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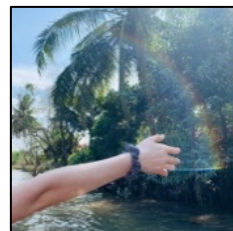
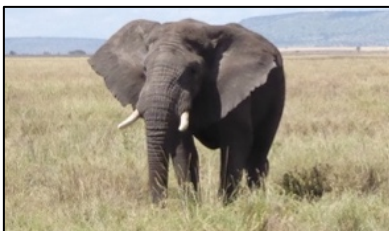


REVIEW

April 2019

Issue #14

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Cover Artwork by Danielle Cole (Grade 11)



Japan A 2019



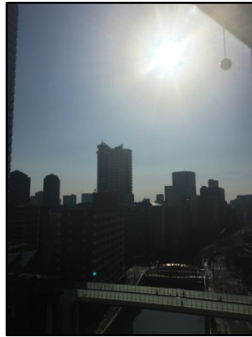
Highlights

By Josie Doherty (Grade 9)

Do you believe you've got what it takes to travel across the world without your parents? I certainly did not think I could. But I did. Here are some of my daily highlights:

March 26: Flights from Calgary to Tokyo.

It was very entertaining to watch the plane move a centimetre to the destination on the TV. People slept and listened to music and talked to each other. The layover in Vancouver and flights didn't feel too long but when we landed people's legs spoke otherwise. It was very hard to stand, but at last we arrived in Japan.



March 27: Dressing up in

Kimonos.

It felt weird to be walking around in kimonos. We paraded the busy streets of Asakusa. Walking around with socks and flip flops is not ideal but somehow we managed. People were looking at us with curiosity. It was weird being the tourists as opposed to seeing the tourists.



March 28: Karaoke.

We laughed so hard we couldn't breathe. Hopped up on sugar from a lime drink, we played "Africa" ten times because we didn't know how to delete songs that we picked beforehand because it was all in Japanese! It was a long day that ended with a lot of laughter.

March 29: Ramen Museum Dinner.

The Ramen Museum was inside a little building that made it look like a little street. There were little tables and the floor looked like a road. There were fake buildings with signs on them. It was very aesthetically pleasing. There were a lot of different places to eat from, the bowls were huge, and the

ramen tasted really delicious. It was one of the tastiest places to eat from!

March 30: The Yunessen Hot Springs.

Going in different pools filled with coffee, tea, and other substances was very freeing. We also got to go on a gondola ride that rattled a lot. As well, we stayed at a traditional hotel where we slept in traditional beds on the floor. Today was a great adventure.

March 31: Mount Fuji.

We were lucky and were able to see it clearly and in all its beauty. It is very ginormous. It was very cool and fascinating. The road trip there was also fun too. We stopped a couple of times to get snacks and we played "Africa" a couple more times. By the end of the trip, everyone was definitely tired of listening to "Africa" 24-7.

April 1: The Arashiyama Bamboo Tenryuji Temple.

It had rained the day before but the after smell of the rain enriched the natural scent of being outdoors with the trees.

April 2: Fushimi Inari Shrine.

It was a lot of hiking, and a lot of shrines, but it was very cool. There were a lot of Torii gates displayed throughout the hike, to represent good luck to store owners and businesses. Although it was a long hike, it felt good to walk upstairs and move our bodies because we would be leaving tomorrow and would mostly be sitting down.



April 3: Bullet Train and Flights from Tokyo to Calgary.

It was good to be home, thinking of all of the fun memories we created and shared. We were all dreading for Monday when we had school, but now we get to plan the next International Studies trip and see what memories we'll laugh at later on.





Memories

By Medina Javier (Grade 9)

Do you like to travel? If yes, then you need to take advantage of the amazing travel opportunities that WIC has to offer.

I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to go on this year's Grade Nine International Studies trip to Japan. I had the pleasure of experiencing this country with some wonderful classmates as well as some remarkable and very organized teachers. Every part of the trip to Japan was memorable from the people, culture, and food to the beautiful landscape that enthralled us all.

The first thing I noticed right away was the polite and respectful way of the Japanese people. This was observed throughout the trip, but what really stood out for me was whenever they gave and received items to others, they did so with both hands and bowed or nodded their head at the same time.

