2012年度澳洲全方位學習之旅
Life-wide learning in Australia 2012
浸信會沙田圍呂明才小學
Baptist (STW) Lui Ming Choi Primary School
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Background

At the very beginning of the life-wide learning programme, Principal Sit and Miss Deon had the opportunity to site visit the Australian host families and the schools in Australia in 2003. They were really impressed by the values, lifestyle and education system demonstrated by the Australians. Therefore, students can experience different learning styles when they join the lessons in Australia. Moreover, they would be immersed in a better English learning environment through staying with the host families.

When overseas study tours became popular, those tours held by commercial organizations only aimed at providing accommodation, English training and sightseeing. Students who joined those tours could rarely communicate with the local people as they always stayed with their fellow tour members.

On the contrary, with Principal Sit’s management and Miss Deon’s connection network in Australia, the life-wide learning programme has been launched in a totally different way as students can stay with the local host families and attend the regular lessons in Australia.

Both parents and students are willing to support and devote themselves to the programme. It has also received lots of positive feedback as students’ growth within these three weeks is obvious and convincing.

As soon as Principal Sit returned to BWTLMC family, she could not wait to share this great success with students and parents. As a result, the first life-wide learning programme was launched in 2011. Students at LMC had a chance to study at Livingstone Christian College in Australia and stayed with the homestay families. Students’ self-management skills and confidence in speaking English were greatly improved.

Thanks be to God, Livingstone Christian College has been LMC’s sister school since 2012. There are more opportunities for our students to explore overseas as we have a stable connection network with this precious sister school in Australia. It is really exciting news.

We are looking forward to benefiting more and more students in LMC by joining this programme.
Goals

- Strengthen students’ English language skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking)
- Develop students’ self-management skills and emotion control
- Widen students’ horizon by exploring a different culture
- Nurture perseverance, composure and boldness to take up responsibility

Target students:
- Primary 3 to Primary 6

Admission criteria:

1. Pre-interview Briefing
2. Submission of Personal Application Form and Teacher Referee Form
3. Principal and teachers’ interview
   Based on five categories:
   (Standard of English, Self management skills, Maturity, Parental support, Perception)

BSTWLMC and Livingstone Christian College (2nd August, 2012)
Environment:
The houses in Australia are much bigger than Hong Kong houses and buildings. On the highways, there are many private cars, but fewer buildings around them.

In Hong Kong, people are busy and they only use public transport to get to work. But in Australia, people mostly drive their private cars. My homestay family has two cars, a jeep and a private car. It is more convenient for them to go out and go shopping.

About Host Family:
I had a great host family in Australia these three weeks. They were kind and friendly. When I had a problem, they would help me. When I was sad, they would make me feel better. I felt warm in these few weeks. They helped and gave me a lot.

School life:
In these few weeks, I met many new friends at school. It was a pleasure to study there. I also played different local sports, especially handball during recess. I hope I can study there in the future again.

My change:
Before these three weeks, I was a naughty guy. I always chatted in lessons. But after this trip, I am more patient in lessons because Principal Sit taught me an important moral lesson. I know the purpose of this trip and the goals in my life. Thank you very much!
About Host Family:
There are four members in my homestay family. They are Ashton, Ella, Martin and Tanya. They have a lovely dog called Bailey. Bailey has black and white fur. He knows many tricks like jumping very high and standing up. They live in a big house with a big garden. They always go out for dinner at the weekend with friends. There are two big sofas in the house. They have two cars. I thought that they were rich but they told me that most families in Australia have a big house and cars. I told them that just rich people in Hong Kong can live in houses, they felt amazed. My homestay family members are Christians. They go to church every week. They love to eat chocolate. Next time, if I go to Australia, I will bring some chocolate for them as presents. Ashton and Ella are just like me, we all love to play Minecraft. So I am going to bring my phone and play Minecraft with them.

School Life:
Livingstone Christian College is a huge family. The students are friendly and helpful. They always encourage and comfort each other. The stationary they use is very simple. They rarely have homework. They never have homework at weekends. They have some special lessons that we don’t have in Hong Kong like science, numeracy and sociology. There are two basketball courts there. Students always play basketball at recess. Everyone has a one and half hour recess including lunch time every day. I always join my schoolmates and play with them in the playground and basketball courts at recess.

