

UISZ Community Summary – Week 11



Last week teaching staff were heavily involved in the Week Without Walls (WWW) off-campus activities – hence we were unable to produce a Community Summary. In this week’s edition we bring you a special review of the exciting spectrum of activities that took place at the various MYP and DP camps.

But first let’s take a quick look at what has been happening on campus in the PYP. In Miss Jane’s Year three music class students were looking at Body Music and how our bodies can be used as percussive instruments. Students worked on a class performance which incorporates whole class choreography, small group choreography and improvisation with a backing track, all whilst learning how to read some simple rhythmic notation.





And so now to our Week Without Walls coverage... Year 7 and 8 students travelled by coach to Pak Lap Wan in the Saikung Geo-Park (Hong Kong) with their group leader Miss Marishaan to begin their WWW activities - and what a special week it was! Students camped in tents and engaged in activities such as sea kayaking, rock climbing, abseiling, swimming, hiking and a Geo Park tour. It was an incredible experience and a real opportunity to get in touch with nature and to think about the connection we have with our planet.





Students were challenged to think about the role they play in conservation and what their responsibilities are. We had a member of UNESCO who took us on a Geo Park tour where conservation remained an ongoing focus, as well as learning about indigenous plant and marine life. We all returned home on Friday with tired bodies, but enriched hearts and minds. It was a week to remember!







The Year 9 and 10 students spent the week in Northern Guangdong in Yingde, Qingyuan. We spent the week camping in the beautiful mountain and surrounded by breathtaking nature.





The students got a chance to learn new outdoor skills, team build and reflect on their role as global citizens. They got to participate in activities like rock climbing, orienteering, hiking, biking and learned about local Chinese culture. Even though the students encountered some adversity they got to develop their risk-taking skills, which is a key trait of an IB Learner. The students commented that they enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a long hike through ancient villages down a historic trail as well as a chance to serve the local community in Yingde.









Year 11 CAS students spent the week in a minority Yao village called Heishan. There they stayed with families and joined their hosts for dinner one evening. Activities included hiking through the rice terraces, watching a traditional Yao theatre performance, digging for potatoes and harvesting ginger. There were two main service projects: at the local primary school, they painted colourful playground games and wall pictures and taught the children English, as well as how to use playground games.







At a nearby retirement home, they learned and joined in card games and learned how to weave baskets of bamboo from the residents. They did a deep clean of the dining room and gave it a complete make-over with freshly painted walls and original artwork produced during the visit.





They also revitalised the garden by removing weeds and working with the residents to make bamboo trellises and plant passion fruit vines along with some other beautiful flowers. Integrating, learning, having fun and working with the residents at the retirement home, the children in the primary school, our hosts in our homestays and each other made the trip an experience to remember.



Year 12 students travelled to Twin Moon Bay near Shenzhen with group leader Miss Martina. During the first two and a half days the focus was on completing the Group 4 project - a mandatory part necessary to pass the DP Diploma. Students collected data on the beach as a part of this process. After two days of hard work there was more time to relax. Thursday was an active day with a hike to the view-point, followed by a picnic and visit to the turtle reserve. Although students did not spot any turtles - it was a beautiful care free area for walking and viewing the surrounding landscape. After the long walk students visited the local seafood market to buy ingredients for the beach bbq which was held in the evening. And no camp is complete without a visit to a karaoke venue on the last night!





‘A life fired by passion is like riding on the back of a dragon.’ -Suzy Kassem, Rise Up and Salute the Sun

In the wake of WWW, which was a resounding success, this past week has been much quieter than usual. Boarding staff and 7-day boarders ventured to the Lost City of G on Saturday for rest and recreation, taking on the Escape -





The second contingent of Aussie 50 plus students and staff arrived this last Sunday and so Dragon House is full to capacity. And this presents yet another opportunity for our boarders to engage inter-culturally and trans-nationally. In all, the Dragonites continue to surge ahead, ready to tackle the vagaries and joys of life, mindfully, courageously inside out with courage, fortitude and humaneness.

We have witnessed a whirlwind of excitement surrounding the Week Without Walls camps that took place a week ago and students are now settling back into their usual school routine - refreshed and revitalised by their encounters with the wider world. These holistic educational experiences will provide them with lifelong strategies to help them reach their full potential as world citizens. It is such a pleasure for UISZ teaching staff to have helped them along on this wonderful journey.

From all of us at UISZ we sincerely wish you a charming and delightful weekend!

Warmest wishes,
UISZ School & Boarding Community