When you're in Japan you are surrounded by a distinctive culture, like temples, shrines, and traditional ceremonies. We experienced and learned about Taiko drumming and its significance in Japanese history. I will never forget the sound of the drums that resonated throughout the room with such bold thunderous sound. Taiko drumming is also not as easy as it looks!

We were also lucky to try on some beautiful Japanese kimonos. What a special experience that was! Kimonos are traditional Japanese garments for women and men. Women's outfits are generally more colourful with a variety of patterns to choose from, whereas men's outfits are a solid colour. We wore kimonos while walking around the streets of Tokyo and we even did some shopping all while wearing these traditional outfits.

We also took a long hike to the Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine in Kyoto which included over a 1,000 torii which are traditional Japanese gates that mark entrances into Shinto shrine. The views were absolutely stunning.

Additionally, another unforgettable experience was the traditional Japanese tea ceremony. This unique tea ceremony is rooted in Zen Buddhism and its main purpose is to represent harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility which the participants must embrace in order to achieve it.

Furthermore, there are many steps and rituals involved in preparing for this event; the hostess starts weeks in advance to prepare the guest list and send invitations to the guests. Guests drinking the tea need to inspect the utensils, usually cleaned by the host, as a sign of respect and admiration for the host. Who would have guessed that making tea would involve so much preparation?



Besides the people and culture, the food was amazing too. The Japanese serve something sweet like a biscuit with the matcha green tea to balance its bitter taste. We attended a sushi making class where we were taught how to make sushi using the freshest ingredients. The best part was that we got to eat the sushi we made! In Yokohama, we went to a ramen museum and got to eat some freshly made ramen. The noodles were made from scratch and they were delicious!

Not only was the food phenomenal, but the restaurant building where we ate the ramen was unique. The two interior floors of the building were designed to simulate outdoor Japanese streets and alleyways. You felt like you were on a side street of Japan in the night time that was all lit up with colourful lights.

A couple of days later we had an interesting experience in the Fuji Area - Hamamatsu where we visited the Yunessen Hot Spring and swam in diluted wine, coffee, and green tea pools. This experience left us feeling refreshed, rejuvenated and smelling very fragrant.

We then made our way to see Mount Fuji, the highest volcano in Japan. We were so thankful that we had a clear day to see snow-capped Mount Fuji not only once but twice over a couple of days. Our tour guide who has lived in Japan for fifteen years has seen it clearly only once, so that was definitely a highlight.

We can't forget about the gorgeous cherry blossom trees - one of my most favourite parts of the trip. We captured them blooming at the perfect time as their blossoms wither quickly, which makes it even more special to see them at just the right time. The Japanese cherry blossom is a symbol of beauty and momentariness and symbolizes clouds due to the nature of their bloom. We really did feel like we were walking around in pink clouds. The blossoms and its leaves are edible and both are used in Japanese cuisine.

If you asked me what my favourite part of my trip was, I couldn't tell you just one thing. It was the whole experience of the country: its people, food, traditions, landscape, and most of all, what took it over the top was that I experienced it with my peers and teachers.

For the full adventure, you need to go and see Japan for yourself. It is a destination that you must add to your bucket list.



J a p a n B 2 0 1 9



Lasting Impressions

By Thomas Graham (Grade 9)

On arrival to Narita Airport, located far outside the centre of Tokyo, the first indicator that we weren't in Canada anymore was a complete absence of English. Imagine yourself being thrown into a new place, where the only way to get out of the airport was to follow the crowds. For our group of nineteen students and three teachers, this became a sudden reality when attempting to make our way through customs and reunite with our baggage. The 2019 International Studies theme of, "Be brave. Explore outside of your comfort zone" certainly seemed fulfilled after only a few minutes on the ground. However, that didn't stop twenty-two males from wanting to explore more.



What had already been twelve hours of travel turned into over fourteen as we wound our way (on the left side of the road) into downtown Tokyo, where the darkness of night was interrupted with the brightness of a city that truly never sleeps. After a long bus ride, it only seemed proper that some Japanese food was in order, a task not too hard to accomplish in a city with over nine million citizens. No hesitation was to be seen as students started to immerse themselves in a culture unlike any other.



