

Bringing the News to Orangevale Campus Families

October 16, 2017

Orangevale Middle School Students "Hit the Ropes" ... and San Francisco

An important part of the Montessori Middle School Program is going out on Immersion Trips, which occur after each cycle (6 weeks) of learning. Two of our middle school students wrote about their recent experiences on these trips.

By Haden Oliver ~ 8th grader

Recently, the Orangevale middle school community went on some exciting field trips. They first visited San Francisco where they stayed the night and visited the California Academy of Sciences. They saw a show about earthquakes in a planetarium with a 180-degree screen. One student said, "It was fascinating", many other students agreed that the screen was "very cool." Other features at the academy included a fully functioning aquarium and a tyrannosaurus skeleton. Students also enjoyed interactive displays on birds, mammals, earthquakes, insects, fish and reptiles.



After the California Academy of Sciences, students enjoyed a 3-mile walk through Piers 1-39 where they saw many interesting things. As they passed Pier 5, they saw the Blue Angels flying for Fleet Week. The walk to the hostel was not all sunshine and roses, though. Many students complained about aching feet and sore legs. Luckily, the remedy for this was waiting for them at their hostel...Chipotle catering! The students dined on tacos and burritos. This vanquished their hunger and prepared them for the next day. (Continued on page 2)



Vendor Fair Coming to Orangevale

The Campus Advisory Council (CAC) has approved a new fundraiser event, *The Holiday Market*. Vendors with crafts and businesses will set up booths for the shopping pleasure of the campus families and surrounding neighbors.

The call for vendors has gone out to the Orangevale Campus families first, and then if room remains, outside vendors will be accepted.

Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 8, from 2:00-8:00 PM**, and come do some gift shopping to start the holiday season out right!

When Does 1 = 3?

When our compassionate Montessori children want to help others in need, they are amazing! The students wanted to help the hurricane victims and began bringing in money from their piggy banks and their allowances. The funds are going to a Montessori school destroyed in the hurricane, and we learned that both AMS and Nienhuis (Montessori material manufacturer) are matching donations, so the children's \$893.15 became \$2,679.45!!!

Middle School Field Trips... continued

The students woke up the next day tired from their shenanigans the previous night. After a breakfast of toast and bagels, the intrepid students walked another 3 miles back to the Amtrak station. Everyone was very tired on the train ride back home.

After the weekend, middle school students came to school 15 minutes early to go to Mother Lode River Center, where they would participate in a high ropes course. After an hour-long drive, the students arrived at Mother Lode for the ropes course. Their morning there was occupied by low ropes activities.

Low ropes activities are all about team building. One student felt like he made more friends. After a short lunch break, the main event began. The students were briefed on high ropes safety, then they started climbing. There were four elements (elements are what ropes course professionals call high ropes activities). Nearly all the students at least tried an element. Many students felt very accomplished and one student stated, "I was very proud of how high I climbed."

After an afternoon full of accomplishment, the students went home. The next morning, many students said that they felt strange going back to a regular school schedule.



By Lahela Kekaulua ~ 8th grader

Both immersion trips our middle school went on were truly outstanding as well as fun. San Francisco was an amazing trip. It was a great experience for both 7th and 8th graders. Exploring San Francisco was an exciting and educational experience, as we walked to our destinations. The walking part may have been a pain, but that was made up by the result of giving us an amazing experience.

We learned many interesting facts at the museum. The museum made learning extra fun with its simulators, games, and real life exhibits, featuring real and many different animals. We spent the night in a hostel, which was very nice. It had a modern touch to it. The people there were very generous and nice.

Mother Lode was a very exciting and very adventurous field trip. We had no distractions from the phone screens or technology. We were able to experience social interactions like group bonding exercises. We were out in nature, by a beautiful river. The guides were certainly nice and outgoing.

When it came time to do the ropes courses, everybody stepped out of their comfort zones. Everyone cheered their classmates on by shouting encouraging words.

These trips were a good choice in my personal opinion. Both trips gave the students an educational, as well as a social experience. I hope we can continue with more trips like this in the future!

"The role of education is to interest the child profoundly in an external activity to which he will give all his potential."

~ Maria Montessori