

The magazine of Dulwich College Shanghai

THE COLLEGE Shanghai

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China Week 2011



China Week Special!

The College is committed to developing charitable and compassionate individuals who are willing to contribute to the community



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We welcome any feedback to editor@dulwich-shanghai.cn

Dear Parents, Students and Colleagues,

Welcome to our first ever College Magazine 'Special Edition'.

Every year our students are exposed to a rich cultural experience through an exploration of our host country and its wonderful people. This year we have decided to share some of their experiences with you through this magazine that is dedicated to the annual residential trips around China or, as we have affectionately come to know it, "China Week".

Our aim in providing these educational experiences is to enable our students to learn in the environment, through the environment and for the environment. China Week experiences bring our Philosophy and Objectives to life through hands on experience that enable our students to learn how to work together and to be supportive of their peers. Importantly, it also gives them the opportunity to help make the lives of those less fortunate than themselves a little better. The experiences that we place before our students provide physical and emotional challenges that will help develop the confidence and risk taking capabilities required for the future.

Our students constantly tell us that their experiences on China Week stay with them for many years to come and I know that many are already looking forward to their trip next year.

Our new website contains slide shows for all of this year's trips and I hope you will take the time to peruse them; there were far too many memories captured than we have room for in this magazine.

I do hope you enjoy this magazine and, as always, your feedback is valued.

With best wishes,

Mr. Paul Friend
Headmaster

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Year 5 Go Wild in Nanbeihu!



The Year 5 students from Dulwich College Shanghai travelled to Nanbeihu as a three-day, two-night residential trip on 7th September 2011. Considering the fact that it was a new school year, this trip encouraged us to make new friends, strive for our personal targets and to be more social and independent.

Nanbeihu contains many activities, which cover a variety of different passions. We found activities that required our strength and determination, activities that challenged our wits and intelligence, activities that brought out our creativity and ingenuity, and the list goes on. One specific activity proved itself the most popular amongst the students, the Leap of Faith. It was a tall, yellow pole with a tiny little platform on top. Around 2 metres away, at a 45 degree angle from the platform, was a trapeze. The aim of this activity was not to catch the trapeze but to try our best and to have fun. Everyone agreed to this without hesitation. Some other challenging activities were the low ropes and the rock-climbing wall.

We also enjoyed the creative arts through performing short but enjoyable skits and painting colourful graffiti which symbolised our adventurous trip to Nanbeihu. There were teamwork activities such as team building and team games.

We had orderly rooms to relax in after a day of adventure or just for a short rest. The canteen served sufficient meals, which kept us energised. We had simple but delicious breakfasts of bacon and eggs, toast, jam, milk, fruit and juice. It was a comfortable and convenient stay.

The Year 5 students behaved very well during this special trip. We arrived back at DCS Main Campus bright and jubilant. It was agreed that this trip helped everybody become more confident and mature and we are all looking forward to returning in Year 6.

Written by Vernita Zhai, 5K.

Year 6 NanbeiHu Adventures

The clouds were hanging low, yet the spirits of the children were high... it was a perfect day for travelling to NanbeiHu! We had no idea what was waiting for us. Was it a place of adventure or a place of fear?

We boarded the bus, butterflies fluttering madly in our stomachs. But as we approached the beguiling scenery of NanbeiHu, our fears started to fade away. We filed into the hotel we were to be accommodated in and soon settled into our rooms. We met the members of our group and ate a hearty lunch. After filling up our stomachs, we headed off to our activities. The activities were: high ropes, broken bridge, balance beam, rock climbing, hiking, kayaking, team building, low ropes, and arts and crafts. These death-defying, devil-may-care activities kept us busy for three days. After the day's activities, we all devoured a delicious meal and went to bed, tired as ever.

The next day flew past with activities such as kayaking and arts and crafts. We prepared our skits for the barbecue that we were all looking forward to. As night fell, the groups made their way to the barbecue area where

we seated ourselves comfortably under the night sky. We indulged in a meal of vegetables, meat, noodles, rice and many more delicacies. Finally, the time had come! It was time for the skits to be performed. We were continuously entertained with the hysterical performances each and every group put on. Oblivious to how fast the night had gone, we were sent to our bedrooms and only then did we realize this would be our last night in NanbeiHu! We woke up the next morning, reluctant to leave. We were to pack our bags and leave them in the foyer for the bus drivers to collect.