After what turned out to be only a few hours of sleep, we embarked on one of the busiest days of our trip, with the chance to learn both some taiko drumming and sumo wrestling. However, solace was taken in the opportunity for some traditional sightseeing, where a trip to the top of the Tokyo Skytree allowed for some brilliant photo opportunities. With our three days in Tokyo, it was easy to be mesmerised with the size and spectrum of the city.





One of the most noticeable things about Japan (apart from the language and culture) was the variety of cities, where one could find themselves in a hectic street market one moment and in a peaceful valley the next. The landscape of Japan is also truly beautiful, with a blend of coastline, mountains, and valleys. While it can be hard to pick a favourite, one of the most spectacular and memorable moments of our expedition was our ascent to the top of Mount Komagatake. Here, gusty winds and one-degree-Celsius conditions were only mild nuisances compared to the spectacular views, where one can see everything, from the ocean to the cities below. It was moments such as that where, on a clear day, Mount Fuji would be a marvellous sight.

Now, it has come to my attention that our “Japan B 2019” group was the first International Studies trip to be entirely made up of boys. This makes me ponder the opportunities that this unique arrangement provided. It’s no doubt that a group of Grade 9 boys will eventually tire of museums and crave some recreation. It was at this moment that

our guide, Keiishi, made a name for himself among our group. Throughout the trip, a few minor deviations from the itinerary were made, and we managed to fit in some lighthearted games of football, where Mr. Rieder showed his surprising hidden skills. These were moments of great camaraderie and it could be argued that those moments help define our trip. In the end, it was the experience of everything, as a cohesive group, that made lasting memories.

When writing this article, it became apparent to me that it would be impossible to share every story, every laugh, and every experience in only a couple of pages. Through traveling to five unique places, and moving non-stop for ten days, we did more than can ever be described in words. But what can and should be described is the commitment from everyone to make the trip a once in a lifetime experience. It was an army of people. From the three teachers (Mr. Salmon, Mr. Rieder and Mr. Parkinson), to the dedicated work of all the staff back in Calgary, who gave up their sleep when they needed to. Everyone pulled together and created a trip not just full of fun but full of learning about society and the world. Finally, the companionship of eighteen of my peers really helped make this trip what it was. Every group of people is unique and ours was certainly no exception. I’d like to think, moving forward, that not only did Japan leave an impression on us, but we left an impression on Japan.



Brazil 2019



Travels Through Brazil

By Ryan Ettenauer (Grade 12)

The International Studies program strives to offer us opportunities filled with incredible experiences and unforgettable memories, with this year's Brazil trip being no exception. For many of us, it was our first time traveling to South America - some of us were anxious, some were nervous, but we were all excited. Ultimately, the sheer anticipation building up to our journey did not disappoint.

After nearly sixteen hours of travel, we finally arrived in Sao Paulo; the most populous city (roughly 12.1 million) and financial hub of Brazil. Our tour through the metropolitan area, various surrounding landmarks, and a trek through a local night market marked the first impressions of the trip on us. The people of Brazil displayed an aura of raw enthusiasm, unlike anything I had seen before. Through the dancing, singing, celebrating, and bartering filling the streets, I soon realized that a dull moment is hard to come by with the Brazilian locals.

Our humanitarian work project marked the second primary destination of our journey. As

we approached our remote lodge, called Tupana Village, deep within the Amazon, I contemplated how someplace so rural and isolated could hold all eighteen of us. As the buildings came into view, we were astonished by the rustic, yet sophisticated, series of structures. Amazed by the architecture, it almost instantly comforted me and led me to dismiss the worries I had been juggling. Treated with grace by our hosts, the Tupana Lodge not only housed us, but acted as our home for the next few days.

Our work consisted of the construction of a new home for twelve people who live even deeper within the Amazon. We all shared different jobs each day which included digging holes for the foundation posts on the first day, hauling lumber from the jungle to the site, hammering nails (typically unsuccessfully) into the hardwood, and, finally, painting the children's room. Despite the strenuous work conditions, due to the blistering heat and absence of wind, the job was very rewarding. After our three days of work, the kids eagerly played with and against us in a football



(soccer) match; this was one of the highlights for many of us. After leaving behind many gifts for the family and saying our final goodbyes, the work experience was over, but was truly unforgettable.



