

SD43 International Education

Creating opportunities for everyone to learn and benefit.

Report to the Community – May 2018

Student Cultural Exchange Trip Reaps Big Benefits

SD43's International Education Programs are intended to achieve the goal of internationalization for the benefit of all students and employees, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to be leaders in the globalized world of today and the future. In support of this goal SD43 provides opportunities for teachers, administrators and students to travel abroad and engage with our sister schools.

During the 2018 spring break, 15 students and two teachers from SD43's Port Moody Secondary School went on a journey halfway around the world that changed their lives forever. The group travelled to China on a cultural exchange tour where they visited their sister schools in Guangzhou, China and numerous historical sites.

At each of the three schools they visited, the students took the opportunity to connect with Chinese students in various activities. They participated in Chinese cultural activities including making dim sum, learning the art of paper cutting, playing traditional Chinese outdoor games, learning to play traditional Chinese instruments, and other activities. The sister schools offered the SD43 group warm welcomes, gave amazing presentations and both the Chinese and Canadian students were very excited to meet each other and learn about a new culture.



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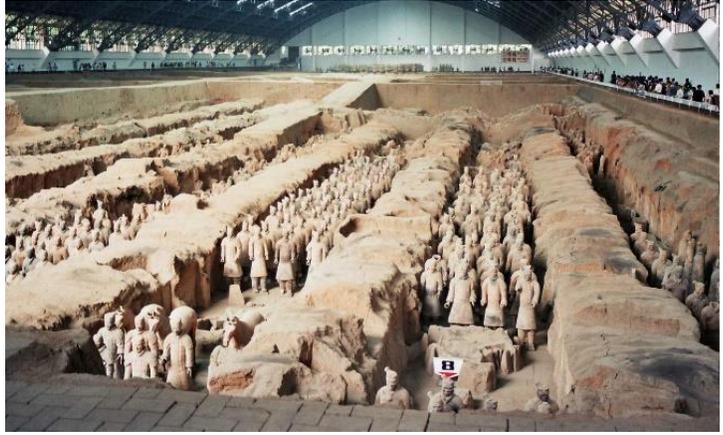
Key purposes of the visit were to connect with SD43's sister schools in China, provide SD43 students a unique opportunity to gain a better understanding of the differences between the Canadian and Chinese education systems, and to explore Chinese history and culture through this hands-on learning opportunity. All students enjoyed the experience immensely as they discovered not only some differences but also many similarities between the students' two cultures and their respective schools and life experiences.



"Going to China was a great experience. My favourite part was meeting Chinese students. It was super cool because they like to use social media, take photos, and listen to music like we do. Even though there was a language and cultural differences we were still able to connect." **Shakil Jessa, grade 11**

A significant part of the cultural education was the learning opportunity for students to visit several important historical sites in China. Their tour began in Hong Kong where they

visited the Big Buddha, Ngong Ping Village, Tai O Fishing Village, and toured Victoria Harbour. While in Guangzhou, they visited Beijing Road Ancient Avenue, Shamian Island, the Ancient Huangpu Port and Village. Students then participated in a workshop on Chinese Tea Culture where they learned about the different teas and tea processing before next travelling to Xi'an to visit the Xi'an Expo Par, the Wild Goose Pagoda, and lastly, they dressed in traditional Chinese costumes and visited the Drum Tower. The highlight of this part of the tour was in Xi'an where they visited the Museum of the Qin Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses.



“This trip was an unforgettable experience especially visiting the schools where we learned about the similarities and differences of our cultures and education. Chinese students study a lot but in Canada we study and do other activities to give us different experiences.” **Rebecca Lyon, grade 10**

From Xi'an the group travelled by express train to Beijing where they spent time at the Temple of Heaven, wandering through Chinese alley markets and popular shopping areas. While in Beijing, they also visited the Olympic Park, Niaochao National Stadium, the Forbidden City, the Gate of Heavenly Peace, the Ming Tombs, and the Summer Palace.



The highlight of the entire trip was the Juyong Pass of the Great Wall where their amazing cultural journey left everyone in awe and with rich educational and cultural experiences they will cherish for the rest of their lives.

“It was amazing to see all the historical sites because we read about them in books and see them on TV but it’s really different being there and seeing them in person. My favourite part was walking on the Great Wall, it was one of the best things I’ve ever done.” **Maddy Hutchinson, grade 10**

Students from SD43 visit countries around the world on similar educational trips to immerse themselves in other cultures and education systems. Likewise, students from other countries visit schools in SD43 to learn about our education, culture, and lifestyle.



“Students can read about other countries and cultures and watch videos, but nothing compares to visiting a foreign country to engage in their culture, language and society. These trips provide students with amazing experiences that will benefit them now and throughout their lives.” **Patricia Gartland, SD43 Superintendent**

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2018 PMSS CHINA TRIP

THE CITIES: HONG KONG



THE CITIES: GUANGZHOU



THE CITIES: XI'AN



THE CITIES: BEIJING



THE SCHOOLS: OUR SISTER SCHOOL





SCHOOL #2



SCHOOL #3: CONFUCIUS ACADEMY