We finished the remaining activities in the morning, such as low ropes and rock climbing. Dreading the moment we would have to leave, we caught a glimpse of the buses arriving. Less than an hour later, we were boarding them. The drive back was long, though we had ways to entertain ourselves. Just as the clouds in the sky had disappeared, the fears that once lay within us had vanished too. We returned to Shanghai with sweet memories of our time in NanbeiHu.

By Sahana Devarajan and Lauren Loy 6B





Year 7's Week in Hangzhou — A trip to remember

On the morning of Monday, 19th September 2011, the Senior School gym started filling up with excited and exuberant Year 7 students. By 8.40am, everyone had arrived and we were all ready to go.

We then walked to our buses, put our luggage in the trunk and were led on board by our enthusiastic tour guides.

As soon as we arrived at the Culture Plaza Hotel, we dropped off our luggage in our hotel rooms and got back on the buses, ready for an afternoon of sightseeing and learning.

That afternoon, we went to visit the LingYing temple, where we also saw a statue of the Laughing Buddha and learned lots of new things about the Buddhist culture in Hangzhou.

The next day, we hiked to the top of a mountain near the tea village, and we learned all about the healing, calming and soothing powers of green tea (we also got to taste the tea). The view from the top of the mountain was stunning with a breathtaking view of the tea plantations below. We also cycled through the Xixi wetlands, it was extremely pleasant and fun.

That night, we all went to Qinghefang old street where we practiced our bargaining skills (or lack thereof) and bought presents.

Then it was Day 3, a blur of early morning activities by the West Lake (consisting of shuttlecock, water calligraphy - which is like graffiti, only erasable and clean - and learning Kung Fu), another hike, this time on Jade emperor mountain and a visit the big Song Dynasty theme park - which had an extra creepy ghost house ("shiver").

And suddenly, it was Day 4, the last full day we were there for. That day, we had a smooth boat ride on the Qiantang River, which took us to the starting point of that afternoon's activity - the Treasure Hunt!

The treasure hunt made our teamwork abilities much stronger and even though only one group won (the Aardvarks), we all emerged as winners. First place or last, it didn't really matter. What mattered was that all of us finished, and all of us finished together, as a team.

That night, we ended our last day with the most crazy, hectic party of all!

Written by: Claudia Meng 7CM

Year 8 in Yangshuo!



Every year we eagerly await China Week, the great time when we go somewhere different, do lots of activities and make new friends. This year, Year 8 went to Yangshuo.

Unfortunately, we had to be at school at 3.15 am!

Once we got on the plane, we busied ourselves with reading, listening to music, talking to friends or catching up on a few extra minutes of sleep. We landed around 11 am and met our guides from Insight Adventures. After two hours drive to the hotel, we went to our rooms, dropped

our bags and rushed to the Hill Side Restaurant, where we devoured a variety of delicious Chinese dishes. Our group leaders explained the next activity. It was a scavenger hunt. Later on, we hiked back to the hotel to freshen up and relax for a bit before dinner. After everyone polished off their plates, we had 30 minutes of free time to go and look around. It was a long day; we were happy to get into our Pyjamas and rest.

The next morning we got up early at 7am. After breakfast our class was off to do some abseiling. Everyone thought it was fun when they finished their turn! At first, you had to climb inside a cave, go up a little more, then abseil down the side of the mountain. We had our lunch at an eco camp and we went rock climbing. The rock climbing was on the side of a mountain and there were four difficulties. Later, everyone had to do a chore, so we got to work. That evening we had a lovely barbeque, a bonfire and we sang songs. Finally, we went to our cabin (that

was made of bamboo), got into our sleeping bags and tried to sleep.

On Wednesday, most of us woke up at around 6am because of crickets or daylight peeking in through the gaps in the bamboo. After a delicious breakfast, 8SJ went biking for 15km! Our route took us on many small roads, so we saw how the local people lived. Once we got to the end, our lunch was delivered to us and we ate on the streets. Next was the cooking school, where we were taught how to cook five dishes and then we gobbled them up. Later on, we watched cormorant fishing. Finally, we went back to the hotel and had a good sleep.

On the fourth day, we did mud caving. At first, we went down into the cave. Near the end, there were two mud pits and everyone got dirty beyond recognition. When we got out of the cave, we had to hike for 20 minutes to get back to the beginning where we washed ourselves in a waterfall and got changed. After lunch, we went kayaking for two hours, which was great and we swam in the water. In the evening, we went for a BBQ grill dinner at Rock and Grill Restaurant. We strolled to the riverbank where our teachers and Insight Adventures organised fireworks for the whole year group to see. Finally we had to pack, and then we dozed off.