Our final destination of the trip was Rio de Janeiro; one of the most beautiful cities I have ever been to. The first day in Rio consisted of touring many popular landmarks, including The Maracanã football stadium, the street where Rio's annual Carnival takes place, an inner-city cathedral, and, of course, Sugarloaf Mountain. After an eventful day of touring, a night walk across the coastline allowed us to see the beautiful ocean and the exuberant nightlife in Rio. The second day's highlight was one of the seven wonders of the world – the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue. It stands at a massive 125 feet tall, on top of one of the highest peaks. It was truly a sight to behold. Upon returning from the monument, we decided to spend a couple of hours at the famous Copacabana Beach, under the blistering Brazilian sun. Once again, the camaraderie of the local people continued to amaze me, as vendors, beach bars, and athletes lined the beach. There were even full-fledged volleyball tournaments happening nearby. That night, we feasted on a Brazilian BBQ: an all-you-can-eat meal for all of us. With many familiar dishes, as well as chicken heart, a Brazilian delicacy, we slept well with full stomachs.

Our third day in Rio was possibly the most impactful. Our day began with a tour of the Santa Marta favela; the same one that Michael Jackson visited in the '90s. Our tour guide, Felipe, grew up there and shared his experiences about his life. A powerful experience, we personally walked through the streets and saw the life of many Brazilians within their own community. The morning closed with a capoeira presentation by a couple of the locals, a Brazilian traditional dance / martial art form. Although tired out from our dancing, we were surprised with an impromptu private tour of one of the Carnival facilities, where the floats, dresses, and rehearsals occur. We were invited to try on some of the luxurious costumes. Fatigued, our final meal was yet another Brazilian BBQ, which was just as good as the last, and definitely helped us sleep on the long journey home.

Overall, the trip was an extraordinary time. My first journey to South America was filled with unique experiences, new friendships made, and memories that will never be forgotten. I would highly recommend any student reading this to attend at least one of the WIC International Studies trips. Although it was my first, I have no doubts that each trip every year provides WIC students with a similar extraordinary experience.





Japan A



Japan B



Brazil



Tanzania A



Tanzania B



'Nam



Tanzania A 2019



An Adventure of a Lifetime

By Ainsley Barr (Grade 11)

How many people get to say that they've witnessed a lion stalk a herd of zebras, run right past your jeep, then watch a family of hungry lions devour the stricken zebra? As crazy as it sounds, I can! The amazing trip that twenty-six students and three teachers, including me, took to Tanzania this past Spring Break allowed our group to bond over a remarkable experience, laugh, share stories, rally around one another during the highs and lows, and have a fabulous trip, returning to Calgary as one, much closer, group.



Our adventure in Africa started right away with us diving into our work project at the Village of Hope (VOH) in Mwanza. VOH provides children in need with quality education, shelter, healthcare, and nutrition. Their ultimate goal is to find safe homes for children while continuing to offer them education to help re-integrate them back into society. While there, we were tasked with painting six classrooms, window railings and one huge hallway. Immediately, our group learned that painting ceilings is no easy task and that the African heat is no joke. Although it was tiring work, watching the children come up to the windows to talk to us and give us high fives as we painted was truly rewarding and added purpose to our work. Seeing the curiosity and joy in the children's eyes as they looked up to us while we worked demonstrated to our group that we would be leaving a lasting impact in the kids' lives. The classrooms needed

upgrades and the joy the work would bring the students made the long and hot days worth it.

After two days of work, our last morning at the VOH, we took part in a soccer game against their junior boys' team. Let's just say that the WIC Wolves did not win, but we had fun and did not go down without a fight! We were all genuinely amazed as their best player scored on us while only wearing one shoe. The rest of the morning, we played jump rope, games such as "Duck Duck Goose", and variations of basketball, handball, and netball against the VOH girls' team.



The work project portion to our African adventure taught me a lot about the perspective in which we see and interpret the world. Driving through Mwanza to get to the VOH orphanage opened our eyes, allowing us to reflect on the privileged lives we live back in Calgary. There was one home in particular that comes to mind when I reflect on what I learned in Tanzania. We drove by this home every day during the work project; the walls were simply sticks covered in garbage bags and the sticks supported the roof, which was also a garbage bag. The home couldn't have been larger than eight feet wide. As we passed by, complaining about how we were hungry and had bad sleeps, I came to the realization of how fortunate we are. We might say we are "starving", but in reality, the people who lived in this home could actually be starving. Our problems are nowhere near as difficult as those of the poverty-stricken people of Tanzania but we may perceive them to be substantial. Being able to take the time, reflect on, and compare my life back at home gave me new perspective. The best part was that the children who live in the home were still playing



outside, seemingly without a worry in the world. In the end, I believe we acknowledged how fortunate we were by observing the living conditions as we drove to the VOH.

