



St. Joan of Arc Secondary School

New Zealand
Student
Exchange
Programme
2014

SJA

New Zealand



Sharing from Mr. Martin Ho

Rushing to the airport, I reminded myself of the aims of the tour and the 15 students depending on me. At the airport, everything ran smoothly although checking-in took some time. At 21h00, June 29, 2014, the aircraft took off with 15 students and 2 teachers to our destination Auckland. The flight was going to take about 11 hours so we all settled down and began our journey. The students were excited and eager to meet their homestay families and to see the school they were going to attend.

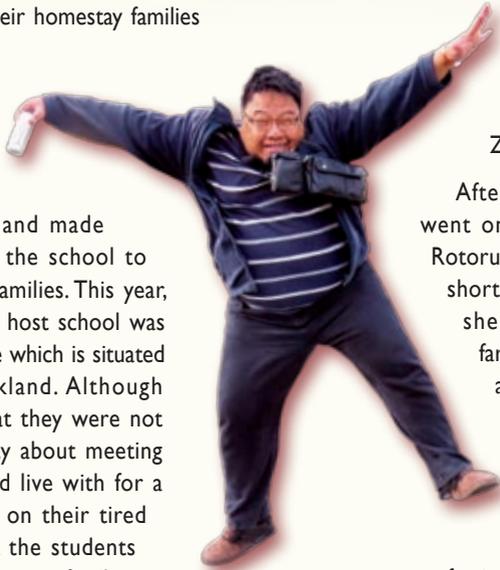
On our arrival, we met with the organiser and made our way directly to the school to meet the homestay families. This year, as with last year, our host school was Elim Christian College which is situated in the East of Auckland. Although the students said that they were not nervous, their anxiety about meeting the family they would live with for a week could be seen on their tired faces. At the school, the students got to meet their homestay families and before long they were chatting and communicating with each other in English. The next day, I heard about how many of the students helped out with the chores at home and about the topics they discussed with their homestay brothers, sisters and parents. Topics included online games, rugby, the World Cup and even how to wash their clothes. It was good to hear how well students were interacting with their homestay families.

At school, students attended English lessons in the mornings and lessons with their buddies in the afternoon. During the English lessons

they learnt about New Zealand culture and even did some arts and crafts related to Maori culture. They learnt to sing a song in Maori and also the Hakka – a war dance. Students in particular enjoyed the classes with their buddies in the afternoon. They would attend the lessons their buddies attended which included Maths, Science, PE, and so on. These classes gave them additional opportunities to use English and get to know more friends in New Zealand.

After 5 days at school, we went on a sightseeing trip to Rotorua and Tauranga. On this short trip, they learnt about sheep farming, kiwi fruit farming, volcanoes, thermal activity and about the first people in New Zealand the Maori. In addition, they got a chance to see the endangered and fascinating Kiwi bird.

On 11 July 2014, we all boarded the aircraft to return to Hong Kong. Many students were sad to leave but happy to be going home so that they could share all that they had learnt and experienced during the trip with their friends and family. Looking back, I must admit when I observed our students interacting, learning, experiencing, developing and improving themselves, the delight and utter joy I felt made all the time and hard work that went into the trip worthwhile.



Itinerary

SJA to New Zealand

Date	Activity
28/6	Depart for Auckland
29/6	Meet homestay hosts
30/6	Orientation and English lesson
1/7-3/7	English lesson and lessons with buddies
4/7	English lesson, lessons with buddies and farewell
5/7	City tour, Mt Eden and Auckland Museum
6/7	Host family day
7/7	Visit Auckland Zoo, MOTAT and Cornwall Park
8/7	Visit Rotorua, Skyline, Hamurana Spring, Agrodome farm show
9/7	Visits Te Puia, geyser, kiwi bird house, Maori show, Government gardens, Tauranga, Kiwi 360 and Comvita Honey Centre, Maclaren Falls Park, glowworms walk
10/7	Visit Mt Maunganui, gold mine at Waihi, cave at K-gorge, tour evaluation
11/7	Depart for Hong Kong



Homestay Families



NZ School Life



Sightseeing



Sharing by Howard Oh (6 Faith)



Most students of Hong Kong would choose to hang out with friends or study during the summer. In the summer holiday this year, I chose to have a special summer. I joined a study tour to New Zealand. The tour was not only about travelling around and seeing the sights but more importantly about being able to experience the studying atmosphere and school life in a foreign country.

In the first half of the tour, we were hosted by Elim Christian College. Through the visit, I found there was a huge difference between Hong Kong and New Zealand. Schools in Hong Kong are quite strict and there are long lists of rules which regulate almost everything. However, in New Zealand, schools are filled with freedom. Teachers teach students in a laissez-faire way. For us, Hong Kong kids, we would find schools in New Zealand quite enjoyable. Perhaps we would even love studying.