My change:
The Australia trip has improved me a lot. I understand many principles and my English has also improved. My English results have gone from Bs up to As. My speaking has improved too. I can speak English faster and better than before. This is a fantastic learning trip! During the trip, I learnt at least one thing per day. I needed to write in my D.I.E.P. book every day to tell the teachers what happened that day and what I’d learnt that day. Since I practised writing every day, my English writing skills have improved too. I’ve learnt not to be cowardly and not to be selfish. I need to be honest. Anyway, I learnt lots and lots of things on this trip. I also learnt how to take care of myself. What a great learning experience!
Reflections:
I really learnt a lot on this trip. For example, I learnt that I need to pay attention while listening to instructions. I learnt that from an experience when we went to the zoo and Movie World. Teachers always gave us clear instructions.

Every day, we had to write our D.I.E.P. That stands for ‘Describe, Interpret, Evaluate and Plan’. Since I had to practise writing the diary, I can present myself and what I think more easily in English now. I learnt to be more independent. I can take care of myself without my parents. I am more self-confident in speaking English since I stayed with my buddy for three weeks. I am not afraid of speaking English now. If I have any problems, I will try to solve them by myself instead of asking for help right away.

School Life:
On this trip to Australia, we had to go to school with our buddy. In Australia, the schools are really big. I had great fun at school. The teachers are really nice to us. They really helped me a lot to merge into the classes and activities. In their school, they do experiments, exercises and take notes. There are no books at all. I had to take notes in lessons too. They just give you a notebook. The students there are really friendly and whole-hearted. At recess, they have outdoor activities like football and basketball. At lunch time, I usually had sandwiches that my homestay family had prepared for me. My classmates really liked to play with me at recess and they even taught me how to play football. There is a really large library that has two floors. My friends sometimes brought me to the library and we read together.
Ryan Lam Ching Hei

About Host Family:
My homestay was very good. They are very welcoming. They also made a sign—‘Welcome Ryan, We love you!’ for me. My homestay mum is called Mrs. Chanelle. My homestay dad is called Mr. Scott. I also have three buddies. They are called Halle, Mia and Gab. We always play together after lessons. They are all Christians. They always read the Bible to me. My homestay dad is an amazing guy. He made ‘the flying toy’ near his house! Every night, Mrs. Chanelle will play UNO, sing songs, read books and Bible with us. I wish some day they can come to Hong Kong.

My Change:
Since I came back to Hong Kong, I have changed a lot. I am not scared of the dark anymore because Mrs Chanelle has told me that ‘Jesus is with me’. Also I learnt how to take care of myself and take care of small children. I am very happy that I had the chance to go to Australia.
About Host Family:
My host family is very kind. They are an old man and an old woman. They taught me a lot, especially English and how to pre-study for my homework. They took care of me well. When I was hungry, they cooked very good dishes for me. At night, they bought me dessert. They told me a story while I was going to sleep. I hope I can keep in touch with them in the future.

School Life:
My school life is excellent because all my schoolmates are very kind. They taught me how to play football, handball and basketball. The teacher is very nice too. She let us have group discussion as a chance to speak more English and improve our English. Now, I am not afraid to speak English anymore. I hope I can see them again soon.

My Change:
I think it is a big change for me. I have learnt and changed many things due to this trip. I am not scared of dark places now and I learnt how to make new friends. I want to thank my parents who gave me such a good chance to learn by having this marvelous trip.
About Host Family:
My host family have four children and a cat. The cat is called Kitty. It has soft fur like feathers and its fur has some black spots too. My buddy, Joshua Edward is a very handsome boy and he has a very special sport he likes – football. He has very long legs and he had very strong feet when kicking the ball.

His younger brother, Isaac is a very funny boy that always told us jokes, so we always call him ‘Jokey Isaac’. Also, he has two sisters, called Tahlee and Sienna. They are very active and love to play card games.

My host parents are very kind and they all treat me very well during these three weeks. Their names are Aunty Jackie and Uncle Grant. Uncle Grant is a very good driver. He always drives from side to side when there are no other cars on the road. It’s just like riding on a roller-coaster! Their house is very big with a big yard and some equipment for exercising. They are very friendly to me and when I am sad and want to go home, they comfort me and tell me not to cry.

