Times photo by Dave Schwarz, dschwarz@stcloudtimes.com

St. Cloud State University geology professor Kate Pound explains her upcoming research trip to Antarctica to fourth-graders at Talahi Community School.

DEPARTING FOR ANTARCTICA

Professor talks with students about research trip

By Dave Aeikens
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Kate Pound covered her head with three layers of clothes, slipped some snow goggles on her face and asked, "Could you have recognized me if you didn't know me?"

The group of fourth-graders at Talahi Community School who were learning Friday about Pound's upcoming trip to Antarctica gave her a resounding "no."

Pound, a St. Cloud State University geology professor, leaves Oct. 1 for Antarctica on a mission for ANDRILL. The international organization is drilling in Antarctica to learn more about the Earth's climate.

Pound will analyze samples from the McMurdo Ice Shelf to track climate changes during Antarctica's 17-million-year history. Scientists believe that learning about the continent's previous climate can tell them what's in store for the future.

"It was nice of her to explain what they are doing. It sounds like complicated drilling," said Vince Vosen, a fourth-grader.

Pound brought five large posters and a bag full of the warm clothes she will have to wear to deal with the South Pole's icy temperatures. Pound and the ANDRILL group will be there during what is summer in Antarctica, when temperatures hit about 2 degrees below zero and it is daylight most of the day.

"When we go outside, we are going to have to wear our cold-weather gear," she told the children. "It's going to be very cold."

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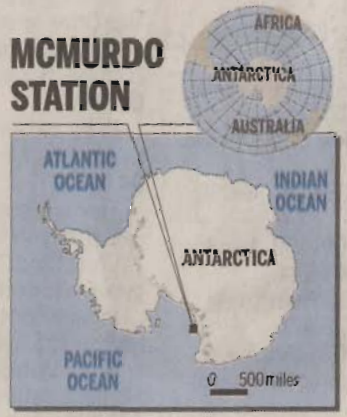

Times graphic

MORE ONLINE

To see a video of Kate Pound, go to www.sctimes.com and click on the link to this story.


Kate Pound shows an area of Antarctica where she'll be researching.