




St. Joan of Arc Secondary School

SJA to New Zealand

**New Zealand
Exchange Programme 2013**





Words from Ms. Y. Ho



Last summer, on the 29th June 2013, 15 of our students and 2 teachers packed their bags, got onto a plane and flew for about 11 hours to Auckland, New Zealand. The aim was for our students to learn about a new culture, take care of themselves and of course to improve their English competence. While over there, the students lived in the homes of local New Zealanders from the schools they attended or “kiwis” as they call themselves. They attended Elim Christian College every day and visited places of interest and educational value. At their homestay families, the students had no option but to communicate in English and very often they helped with the household chores such as washing the dishes and doing the laundry. At school, they followed their buddies to lessons such as Music, History, Maths and even Maori. Such an experience was invaluable as not only knowledge was gained, but they also became more self-motivated and more willing to take their own responsibility for learning as their New Zealand buddies did.

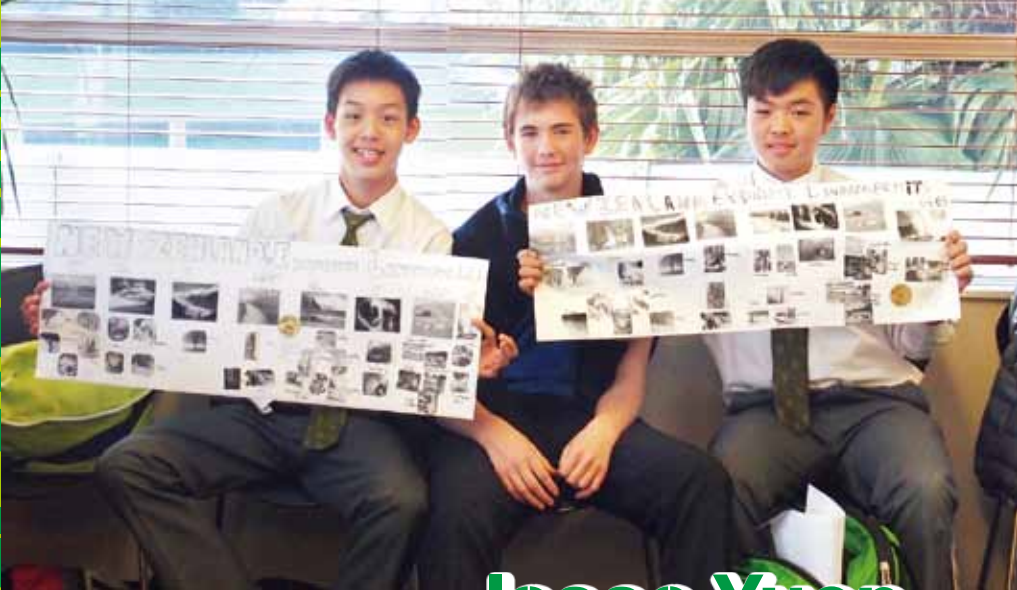
On one of the weekends, they took a trip to see some of the scenic places and to learn about the rich culture of New Zealand as well as the organic farming and exotic landscapes which New Zealand is famous for. After 16 days, on the 14th July 2013, they returned to Hong Kong.

Ms. Yvonne Ho (English Panel Head)



Hong Kong to New Zealand

Date	Activity
29/6	Depart for Auckland
30/6	Arrive in Auckland / Meet homestay hosts
1/7	a.m. and p.m. English lesson
2/7	
3/7	a.m. English lesson
4/7	
5/7	p.m. School lesson / activity
6/7	a.m. Visit Sky Tower p.m. Visit Cornwall Park and the Zoo
7/7	Host family day
8/7	a.m. English lesson p.m. School lesson/activity
9/7	a.m. City tour p.m. Visit Auckland Museum
10/7	a.m. English lesson, morning assembly p.m. Farewell and evaluation
11/7	Eco tour
12/7	
13/7	Eco tour Depart for Hong Kong
14/7	Arrive in Hong Kong



Isaac Yuen



This was the first time I had travelled to New Zealand. New Zealand is a beautiful place. It has beautiful scenery, nice homestays and kind teachers. It was my own idea to go to New Zealand. I heard about it from my friend Jasper as he joined the programme last year. When the plane was about to take off, I felt excited. I was imagining how life in New Zealand would be like? My first impression of New Zealand was that it was a relaxing place. In my mind, the air in New Zealand is fresh!