Environment:
When I went to Australia, I did not even need to go to the countryside to feel the fresh air, I felt it right outside the airport or even in the big city. I saw lots of trees beside the roads and I did not see a single person smoking. I needed to be aware of the freezing cold in the morning because it is almost 5 Degree Celsius but also beware the hot weather in the afternoon too. So I usually brought a pair of short jeans and a shirt for changing. I always saw white clouds in the sky and I could not even see any factories downtown or in the countryside. It is also very strange for me to understand why almost everyone can have a big house. The reason is that there is enough space for people to build houses on and live on.
Reflections:
I think I know more about Australian culture now than before. I went as I don’t really know their life style which causes misunderstanding. Secondly, I had to face difficult subject content in grade seven which is the same as the Syllabus in Hong Kong Secondary Schools. Luckily, I never gave up and learnt how to make preparations before lessons.

Breakthrough:
On this trip, I have been trying new things and not being too sensitive when facing unexpected situations. Before I went to Australia, I never dared to try new things as I thought they were too difficult or dangerous. When I went to Movie World, I went on many exciting rides such as the roller-coaster. When something happened unexpectedly, I learnt to calm myself down and find a solution.

My Change:
Actually, I am a girl who is unwilling to listen to others’ suggestions and think that my ideas are the best. After this trip, I learnt how to communicate with others and listen to them. Also, I am more serious in learning, I always thought that I could understand new things quickly which has made me become careless in my learning. In Australia, my mistakes made me understand that I have to be serious with every chance of learning.
About Host Family:
My host family has four members. My homestay mum’s name is Alyson. My buddy’s name is Lauren. She studies in Year 3. She is a nice girl. My other buddy’s name is Mason. He studies in Year 1. He is a very cute boy. My homestay dad’s name is Paul. He likes to play and cook, just like my dad! I love my homestay family!

School Life:
In Australia, I met a lot of friends at Livingstone Christian College. I was in Class 5B. I sat beside a very nice classmate. Her name is Jessica. Sometimes I didn’t understand what the teacher said, but she taught me very clearly. When we started the morning tea, they invited me to play with them. Of course, I was very glad. I loved being there, everyone was nice to me!
About my host family:

My host family was a perfect family for me. The family members were Nathalie, Nicholas, Sam and Billy the Dog.

Nathalie was acting as my mum during the trip. She helped me a lot with managing myself and taught me a lot about Australia. She works at Livingstone Christian School as a teaching assistant. She is also a devout Christian. She regularly brought us to church services and talked about how God inspired her a lot. She was a nice mum. She asked about our needs daily and tried her very best to help us enjoy the trip more. For example, she took us body boarding twice and to Dream World many times. I still remember that on one Sunday she was seriously sick, but she didn’t stay at home. Instead, to fulfill our hope, she brought us to different places to play. We were very grateful for her sacrifice! Additionally, her cooking skills are really great. She can cook delicious chocolate cookies, and she claimed that the cookies were famous at the school and many people even bought them from her. Unfortunately, she told us that the recipe was a secret. What a shame!

Sam and Nick were like our brother and sister. We watched movies together, joked together and slept together! They gave me a warm feeling all the time. Nick was studying in Primary 3 and Sam was studying in Secondary School. Nick usually brought us to the road nearby to exercise. We often jumped on their trampoline as well. After dinner, we would lie down on the trampoline and watch the stars. That was a gorgeous view! For Sam, we always played "Wii fight" with her. She was a good player and could always beat us easily. I enjoy spending time with them a lot!

Billy is an energetic dog and we played tricks with him every day. He often ran after us and barked at us, in a friendly way. Before I was very scared of dogs, but I am not scared anymore! Billy showed me that dogs are actually very funny and playful. I miss Billy a lot! I love my perfect host family and I can’t wait to see them again!

School life

I made a lot of friends in school. They were all very friendly and were willing to spend time with me. When I first met them, I was not confident in my ability to speak English fluently and could hardly communicate with them. However, after a few days, their warmness touched me, I started to be more positive and made more friends on my own. I loved the English, History and the PE lessons the most. The teachers were humorous and kind to us. In PE lessons, we could sometimes play very interesting games such as Touch-The-Flag. We have to run fast enough so that the people behind can’t catch us, catch the flag of the other team and run back to your own base. It was very exciting and enjoyable. At the same time, I enjoyed reading a book called the Cay in English lessons. The book was about a blind young white boy and elderly black man trying hard to survive on an island that had been forgotten by the world. The story was fascinating and inspiring too. Besides lessons, lunch time was great too. We would play hand ball, which is a sport where you have to throw the ball among other teammates and if you miss it, you will be out. Another thing that we do is chatting. We shared our experiences in Hong Kong and they shared their experiences in Australia. It was surprising to listen to their interesting stories. I really love to speak with them a lot.