After the work project, we made our way to the Serengeti National Park where we would have a once in a lifetime experience. At the beginning, the one thing I wanted to see was an elephant up close. Little did I know, I would come arm's distance away from an elephant, see baby lion cubs, witness a lion family devour a trapped zebra, and go over a bridge that traverses a river with over twenty hippos in it! I think we all had an idea of what the safari portion of the trip would be like, but I think I speak on behalf of the group by saying that none of us realized how closely we would actually get to the animals! For the most part, the animals would allow the jeeps to come very close, to the point where you could reach out and pet a lion (not that we did)! Not only did the three days in the Serengeti allow us to see African wildlife up close, our whole group was able to bond and grow closer. Each day, the teachers assigned us to four different jeeps with either six or seven students. Whether or not you were in what we liked to call the "Freedom Van", we were ensured a fabulous time with lots of laughs and "oh my gosh" moments. For me, nothing will beat having an elephant walk right towards my jeep, flap its huge ears and use its trunk to pick up grass with the breathtaking Serengeti in the background.

After three fabulous safaris in the Serengeti, we made our way to the Ngorongoro Crater with a stop at a Maasai Village and the Olduvai Gorge. The Maasai are an ethnic group in Tanzania known for their unique way of life and tribal ritual of jumping. Upon arriving, we were greeted with a welcome routine which involved singing, dancing, and the men jumping to great heights. Many people in our group were asked to join the Maasai tribe in their traditional dances. The girls were given necklaces, which created the beat to the song by bouncing our shoulders at the right time. One woman even tried to get me to sing along! I could not

understand what they were singing, due to the language barrier, but I attempted anyways which gave the tribe members a good laugh. The boys attempted to jump as high as the Maasai members; it looked like they achieved the same height, but the Maasai men were quite a bit shorter which made the students look like they were jumping just as high. We all enjoyed being included in their culture and were then shown their school and were invited into their homes to get a feel for the unique life that they live. After purchasing items made by the women of the tribe to support the village, we headed back into the jeeps to take in the breathtaking views of Ngorongoro Crater.



The Ngorongoro Crater offers beautiful views, which excited us to wake up early for our morning safaris. Although I never thought I would be cold in Africa, the morning safari into the crater was a little chilly with the breeze but watching the sunrise as we descended into the crater was gorgeous and memorable. There was such a peaceful and calming vibe driving through the crater until the excitement shot up after getting to see rhinos! We carried on to eat breakfast next to a lake, which had close to twenty hippos immersed in the water!

At the end of our trip, we finished at a beach resort in Zanzibar where we met up with the other Tanzania group. We shared our crazy safari stories and adventures with one another. Zanzibar offered a change of pace where we got to tour the

streets of Stone Town, take a boat ride to Turtle Island, visit a spice farm and a forest which was native to the red colobus monkey, and relax in the pool at night where our groups continued the routine of belly flop competitions. A beach volleyball court staged a fun volleyball match which brought us to the end of our amazing adventure together.

In sum, Tanzania offered an unforgettable experience to dive into the culture, take in the fantastic sights, and grow together as a group. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Ms. McKay, Mr. Fensom, and Mr. Pierre for taking us on an adventure of a lifetime!



Tanzania B 2019



A Selection of Student Reflections

Collected by Ms. L. Irvine (Faculty)

“The Serengeti was a pleasant surprise... the offspring of Saskatchewan and Jurassic Park” - M.K.

“The gate to the ‘endless plains’ was super edgy and dramatic but certainly lived up to its name. You don’t truly understand how large the Serengeti is until you stand under the sun for hours in the middle of such an expanse. There was nothing – absolutely nothing – for miles in any direction aside from the mountains in the distance and masses of dried shrubs. The heat made the land distort before my eyes – a mirage quivering in the distance.” - A.R.

“According to a blog site concerning car sales internationally, 1 in 4 new car purchases in Tanzania are Toyotas. This then begs the question: why are Toyotas so popular in this developing country?” - M.K.