On Friday morning the whole year group went hiking on Moon Hill. Then, we had half an hour of free time to buy little souvenirs. After a delicious lunch, we went to the airport and flew back. Our great adventure was finished. Only Insight Adventures red T-shirts will remind us of the wonderful time. It was good to see our parents and be home again.

Karolina Sierpien 8SJ





Year 9 in Guizhou

This year for China Week, Year 9 went to Guiyang (capital of Guizhou province) and stayed in the Baibi village for two days. The purpose of this trip was to experience a different lifestyle and do some community work. We did many activities and interacted with the local Miao people who were extremely friendly and hospitable. Some of the activities we did were: building a road, digging potatoes, teaching local school children, learning cooking, visiting a local night market and hiking to various place including to the village, back from the village, to the potato field and a night hike.

Building the road was very tiring but fun. We had to carry the sand to the place where we wanted to make the road. When the sand we needed was there, we had to mix it with the cement. When we had finished that, we added water to it. We messed up loads of times but the professional men fixed it.

When we had finished working on the road, we went back to the village and had dinner. We ate rice with different kinds of vegetables and meat. After the dinner, we had some time to walk around in the village to see how it is. At night, we all went on a hike and we had some time to sit and experience complete silence and darkness. In Shanghai, you can nearly always hear something, such as the cars outside, your neighbours talking and you can always see light outside because of all the buildings. However, where we went, it was silent and pitch black.

On our second day at the village, our group went to dig potatoes for an old couple. It would take them more than a week to dig all the potatoes and bring them back to their home. Therefore we did it for them and it only took us a few hours. Digging the potatoes was quite easy and fun for us. When we had carried them to the old couple's home, the woman was very grateful and touched. After that was done, we had lunch and we had some time to get ready for teaching the children at the school.

Teaching the children was fun. We had all split into groups and we took turns to teach each class from grades 1-3. Each group taught different things such as sports, colouring in, rope skipping, card games, board games, etc. We all had sweets to give the children, they were very appreciative and fun to be around.

This trip taught us a lot. We learnt how to become more accommodating, adapt and adjust in a new environment very different from our own. We did hard physical work which we weren't used to in our usual lifestyle and we got a chance to do some community service for the people in the village. We experienced a day in the life of someone from the village. It was quite difficult and different for us and we realised that this is how people live all through their whole lives. Overall, it was a very educational and interesting experience, and we had a lot of fun.

By: Nina, Aoife and Samiksha 9BH



Year 10's Unforgettable Experience

China Week was a completely unforgettable experience for Year 10. Our trip started on 17th September 2011, when we had to meet at school at 3.15 in the morning for a 7am flight to Guilin. Upon arrival, group leaders from Insight Adventures greeted each tutor group. They told us what we should expect out of the next week, and the challenges we were going to have to face and overcome together.

Our week consisted of getting up early, fighting over how much toast and eggs we could take, making a mess while packing our lunch and driving for what seemed like hours to get to our destination, where we would take part in the following activities: whitewater rafting, hiking, abseiling and a five-hour kayak! In between all these activities, we took part in several team-building games where the friendship bonds between everyone in our tutor group became so much stronger.

On the final day, we were surprised with a trip to the hot springs where we could all relax and just enjoy ourselves before we had to leave for the airport to catch our 9pm flight. Our trip to Guilin was an adrenaline-pumping, confidence-boosting, relaxing and overall thoroughly enjoyable and unforgettable trip.

By Nikita Devarajan 10ML

Would we do it again?
DEFINITELY



Activities:

- Kayaking
- Hiking
- Whitewater rafting
- Abseiling
- Hot springs
- Team building

Guilin - Yangshuo

The purpose of this China Week, like all the others, was to push our limits and to get us out of our comfort zones. It also promoted teamwork as well as effective communication through various team building activities. The challenges presented to us along this trip have not only expanded our comfort zone, but also gave us the chance to create beautiful friendships.

Outcomes of the Trip

After the trip, we have not only learnt to push our limits and boundaries, but also matured as individuals. Furthermore, after having had the chance to explore a vastly different environment and admire the breathtaking scenery, we now have a greater appreciation for Mother Earth.

Achievements

We have achieved a lot from this trip, like having pushed our limits and broken our own personal records. As a tutor group, our greatest achievement would be that we have grown closer to each other, as well as improved on our teamwork through the team-building challenges we faced.

Challenges

The most challenging aspects of the trip would probably be working with people you might not necessarily know too well, to see how we would communicate. Also, for some individuals, abseiling was more challenging than other activities, due to their fear of heights.