The other half of the trip was about travelling to different towns and also having some fun. In fact before the trip, I knew nothing about New Zealand but travelling through New Zealand has taught me a lot. At the Auckland Museum, I learnt about volcanoes and also the history of New Zealand. It was quite fascinating. During our trip to Rotorua, we also went on a ship and enjoyed the view of the lake while having a buffet lunch. It was amazing and beautiful. I will never forget the feeling.

The favourite part of my trip was being able to go to Skyline Rotorua and ride on the Luge, which is a go-cart ride and play on the sky swing. Both these things are not found in Hong Kong so it was really an exciting and new experience for me. I would really recommend the trip to everyone as it was not only enjoyable but also educational.

Sharing by Kenneth Cheng (2 Faith)

This was my first trip to New Zealand. It was also the overseas trip that I liked the most of all. The trip was really enjoyable and I learnt about how New Zealand students have their lessons in school and their traditional culture. It was such a meaningful trip.

In the first week, we needed to attend school at Elim Christian College. I met our local New Zealand teacher there. She is Mrs Stevenson. When she taught me, she sometimes got angry with me and sometimes brought me a lot of fun. She has taught in the school for a long time. She has two daughters and I we even met one of her daughters because she taught us how to sing a traditional Maori song. Mrs Stevenson taught me a lot of knowledge about New Zealand. She is the best teacher in the world.

I also met my homestay parents – Uncle Justin and Auntie Debbie. They have many children who are very nice and friendly too. My homestay family took care of me for a whole week. They needed to prepare three meals for me, wash my clothes and

let me have a comfortable house to live in. They would even pick me up from school. I felt very grateful for all that they did for me.

The second week, I needed to leave my homestay. I went sightseeing in Auckland and travelled to Rotorua with my school mates. During my travels, I was able to visit a volcano crater, an L&P factory, a Honey centre, a kiwi bird enclosure and many other places of interest. On one of the days while I was in Auckland, I was able to meet Millar who stayed in my home when he came to Hong Kong to have a cultural exchange tour with our school. He and his parents took me around Auckland and we visited Sky Tower. It is the highest building in the Southern Hemisphere. I managed to get a 360 degree view of Auckland. I was very happy to see him again.

I must say that I was very happy to have a chance to visit New Zealand. It was an unforgettable, enjoyable and wonderful trip. I really have some very very good memories. I honestly want to go again next year.



Sharing by Lucas Lau (2 Faith)

It was my first time to go to New Zealand. At first, I thought that the New Zealand trip was going to be boring but after the trip my mind was changed.

In the first week, Jeremy and I went to our homestay's home. She was a lovely lady and her name was Mrs Stevenson. She was a very nice lady and she cooked very well so dinner was my favourite time of the day. It was wonderful. I had Chinese food on Monday, Italian food on Tuesday and something different for each day of the week.

My homestay home was a beautiful farm. There were lots of plants and animals such as chickens and cows. I often went home after school to feed the farm animals. It was a great deal of fun. There was also a small river with some fish in it. Mrs Stevenson always took Jeremy and me to different places. While visit-

ing these places, I realised that there were so many more plants and trees than in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong we just have a lot of high buildings and not enough space for trees and plants. As a result of all these trees and plants, the air in New Zealand is clean and fresh all the time so I really like New Zealand. During the trip, I also learnt a lot of vocabulary and sentence patterns from my homestay who is also an English teacher.

At Elim Christian College, I made a lot of new friends. They took us to classes and shared some funny stories and news with me. I felt very welcome and happy. The school teachers were also very nice and always smiled at us.

I think this trip changed me a lot and I learnt a lot too.





Cultural exchange



Sharing from SJA Students

Raphael Mak (2CH)

This is my first time joining this program. I feel so happy because I can meet lots of new friends. I will definitely join it again next year.

Gaston Yeng (2FA)

I think this is a very good chance to interact with the New Zealand students and to learn more about their culture. Besides, I really had a good time with them and at the same time I can improve my English. I really want to spend more time with them and I hope we can keep in touch miles away and will not lose contact with each other.

Peter Dy (5FA)

It was nice to meet my homestay buddy and I think he is nice and kind. I really enjoyed the time being with the New Zealand students. Although the time was really short, it was good to meet them and be friends with them.

Calvin Lam (3FA)

I am so happy that I can know so many friends from New Zealand in this programme. This is my second time joining this programme. I really enjoy the whole experience. In this programme, I could play, chat and go shopping with them. It was a good experience to make more friends.

Austin Chan (2FA)

I was very happy to have Gracie as my homestay, I really learnt a lot from her and had lots of fun. I met lots of great friends and had a wonderful experience.

Nickel Tsang (3FA)

I'm so happy that I can make many new friends from another country in this exchange programme. I really enjoyed the time playing, chatting and going shopping with them. They're all so kind, friendly and funny. Also, it's a really good experience having someone living together with you.