On the last days at school, many students signed my pure white T-shirt, which was an extremely touching moment for me. By looking at the colorful words on my T-shirt, I can immediately feel how lucky I am. I love Livingstone Christian College very much!
About Host Family:
In Australia, my homestay mum is Diana. She was a pretty and very tall woman. She was very kind. She is a teacher. She teaches Grade 9 Maths. She lives very far away from school. She lives with her mother. My homestay mum’s mother is called Sanja. She is a housewife. Every day, she prepares a yummy lunch for me to bring to school. Every weekend, they took me to visit different places such as the zoo and the cinema. It was very fun. I want to say thank you to my homestay mum and her mother for taking care of me.

School Life:
In Australia, there are many teachers and students at my school. They are very nice. The recess is very long in the morning. I also played basketball in the backyard. I enjoyed it a lot. Then, I had a library lesson. This lesson was very special. We could listen to a story there and choose some books to read in the lesson. It was very interesting. I love this lesson very much!
About Host Family

I lived in my host family’s home for two weeks. There are four members in their family. They are very nice and caring. My host parents took us to the beach, supermarket and their friends’ house. They made lots of delicious food for us. At night, they chatted with us before we slept. They also closed the windows and covered the quilt for us at mid-night. I like them so much. If I go to Australia again, I will visit them. I will bring some delicious food from Hong Kong for them.

School Life

I was worried about my school life on the first day. However, when I studied there for a few days, I was happy and I didn’t feel worried anymore. My classmates are very funny and friendly. They helped me a lot when I had problems in class and with homework. The local students were willing to play with us at recess. We also played basketball together after school. The teachers are good. They tell us jokes when they think that we are bored. They always chat with us after lessons. I like the school life there and I wish to go there again.
About Host Family
My host family had two cute, fluffy and lazy cats called Earl Grey and BC. My buddy is called Ellise. Her parents’ names are Joelle and Michael. Her elder brother is called Connor. They took lots of care of me when I felt sick and when I was homesick. They cared for me just like their daughter and sibling! I often played card games with my buddy.

School Life
Australia’s schools are a bit different from Hong Kong’s. The students there have an A4 size pencil bag to put their pencils in. Also, it is not common to use correction tape there. They usually use a correction pen. Once, when I used my correction tape, my classmates thought that was really cool! So, they asked me what it was! Besides, they don’t use expensive pens. It is different from Hong Kong! The shops in Hong Kong sell expensive pens such as “UNI” and “HI-TEC-C”, but people there just use ordinary pens.

Furthermore, there is a rule for students. Students need to wear their hats when they leave their classroom. Moreover, the schools are not high, they are only about one to three floors.

On this trip, we studied in Livingstone Christian College. I thought that the air was fresh as there are many plants around. The students have physical Education lessons in a big area of grass. It is so comfortable.
About Host Family

In this Host Family, my host dad is called Damo, host mum is called Skye, the elder sister is called Georgia, the elder brother is called Zac and the younger brother is called Max. They were all nice and kind to me. On this trip, they took me to different places like Sea World. Sea World was a wonderful place and we learnt about many different sea creatures. We had lots of fun there. The three children all like rugby. Georgia likes listening to music and reading books, but Max and Zac like playing video games and sports. They are quite naughty. Skye always cooked delicious Australian food for us, especially tacos. Tacos are yummy as there are lots of ingredients inside, such as pork cubes, lettuce, tomato, cheese cubes and a big crunchy chip.

School Life

In Australia, I went to school on foot and sometimes we took a dog, Freedy, on the walk to school. In Hong Kong, there is a lot of school work, the subjects and content are not as easy as they seem. But Australian schools are different as what Australian teachers teach is easy. On the first day, the first lesson was Maths. Although I am good at Maths, I still felt terrified at the beginning. When the Australian Maths teacher gave me a test within 5 minutes, it seemed too easy for Hong Kong students, we all did one page in two minutes! When it is morning tea time, we have some food and we play lots of games like basketball and rugby. I played different games, so I could figure out many games and have lots of fun, too! My homestay family prepared lunch box for me every day, but in Hong Kong, I would have lunch that the lunch provider in school had made. After lunch, I played even more games.