People are kind and there are more sheep than people. Right after we arrived, we saw an amazing double rainbow which is rare in Hong Kong but common in New Zealand. While I was still worrying whether I could adapt to my life in New Zealand, I met my homestay. They were kind and friendly. The most difficult part of this trip was time management. As it was the first time I had travelled alone, I had to take care of myself. I felt a bit overwhelmed when thousands of things were waiting for me to do. My most enjoyable experience was shopping and my visit to Cockle Bay and Eastern Beach. They have beautiful views. I love the scenery in New Zealand. The people in New Zealand are amazing too. I love everything about New Zealand.

Jeffrey Leung

This was the first time I had been to New Zealand. It was my mother's idea to experience a different life there! I felt very enthusiastic but also nervous before my departure. I tried to imagine what the people would be like and what things would happen. But, when I arrived in New Zealand, it was totally different from what I had imagined. It was so much better!

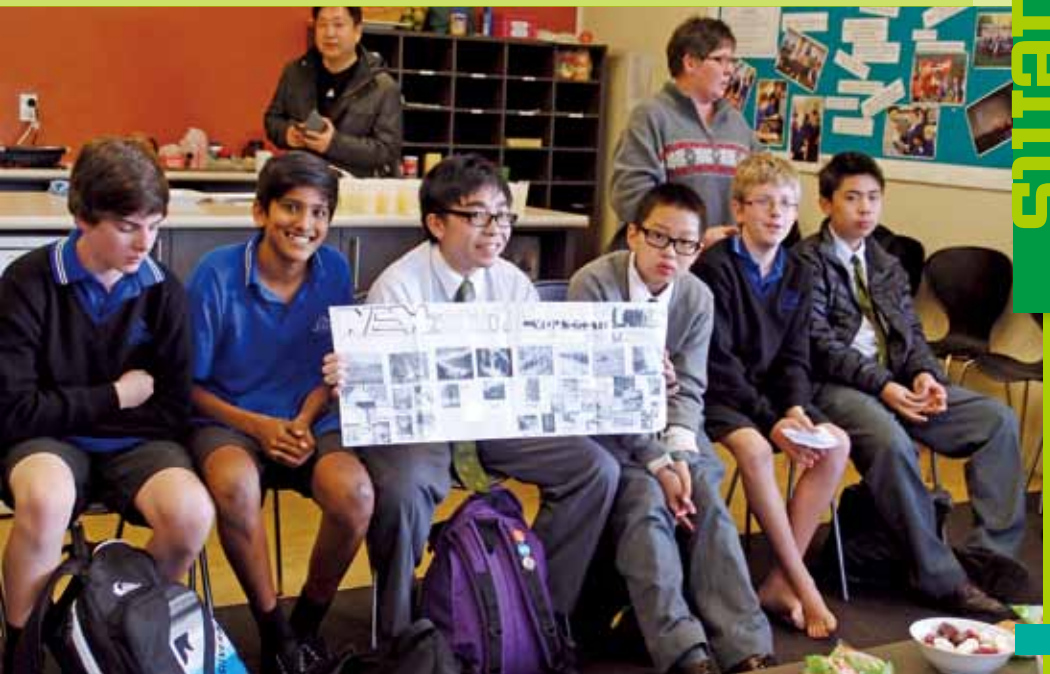
When I was on my way to meet my homestay, I saw beautiful scenery and also animals like cows and birds all around. For the first time ever, I saw a rainbow, a double rainbow!

When I met my homestay for the first time, I was both worried and excited. I was apprehensive about what kind of people they would be. Fortunately, they were kind and nice. They took us to Cockle Bay and Eastern Beach. When we got into their home, they explained the details of what we could do and what we had to do. I was

a bit overwhelmed and confused. Luckily, my friend Isaac helped me and explained to me the details. I really thanked him.

The most enjoyable experience was when Sophia, my host mum, took us to those beautiful bays and beaches. The bays and the beaches were all different to those back in Hong Kong. They were really amazing and gorgeous! We were thrilled with how beautiful they were. When I went to Elim College, I was surprised. It was so big! In Hong Kong, we don't have music in our morning assembly but they played music and sang every time. That was a bit strange to me, but I was interested in it. I met many people and made a lot of friends. My assigned buddy was friendly and nice and so were his friends. I really enjoyed my life in New Zealand! I love it!

