

# ArcticNet

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## ArcticNet Outreach in Nunavut: Integrating Science and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit

**Q**armartalik School is a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school located 880 km north of the Arctic Circle in Resolute Bay, Nunavut. Through our Outreach Program we have developed numerous partnerships with local organizations, universities, and national and international companies. These partnerships provide an opportunity to expose and educate our

students to scientific research and discoveries, natural resources, and future means of employment in their community and beyond.

Our latest partnership is with scientists in ArcticNet. Professor Trevor Bell's Arctic research group from Memorial University of Newfoundland has paid us a series of visits and made presenta-

tions to our students that were greatly enjoyed and appreciated. A science team from Université Laval, under the direction of Professor Warwick Vincent, visited Qarmartalik School this past spring. During their visit there was a mutual exchange of information. The team shared their research and Arctic experiences with students and staff. In return, the school highlighted the educational

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philosophy and talents of the students. Qarmartalik School has formulated an educational philosophy based on the principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (Inuit societal values): respect and building relationships; teamwork and consensus; collaboration; inclusion; shared understanding; environmental stewardship; knowledge acquisition; and service. These principles comprise the values, beliefs, traditions, and mores of the Inuit people, and the formation of our partnership with ArcticNet supports these various facets of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

It was during a discussion with Principal Brian Manning and Outreach Coordinator Tracey MacMillan that Dr. Vincent and his team discussed how to include the students of Qarmartalik School in the ArcticNet and International Polar Year science programs. A number of initiatives are being planned including student input to the ArcticNet website and on-

going visits to the School by ArcticNet researchers. One of these ideas came to fruition this fall. All students from grades three to twelve and their teachers boarded the CCGS Amundsen when it paid a community visit to Resolute Bay during the 2006 ArcticNet Expedition. Aboard the ship, students received guided tours and were exposed to the science labs, research, and experiments that were being conducted. The students immensely enjoyed this experience and it greatly stimulated their interest in science. During the evening, Inuit Elders from the Resolute Bay community, who also play an important role in our school education program, visited the ship for dinner. This provided an opportunity to share their knowledge and experience with the scientists onboard and to learn more about ArcticNet.

At Qarmartalik School we want to provide our students with a well-rounded education. Exposure to researchers is a



valuable educational experience and we look forward to ongoing exchanges. Further collaboration with ArcticNet will serve to promote scientific awareness and enhance the delivery of our science curriculum, and will provide an ongoing opportunity to share our knowledge of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

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