My Change

On this trip, my breakthrough is overcoming feeling anxious when rope climbing as I think it is a dangerous sport and I felt exhausted after doing it. After I finished it, I thought it was interesting because we learned that we shouldn’t give up. At the school, I met more friends from different countries and played basketball and rugby with them. I hope I can meet more friends from other countries and stay in contact through ‘facebook’. At the campsite, I knew that they usually do things all by themselves without help!

Australian food is special. It is healthy and tasty. I could smell the wonderful aroma of the food and ate a piece of meat with lots of vegetables. In my homestay family’s house, they had two dogs. I stayed happily with them, but I haven’t had a dog or a cat before, so my change is that I know I can live with cute pets. I am never scared of pets anymore.
Reflections
On this trip, I have got a lot praise from teachers and friends. I could speak more fluently in English with new classmates and my host family. In Australia, I needed to wake up earlier to go to school because their house was not very close to school.

Breakthrough
It was my first time stay in far away from my parents for three weeks. I feel that I have grown up. I’ve learnt how to chat with strangers and new friends. I am not shy anymore. I can speak loudly. I think I have improved in English as I talk with my host family and classmates in English every day. Now I think I can take care of myself and others. I’ve learnt cooking and I did housework on my own. I am more confident to solve problems by myself.
Culture
I enjoyed staying with my host family. It was very relaxing. My host family like watching TV before dinner. They are quiet while they are having dinner. Australians sleep at eight o'clock at night. It is very early for me!

Comparison
Australians wear T-shirts and short jeans in winter. Hong Kong people always wear long shirts and long jeans. To sum it up, Australians are very strong. They always exercise, so they are healthy and strong, but Hong Kong people are too busy and we seldom do exercise, so we always become sick.
Environment
Australia is a beautiful country with a lot of unique wildlife like kangaroos, koalas, emus and wombats. The first time I saw a wombat, I couldn’t stop laughing. It has a fat and round body with four short legs. It moves in a funny way and it has a funny name, too! It is very dark at night in Australia. I saw plenty of stars in the sky. It’s amazing! I will never forget the galaxy I saw.

About Host Family
I had a wonderful time in Australia with my host family, Mr. Sam Smith and Mrs. Rachel Smith. Sam and Rachel were very nice and patient with me. When I didn’t know how to express my feelings, they encouraged me. I felt sick, and they took good care of me. They let me visit their families and friends, we played a lot of games together. I especially enjoyed the day at Australia Zoo. We have happy memories together. I sometimes write emails to Rachel. She always replies very quickly. I hope to visit them again!
Culture

The culture in Australia is very different to Hong Kong. In the morning, we would wake up at six thirty because our house in Australia was so far from the school. There is no public transportation, so we had to ride in my homestay mum’s car. At ten o’clock in the morning, we had a break called morning tea. At three o’clock in the afternoon, we had a rest too. That one is called afternoon tea.

After school, I would go to find my homestay mum in the school as she is a teacher there. Then, we went home. After I tidied my school bag, we would usually have a walk in the park. At five o’clock, my homestay grandma cooked dinner for us. In Australia, we wait for all family members to sit down and pray before eating. We hold our hands together to pray. While we are eating, we talk about what we have done that day. After eating dinner, we cannot watch TV, we talk together on the sofa instead.

Australians sleep early. I slept at eight o’clock every night. So we could have a nice day the next day.

My Change

After I came back to Hong Kong, I learnt to be braver than before because I learned to surf in Australia. It was really fun. I also became more independent. I helped at home in Australia, so now I do housework and often help my family. I help to take care of my brother. I also buy things that we need.

Before I left Australia, I cooked ‘Stewed Chicken with Potato’ for my homestay family to thank them. They loved it.

In Australia, I had more chance to speak English. I met different friends from different places. I can speak confidently and ask a new person if I can be their friend. I have had a big change since I went to Australia.
About Host Family

My host family is very nice and kind. There are four children in the family. There are two teenagers and two preschool age children. I loved to stay with them very much. They treated me very well and brought me to church every Sunday. I’m really glad that I had such a nice homestay family. My host mum made me a delicious lunch every day. She brought me to many places and gave me my own room. I hoped I could stay with them forever! My buddy’s name is Harmony. She is seven years old. She loves her puppy and teddy bear very much! She even carries it to school! She sleeps with them and plays with them every day. I love Teddy bear, too!