Sharing of our students





Calvin Chung

It was my idea to go to New Zealand because I heard that Auckland was an amazing city from my cousin. I felt excited before I went to New Zealand as this was the first time I had travelled with my friends. My mum felt worried though before I left because I was going alone without her!

My first impression of New Zealand was great with beautiful scenery. The air in New Zealand was much better than that in Hong Kong. I was scared before I met my homestay as I had no idea what they would be like. Luckily, they were all nice people. The most difficult part of my trip, I think, was talking to the homestay family and my buddy because my English was not really good. I always felt anxious about talking to them. The most enjoyable thing was that I have made lots of friends especially my buddy. At the end of the trip, I felt at ease to communicate with them in English. This trip really helped build my confidence in using the language.



Nickel Tsang

It was my idea to go to New Zealand. I was enthusiastic to go because I wanted to improve my English.

On the days before departure, I felt a bit worried though. I questioned whether I should go to New Zealand because it was my first time to go on a trip by myself and I knew that I would miss my parents. However, after we arrived, I was so amazed. The scenery in New Zealand was beautiful and beyond my expectations. I liked the weather too.

When we left the airport, we took a bus to a school to meet our homestay. When we saw our homestay, Mr. Scott, I thought he was really kind to Calvin and me.

Then we arrived at their house. I felt so excited as their house was so big with a beautiful garden outside. There was also a cute cat called Spider too. I always played with the cat even though sometimes it bit my hands. Thankfully, it's not painful.

I think that the most difficult part of the trip was getting on well with the cat. But after a few days, we became friends and it would jump on my lap whenever I was sitting on the couch.

We played shooting games and some board games with our homestay, it was so enjoyable and fun to play with them.



Life in New Zealand

School Life in New Zealand



Life in New Zealand

Sightseeing



Homestay families



Life in New Zealand

Eco tour



Farewell



Life in Hong Kong

BBQ



Farewell



Life in Hong Kong

Homestay



Cultural Exchange with Primary School Students



Life in Hong Kong

School Life in SJA



SIGHTSEEING



Lucie

This programme has been a really great experience for me. I have made lots of new friends who I will always remember. I want to thank my homestay family for providing

a home for me and also all the teachers who helped make this trip possible. I will never forget my experience here in SJA.



Cooper

Hong Kong has been so much fun! I will remember this experience forever. We have done so much and I have learnt so much about Hong Kong and the people around me, from and not from NZ!

I have grown closer to all of the

Ponsonby students, and I have made loads of friends in Hong Kong who I will try to keep in contact with and hopefully meet again. It was so much fun. It will stay with me forever. Thanks to everyone who made this possible.



Amelia Lloyd

It was so much fun making friends with people from St Joan of Arc and they were all very nice and welcoming. I would like to thank Eason for helping me get to places and for showing me cool things in Hong Kong. I also want to thank Ms. Wong, my homestay for letting me into her house and taking good care of me. This was an amazing experience and I am so happy I came on this trip to Hong Kong.



Mia



I think it was a great opportunity coming to Hong Kong. It was wonderful to try so many new things and meet so many new people.

I would like to say thank you to Calvin and his family for looking after Alex and I. Also the teachers, thank you, we could not have done it without you.

I would lastly like to thank my parents for paying for me to come!

I will never forget this TRIP!

Henri Locke

Hong Kong has been a very big step for a lot of us at the age of 11-13, we have been very privileged. I have very much enjoyed experiencing the different life style and from now on "taking things for granted" is no longer in my vocabulary. Benjamin, Anson and their family have taken incredible care of me. From not knowing how to spell his name, Benjamin and I have grown incredibly close. He is more like my brother.



Benjamin Hu

This year, I was once again one of the homestay buddies of the New Zealand Cultural Exchange Programme. I was lucky to have Henri Locke as my homestay buddy. After just ten days living together, we developed a really dear friendship which will last for years to come.

The whole programme has been memorable and I have learnt a lot. I still remember most of all the first and last day Henri was in Hong Kong. On the first day, I am not sure why but I think it is because I was shy, we did not talk much. We went home and we ate together but we did not eat much and he was really tired due to the time difference. He just told me the usual things about Hong Kong such as the weather was too hot and so on. He also told me that he was a boy who liked singing and a bit of dancing.