Fun/Positives

We enjoyed most of the activities, but the one that stood out the most was probably the white-water rafting, as it was a first for most of us. Also, despite the cold weather, we were able to have loads of fun with the other activities, including abseiling and kayaking, as well as the hot springs that concluded our exciting trip.



Year 11 trip to Weifang, Shandong Province

“An amazing and enjoyable learning experience”

Year 11 students visited Weifang, a small city in Shandong Province of northern China as part of China Week this year. The reports sent in by a few students aptly describe the purpose and success of the trip.

Harry Yu writes:

China Week, which takes place at the dawn of each new school year, is a tradition at Dulwich College Shanghai, a grand opportunity for students to undertake a constructive trip that is both physically and intellectually challenging. It gives us a wide range of perspectives of China, while encouraging team building and social interaction.

The trip helped us develop a greater understanding of this industrial and developing area. We were stretched to the limits of our existing capacities, becoming more capable in the process, taking our confidence beyond borders. We accepted new challenges such as walking tirelessly on paths that appeared to extend mile after mile into infinity, and planning lessons for primary children without any previous experience in this field.

Students learned more about each other, building mutual trust, respect and comradeship. Newcomers settled in and felt welcomed. Working as a group taught us the invaluable skill of accepting individual differences and incorporating them into our activities. A useful outcome of the trip was a better knowledge of handling group finances. To stay within our budget, we made many cost-efficient decisions in the daily “finding meal” and “supermarket sweep” activities.

The Year 11 China Week trip planned by our teachers was an extraordinary experience, both enjoyable and beneficial.

Julien Chen, Narissara Techavachara and Celine Jenkins write:

Leadership and teamwork worked cohesively to make China Week an amazing success this year in Weifang, the kite-flying capital of the world where making kites is not as easy as it seems! It was exciting to set off on our journey to share our knowledge beyond the mountains of Qingdao! We visited two primary schools, a secondary school and a retirement home to further their development and build friendship bridges. The staff welcomed us warmly and the school pupils received us with bright, happy smiles.

We taught the children enthusiastically with picture flashcards prepared in advance. To enhance understanding, they contained both Chinese and English names and covered a wide range of subjects - colours, hobbies, animals, transportation, foods, shapes and more. It was a joy to play games with the students and teach them songs such as “Old McDonald”, “Head, shoulders, knees and toes” and “The wheels on the bus”. Soon, the sweet sounds of children singing filled the atmosphere. Several Year 11 students joined the children in their daily exercises - martial arts, jump rope and the hula hoop.

In the secondary school, we formed groups and were introduced to a few students to help them improve their English skills. We talked about hobbies, holidays and celebrities, asking and answering questions. When it was time to bid farewell, we exchanged email addresses.

Overall, this China Week allowed us to see more of China and also interact with the local community. It was a memorable and wonderful experience.



Year 12 in Heze!

by Michelle Lee 12AC

For this year's China Week trip, we did community service in Heze, a town in Shandong. Different groups did different work, and we were split between two local schools, a nursery and an old people's home. This would be our last China Week, so we were all determined to do our best.

Our trip began with an 11-hour bus ride, and we arrived at Heze feeling relieved but lethargic. When we arrived at the hotel, dinner was served. Many students were shocked to be told that one dish was donkey meat and not beef, as we all thought it was. There was a small scuffle for duck wraps and afterwards, we all fell soundly asleep.

The schools were very enthusiastic about us coming and they held a grand welcoming ceremony, where a large red banner bore 'Welcome Dulwich College' in Chinese. Reporters from the local news broadcasters took videos and pictures of us, while the children stared and giggled as they saw their first foreigners ever.

During the next two days, we worked hard on carrying out our plans, interacting with the teachers and children as we did so. Some painted murals, while others taught English. The Dulwich teachers were not left out, as they watched and gave us advice from the sidelines. One made a school caretaker laugh by showing him a Chinese application on his I-pad.

Besides community service, there were other activities. The teachers did their best at giving us something fun to do at the end of the day, and we took part in a scavenger hunt and a board game at night.

Sadly, our work ended on Thursday afternoon, when we all sat outside with the children for the closing ceremony. Performances were given, including some from Dulwich, which were all amazing. Later, we wrote our names on a red banner and donated the sports equipment, books, and musical instruments we had bought. In one amusing case, a student was liked by the children so much that they all crowded around her and told her to stay. Unfortunately, we could not leave her behind.

Our ride back home on Friday was an uneventful one as most of us, tired out by the work we did, spent it sleeping. I think I can safely say for all of us that this trip was a wonderful experience, and that our memory of it is something that will not fade.





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