My homestay mum brought me to many places, such as the mall, supermarket and beach. We swam at the beach for one and a half hours. We saw several tiny fish!

School Life

I like my new friends at school. They helped me with my homework a lot. When it was the first time I had a tuck shop lunch, they taught me how to take lunch from the tuck shop. My buddy taught me how to do my homework. I also played Frisbee and volleyball with them. We shared our lunch and played with each other. I love the school life in Livingstone! My homestay family treat me very well. I wanted to stay there forever if I could! When I had to go to the airport, they said they will miss me a lot and hugged me very tight. I hope I’ll meet them again! However, we still keep in touch, they always send me messages and call me. They send me their photos with their family and also with their pets. I miss them!

My Change

First, I was scared of heights, but after climbed the giant ladder, I wasn’t scared of heights as I had no choice to think whether I want to climb it or not. Secondly, Before I went to Australia, I was afraid of flies and cockroaches. Now, I’m still afraid of flies and cockroaches but I won’t scream anymore.
Charmaine Li

My Change:
I was glad to have this opportunity to go to Australia with the school last year during the summer. In the beginning, I thought I couldn’t communicate fluently with my buddy and the students who were studying there. But then I found out that I was wrong, they were very friendly and nice to me. They also brought me to church on Fridays and Sundays. I was very happy to be a part of their family, even just for a few weeks. I still keep in contact with my buddy and her family.

Feelings:
If I have the chance to go to Australia again, I really hope that I can meet up with them. I think it was a really good chance to learn how to take care of myself and others, and be independent. This is really an invaluable opportunity for all of us.

After this program, I learnt to be more active and considerate. It was an enjoyable and meaningful summer and it is a very good chance to learn English.
Environment

Australia is a beautiful country. There are many trees around the roads. It is also quiet at night and you can see the stars clearly. I want to stay there forever. There is a big shopping mall, but there aren’t so many people around. At school, there were also lots of grass and trees. There isn’t any rubbish on the road. It is clean in the city.

About Host Family

I stayed with my host family, Sam and Rachel. They are kind. Sam is a music and I.T. teacher at Livingstone. Rachel is an accountant in a private company. They prepared meals for me and my friend, Dave daily and took us to school. At the weekend, they took us to the zoo, the mall, the church and their friend’s house. I am glad to meet them. They are friendly and they taught us lots of knowledge. I will never forget them.

School Life

I studied in Livingstone Christian College in Class Grade Five. The school is big. There is a big library, playgrounds, a sports field, hall and music rooms. I met many new friends in my class. They were all friendly to me. The lessons are different from Hong Kong, for example, they have History lessons. I liked the English books in the library because they were interesting and funny. I also like the morning tea time because we could eat snacks at that time. I hope I study there again!

My Change

I changed a lot when I finished the trip. I learnt more English at the school and I’ve learnt how to take care of myself and others. I learnt to be friendly to my classmates.
About Host Family

My host family has four members, including host father, mother, my buddy, Paris and her little brother, Zane. My homestay mother prepared breakfast and lunch boxes for us every day. They are very nice. They took me to the beach on Sunday, so I could enjoy the beautiful sea view that I had never seen before. On the beach, we picked up and dug seashells. They are very special and beautiful. I took some seashells home.

My homestay mother is a very nice woman. She took us to visit their friends when she had time. It was a joyful time because we didn't need to do homework and we could make more new friends.

Breakthrough

On the trip to Australia, the principal and teachers said that I had a lot of things to breakthrough, including speaking loudly and clearly. Although I didn't do all of it, I have still made great progress in increasing the volume of my voice because on this trip, we had a lot of time to meet strangers and communicate with Australian classmates. Sometimes, I could not speak fluently, so I tried to speak slowly and think before I speak.

Also, I had never been on a roller-coaster before I went to Australia, and I thought it would be horrible. On this trip, my teacher encouraged me to ride on the roller-coaster and sit on the front seat. Now I never feel scared to go on the roller-coasters. Moreover, on this trip, I was brave enough to sleep alone in a big, dark house. I hope I can learn more next time!
Breakthrough

On this Australia trip, I made a lot of breakthroughs. For example, I took care of myself for twenty one days. I grabbed the claw of a big crab, I climbed up a three-story high rope-net, I put a snake on my neck... These breakthroughs seemed easy but I put lots of effort in to achieve them.