On the last day, everything was so different. It seemed like we had so much to talk about and we just could not stop. We were best friends. One unforgettable moment was when he reminded me that he



would be leaving the next day, I simply lost control and the tears started coming out. Henri started singing a song – *Someone Like You*. This really touched me and we hugged each other. We had built a friendship in just 10 days.

When Henri left and got on the bus, I started to cry again as I knew that it would be a very long time before we would be able to see each other again. Mr. Ho comforted me, but I just couldn't stop crying and when I got home and saw all the things he had given me I started crying again. This programme made me learn the value of friendship and also how to care for another person. I will miss Henri a lot but the memory of our time together will never leave my mind. Who knows one day surely we will cross paths.

Gaston Yeng

In the trip, I met a lot of new friends from New Zealand. When I first met them, I was not sure if I could interact with them as they were all strangers to me at that time. I don't usually make friends with others within just one week but this programme taught me something different. All the New Zealand buddies were friendly and easygoing. After spending some time together, we became friends. Even though our English was not that good, they really enjoyed talking to us. It's a totally new experience to me. I brought them to different places in Hong Kong and showed them everything I knew about our school. In return, they introduced their culture, scenic spots and traditional festivals to me. After this programme, I did not only improve my English, but also met a lot of good friends. We have exchanged Facebook and Instagram accounts and I hope we can still keep in touch miles apart.



Donald Mak

On 25th September, I met my buddy Maka for the first time. She was friendly and nice. We spent a wonderful evening with other buddies in Sai Kung. During her stay in Hong Kong, I was her host and I took her to many different places in Hong Kong, for example, Causeway Bay and Wan Chai. We did a lot of shopping and I introduced a movie *Mulan 2* to her. She really enjoyed watching it. Time flies and the 10-day programme finally came to the end. The whole experience was amazing and I made a lot of new friends. From my buddies, I knew New Zealand was a wonderful country. I am looking forward to seeing them again.



Austin Chan

When I first met my New Zealand buddies, I was excited because I could meet them in person, not just through e-mail. They are Ella Edwards and Rebecca Godfrey. Both of them are kind and friendly. During their stay, we chatted and laughed a lot. I took them to try different food in Hong Kong. You know what? They loved pizzas and desserts the most. Time flies and on the day they left, I was not really prepared and I felt a bit lost after they had gone. I can't believe that we can be such good friends after only ten days. Even now, we still keep in touch with Facebook and Instagram. At the beginning of the programme, I just wanted to improve my English and have some fun hanging out with the New Zealand buddies. However, what I treasure most at the moment is our friendship. It really feels great to have good friends miles away.



Jeffrey Lai

I am very happy that I had the opportunity to join the New Zealand exchange programme both as a group leader and a homestay buddy. This programme has taught me a lot. The first thing I learnt was that taking care of a person was not as easy as I expected. I had to be really sensitive to the needs of my buddy Darcy and make sure that he was well looked after and taken care of. I was responsible for his safety and this made me alert and aware of my surroundings. I think it was good for me because I realised that taking care of others is not easy and we should appreciate those people who take care of us.

Moreover, I had the opportunity to teach the primary school students through our cultural exchange programme and introduce them to our New Zealand friends. In fact, when I was asked to be a group leader to lead our programme, I really did not want to do it.

However, during the presentation, I discovered that being a teacher is very difficult because if the students are not attentive, I cannot teach them. Luckily, the students were very good and active. The programme made me realize that I should not only look at things from my point of view but also understand the point of view of other people. I will surely appreciate my teachers more.

In the programme I also made a lot of new friends and Darcy and I still keep in touch electronically. I hope that I can have another chance to join this programme next year.



Itinerary

New Zealand Students to Hong Kong

Date	Activity
25/9	Arrive Hong Kong Visiting the Sai Kung fishing township
26/9	Hong Kong Highlight Tour Picked up by host families at SJA
27/9	Whole day trip: Big Buddha/Ngong Ping Market/Disneyland
28/9-29/9	Sightseeing in Macau and return to HK on 29/9
30/9	Morning assembly at SJA Visit Ocean Park
1/10	Activities with individual host families
2/10	Cultural Exchange activities with Primary School students Cultural class and interactive activities at SJA
3/10	Cultural Exchange activities with Primary School students English Programme at SJA Football match Evening BBQ at SJA
4/10	Buddies classes Farewell gathering English Café Return to New Zealand



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