“...we drove through Mwanza which was really cool because it was a bigger African city... more buildings, more people on the streets. It didn’t take long to realize how crazy the traffic can get as there were no white or yellow lines to separate traffic flowing in both directions.” - C.R.

“The kids at the Village of Hope were incredibly intrigued by my cell phone. They monopolized the photo app. There were so many selfies of them! It’s weird being in a place where kids don’t have cell phones; it’s an item I don’t know if I’m comfortable being without. There is something to be said about privilege here. I think I’m taking it for granted.” - A.R.

“Tanzania ... memories that I will cherish forever.” - H.Z.



Tanzanie, Haïku*, Fibonacci**, et poésie

Par Mr. P. Poitras (Faculté "à la retraite")

Tanzanie, quel pays!
Des montagnes aux grands lacs,
Tanganyika, Zanzibar.

Tanzanie, quel pays!
Cratère Ngorongoro,
Et Serengeti.

Le Ngorongoro, Caldeira circulaire, Cratère de vie.	Le Ngorongoro, Masaïs, vie pastorale. Boma et troupeaux.
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Gorges d'Olduvai, Préhistoire humaine, Homo habilis.	Le Serengeti, Les plaines à l'infini, Flore et faune.	Le Serengeti, Punda milia na Simba, Twiga na Tembo.
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Le Lac Victoria, Excursion hasardeuse, Kuna matata.	Mwanza, Rock City, Kijiji matumaini, Village espoir.	Village espoir. Sourire et compassion. Travail, amitiés.	Village espoir. Travail, soccer et fierté. Lala salama!	Village espoir. Rires, jeux et amitiés. Nzuri! Au revoir!
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Dar es Salaam transit, Contrôles, sécurité. Zanzibar Stone Town.	Zanzibar Stone Town. Commerce, esclavage, Sultan et l'islam.	Unguja - Changuu. Prison et tortues géantes. Plage et repos.
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Zanzibar l'île, Épices, noix de coco, Pluie et mangrove.	Paradise Beach? Oui! Un Stoney Tangawizi? Asante sana!
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Dar es Salaam transit,
Contrôles, sécurité.
Amsterdam, welkom!

Tanzanie, quel pays!
Explorations racontées,
Bravoure prouvée.

* Structure du Haïku japonais (versets en trois segments 5-7-5 mores [syllabes]), écrit en français et swahili, et le rythme mathématique vient de la suite de Fibonacci (1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, ...).

** Pour Fibonacci, je me suis arrêté à 5. La structure est verticale et horizontale à la fois. Lire du haut vers le bas, et de la gauche vers la droite.



Vietnam 2019



A Phở-nomenal Trip

By Michaela Marjerrison & Makenna Osis (Grade 12)

We were among 18 students and four teachers to travel to Vietnam this past Spring Break. It was a phenomenal trip that started in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known (and frequently referred to) as Saigon.

One of our first stops was the War Remnants Museum. The museum documents effects of the Vietnam War (1955 – 1975). It was a difficult day, as we learned about some of the war crimes committed against the Vietnamese people, such as Agent Orange. We had the luxury of traveling with three Social Studies teachers, which allowed us to discuss the history of the war from both the American and from the Vietnamese perspectives.

We spent Day Two touring part of the Mekong Delta, an area of 40,577 square kilometres and 19 million people, by boat. In the morning, we biked through one of the villages, visiting locals and enjoying the lush scenery. We had the opportunity to try local treats that some villagers prepared for us like rice paper, doughnuts, and jam. Getting to spend time with locals was definitely a highlight of the trip, because it was interesting to see a way of life so different from our own. It was hard not to reflect on our small corner of the world. As we took in the beautiful landscape, thoughts of home, of the similarities and differences between our side of the planet and the one we were

on, were hard to ignore. We then had the opportunity to board four-person boats and paddle through some of the smaller canals of the Mekong Delta. The verdant greenery was stunning.

Our journey continued after a short plane ride to Huế and the site of our work project. After a day of touring a few temples and markets, we really got to work.

The work project was incredible. We spent three days in an elementary school in Huế. While we were there, we had three tasks to accomplish: levelling gravel for a soccer field, cleaning and retiling a set of steps that served as seating for spectators of the games on the soccer field, and building a garden behind the school that will be used to grow fruits and vegetables for lunches.



