pedro	Post Graduate Teacher Associate
Jacqui Foster	Post Graduate Teacher Associate
Alex Fraser	Post Graduate Teacher Associate
Coral Tulloch	Editor
Jess Atkinson	Graphic Designer
Brian Martin	Web Designer

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This material has been developed as a part of the Australian School Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics Project funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training as a part of the Boosting Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics Teaching (BISTMT) Programme.

Tasmanian Museum
& Art Gallery



