

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Presidents Elementary class was engaged in online learning before outbreak**

ARLINGTON- Fifth-grade students in Danene Severson's class at Presidents Elementary were engaged in online learning before the COVID-19 outbreak shut down schools in Washington state.

The students participated in a YouTube video on March 10 through the National Geographic Explorer Classroom Program. The program connects classes from all over the world. The March 10 program featured journalist Jennifer Kingsley and followed her journey from 2015 to 2018 through the Arctic, which focused on Iceland, Greenland, Norway, Canada, Alaska and Eastern Russia.

This online learning helps supplement what students are learning in the classroom. In Ms. Severson's class, they've been studying the Vikings and the Arctic.

During the broadcast, students from Ms. Severson's class and students in other locations were able to ask questions of Kingsley about her journey, which was focused on cross cultural understanding. Delainey Henderson from Ms. Severson's class asked Ms. Kingsley what the most unusual food was that she ate during her journey. Her answer was fermented walrus! Another question that was asked of Kingsley was how she liked to learn about the world.

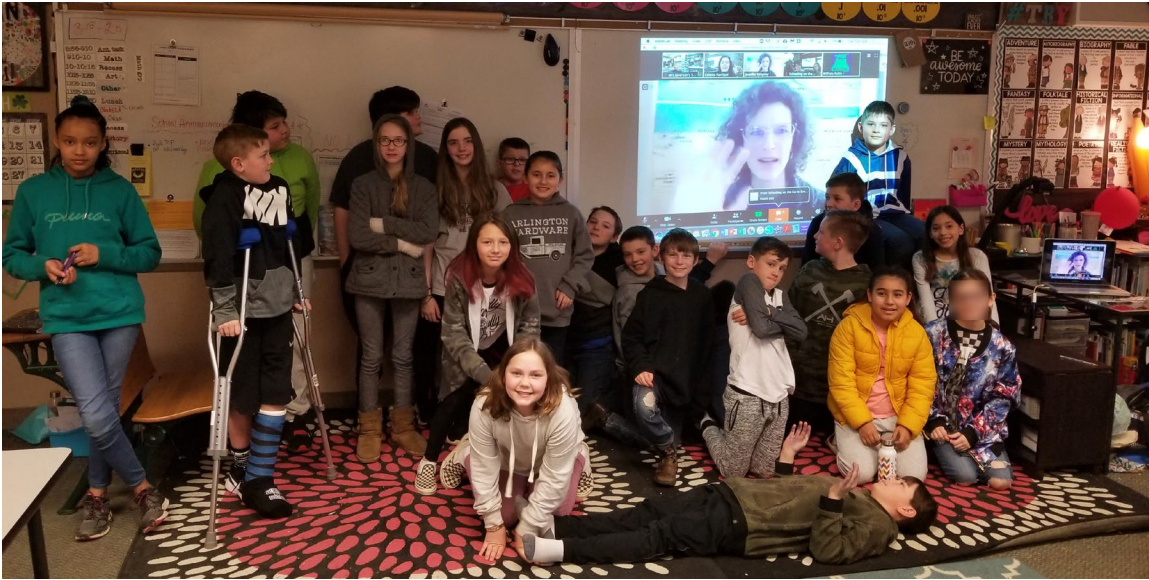
"It was an "Un-Google-able" journey," said Kingsley. "You can learn so much online but what else is out there?"

This was the second online broadcast Ms. Severson's class participated in since the start of 2020. They also participated in a broadcast with NASA in January.

"This online learning helps students see how life is different in other parts of the country and the world," said Severson. "It really shows them something that they normally wouldn't be able to see inside the classroom."

The National Geographic Explorer Classroom is live every day at 11 a.m. PST.

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Fifth grade students in Danene Severson's class at Presidents Elementary pose during a live National Geographic Explorer Classroom YouTube broadcast. The students participated in the broadcast on March 10, before schools were closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.