We worked alongside the locals, which was a great opportunity to share about home and ask questions about Vietnam. As some of us spoke French, there were some people that could converse in both languages!

We persevered through injuries and a couple sunburns, and managed to finish our project by noon on Day Three, giving us the afternoon to play soccer





and compete against some of the kids that went to the school. We even had our own uniforms made!

After a snack, a sing-along, a donation on behalf of WIC of school supplies and soccer balls, and some goodbye hugs, we left the school and Hué, on a night train heading for the capital of Vietnam, Hanoi.

Once in Hanoi, we toured Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and the Museum of Etymology. Visiting the mausoleum was surreal, as we were among thousands of Vietnamese people who had come to pay their respects to the revered leader. The Museum of Etymology was focused around how indigenous people from South East Asia lived, so it was interesting to see an aspect of Vietnamese history from before the war.

After a memorable day in Hanoi, we set off for Halong Bay. We stopped at the Halong Bay Pearl Market before boarding our boat and setting off.

After cruising for a while, sitting on one of the balconies and singing, we got lifejackets and boarded

a smaller boat that took us to a dock from which we could kayak. Later on, we dove off the boat and got to swim in the cold, salty, beautiful bay. Pictures don't do it justice. It took our breaths away.

Getting back to land was an adventure, but we arrived safely and, after a long bus ride to the hotel in Hanoi, spent our second last night in Vietnam.

We spent our last day touring around Hanoi in cyclos, taking in the atmosphere and energy of the streets while relaxing on the ride. The cyclos were individual, so this gave us the opportunity to reflect on our time in Vietnam while looking at all the sights and smells around us. After some last-minute shopping, we had a delicious final dinner. Soon, it was back to the hotel for one last night of cards and laughs together.

The trip was amazing. The food was phenomenal, the experiences unparalleled, and we all made memories that we won't soon forget.

Thank you so much to Mr. Davidson, Ms. McIvor, Ms. Butz, and Mr. Goulet for all the laughs and an overall phenomenal trip!



Special Thanks Go To...

Mr. G. Goodwin, for being our On-Call Administrator over his Spring Break. Thank you, Mr. Goodwin, for sacrificing your sleep for our safety and peace of mind!

Ms. M. Halle, Ms. L. Toovey, and Mr. M. Matula, our support staff members, for working behind the scenes to prepare all the travellers for their adventures.

WIC's Board of Directors, inclusive of **Ms. C. Gionet**, Head of School, and **Mr. R. Bentley**, Board Chair, for caring enough to spend their time, energies, and due diligence on ensuring a thoroughly prepared program.



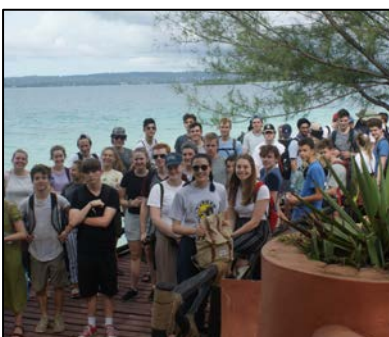
Mr. R. Morrison of *Incredible Journeys*, for liaising with us and organising SIX (seven, with India) stellar itineraries. It is a pleasure to work with you, Mr. Morrison. Thank you for your efforts.

The authors and editor of this 2019 Review (**Josie, Medina, Thomas, Ryan, Ainsley, Ms. Irvine, Mr. Poitras, Micheala, Makenna, and Ms. Wright**), for taking time out of your busy schedules to slow down and reflect upon your trips. You have built a unique and thoughtful issue this year!

B e b r a v e .
E x p l o r e
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c o m f o r t
z o n e .

Congratulations to the following Grade 12 recipients of the
2019 CERTIFICATE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES:

- Steven Batteke
- Emma Boyne
- Jacinda Gill
- Jay Hilsden
- Lara Kunik
- Sarah-Michelle Lang
- Carson Leong
- Polina Litvina
- Austin Minnings
- Makenna Osis
- JJ Schroeder
- Sophie Smith



Thank you to the following faculty and staff for accompanying our 2019 trips to far off lands:

Japan A	Mr. S. Bennett Ms. C. Huhn Ms. N. Roman
Japan B	Mr. M. Salmon Mr. J. Parkinson Mr. J. Rieder
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