Dexter Cheng (4HO)

I enjoyed the process a lot. It has been an experience like every other year I've been helping. I really treasured the chance meeting them though we would like to have more time and more activities with the New Zealand students. I honestly loved being a homestay. It taught me a lot about taking care of others.



Remy Fowler

I have had an awesome time in Hong Kong. I have immersed myself in the culture and I had so much fun at the different theme parks. The negative part of the trip was the protests, meaning that we couldn't go to the Peak Tower.

Imogen Southcombe

Hong Kong has been amazing! We have had so many moments, like going to our homestays home for the first time even though it was really scary at first. The whole family welcomed us with open arms. The fireworks at Disneyland was great and I liked how it was themed. I really enjoyed the days we had at school. I have become better friends with everyone.

Poppy-Ellen Frances

I've had a really awesome time in Hong Kong hanging out with my homestays and doing tours and fun activities. Even though I enjoyed a lot of things, I did get sick and had to miss out on enjoying some of the things. But I am really grateful to be here and have had an amazing time.

Kaya Girdlestone

I have had a great time in Hong Kong. I have fallen in love with the food here as well as the culture. I have enjoyed staying with my homestay though I was very tired because I had to wake up very early as my homestay lived on an Island. I did find it very interesting that no cars were allowed on the Island. I would like to thank everyone who has made this trip happen. I have had a great time.

Sharing from Ponsonby Students

Kate Robson

I really enjoyed everything on this trip including the places we went to and the food we tried. Ocean Park and Disneyland were extremely exciting and a great experience. I didn't have many minuses. The only two would be getting sick and the protests because they were scary. Next time the homestays should come to the theme parks with us because we didn't get to spend a lot of time together as a whole group.

Leila Atking

Thank you for making my time in Hong Kong amazing. I had a great time visiting Ocean Park, Disneyland and spending time with my homestay. Once again, thanks. I hope I will visit Hong Kong again as my time was so enjoyable. I have made so many new friends and memories in Hong Kong.

Devina Dullabh

To my homestay/ parents

I'd like to say thank you for opening your house up to me and providing me with many things I needed in Hong Kong. Over the past few days, I've learnt many different things about you and your family. Being in Hong Kong is so much more different to New Zealand. I'm going to miss you so much back at my house. I'll try to keep in contact with all of you.

Much Love

Dylan Suhren

I enjoyed staying with Jeffrey and playing games with him. Also I enjoyed going to Disneyland and Ocean Park. The thing that I was disappointed by was that I was not able to visit any local primary schools.

Zita Short

I enjoyed the Big Buddha and Ngong Ping Market because they were different cultural experiences. I didn't enjoy the fact that the protest happened before National Day. If possible, I think the homestays should have come to Ocean Park and Hong Kong Disneyland with us because it would have been more fun.

My trip to Hong Kong was AMAZING. I enjoyed and savoured the experience and the experience and the moments of Sparks. The Ocean Park and Disneyland trip were AWESOME, and maybe even better. I tried many different cuisines. And I loved them all. The favourite food I had was deep fried cheese balls. My time in Hong Kong was very memorable, and I will remember everything through my photos.

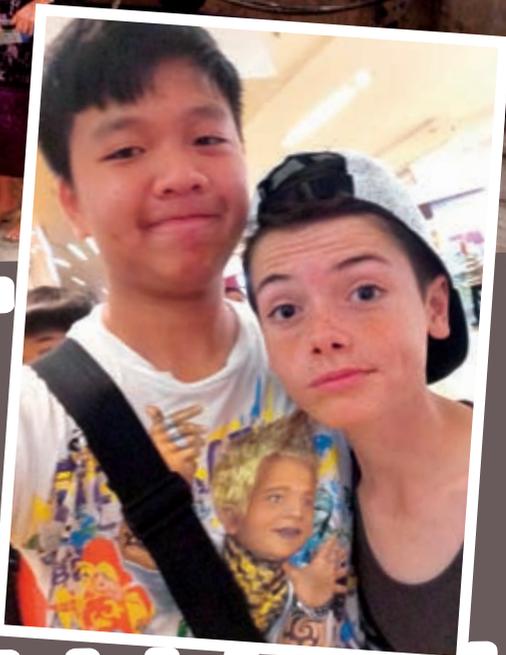
SJA School Life



Sightseeing



Homestory Families



Homestay Families



Itinerary Ponsonby to SJA



Date	Activity
23/9	Sai Kung Seafood Market Visit
24/9	Pick up by host families at SJA
25/9	Lessons at SJA
26/9	Ocean Park Visit
27/9-28/9	Trip to Macau Pick up by Host Families in the evening
29/9	Lessons at SJA/cultural exchange activities
30/1	Lessons at SJA/cultural exchange activities
1/10	Host Family Day
2/10	Back to New Zealand





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