I felt scared and wanted to escape from those scary and dangerous things from the first moment. Even when I had decided to join this trip, I still worried a lot. However, I told myself that I could do it. Whenever I hesitated, I would pray to Jesus. Jesus stands beside me and gave me strength and confidence. That’s why I can take on the challenges and enjoy them so much! I even encouraged my group members to ride on the super high and fast roller-coaster with me.

My Host Family

Australians are very nice and gentle, especially my host family, they even treat me as one of their family members. Most families in Australia have pets, and my host family have a lovely cat and a dog. I love cats! My host father is Dean Mahoney, host mum is Lisa, the elder sister is Ella and the younger sister is Brianna.

One day, I went to the backyard and played with their dog. I took my camera with me, yet the dog thought it was a toy so it jumped on me. I fell over on the ground and the dog scratched me. I got hurt. Aunt Lisa cautiously cleaned my wound and bandaged it. They were all worried about me and they kept asking me, “Are you alright?” I smiled at them with thanks and said, “I am fine!” I won’t forget this day as they expressed their love and care for me.

Comparison

There are a lot of differences between Hong Kong and Australia. There is lots of good scenery in Australia and the place is bigger so we can explore comfortably there. However, Hong Kong is small and it is too crowded, so the air is not as fresh as in Australia. Australians live in houses, but most Hong Kong people live in flats in tall buildings. Australian houses are cheaper and spacious.
About Host Family

My homestay parents are Mr. Glenn and Mrs. Julie-Anne Batchelor. They live all the way in Biggar Waters. They are around 50-80 years old and they both teach at Emmanuel College. They have a daughter, Mrs. Krista Klein, a teacher at Livingstone and a son Michael who is in the Navy.

Mr. and Mrs. Batchelor are very nice. They both smile a lot and they were just like parents to me and Janassa. They both love the outdoors and it was more than once that they took the two of us out on outings. We went out to the Pacific Ocean in a boat once, went hiking and also had a barbecue. They also like traveling. They have many pictures of their travels.

We had a very special time together in Australia. The four of us used to play pick-up sticks before bed! It was one of the most memorable moments of my trip to Brisbane. It was a long time ago, but I still miss them with all my heart.

Culture

Australians are really friendly. They are also very open to other people and they aren’t embarrassed by what they do. It wasn’t hard to make friends in Australia, since most of them come and talk to you. But I also learnt to be like them.

Australians, although they are open, are also very polite. They do their best to help people and make them happy. They never run or shout in public places and they don’t talk all the space in places with seats.

Australians also prefer driving to taking buses, taxis and trains. There are little of these public transportation in Australia.

Australians also like to eat steak. It’s the most well known food in Australia. Australia is also famous for cattle-herding and sheep-shearing. The two of these are probably the most important jobs in Australia.

My School Life

I first studied in the fifth grade but then I moved up to the sixth grade. The subjects they study are different. In grade 5, we were still learning times tables but in grade 6, the students were learning about subjects like latitude and longitude. There is a big difference between the subjects they are learning but they aren’t that different.

All the students (in both grade 5 and 6) are quite carefree. They take their lessons seriously but they also know when to let go and have fun. They’re definitely more active than our BSTWILMC students!

I had a great time in school. As I said, the students are more carefree there, so for the first time, I had great fun at recess times. The subjects were also very interesting and there were little projects for us to do in classes like Science. I loved having lessons there. Science and English were my favourite subjects in LCC.

I made friends very quickly at school. My LCC schoolmates were all very kind and helpful. We all had great fun together.

I had a wonderful time in Brisbane and although I may not be going back there, I still have the sweet memories left behind.
Environment
I loved the environment in Australia the most. It is very clean and the air is fresh. And it is comfortable to live there. In Brisbane, there are not many tall buildings but there are a lot of houses around us. Australians don’t live in tall buildings, most of them live in houses, especially big houses to us Hong Kong people. The sea is cleaner than Hong Kong in Australia. I can even see the creatures in the sea through the water. Moreover, there are many kangaroos in Australia and they always appear on the road. It is quite funny!

School Life
The school life in Australia is free. Every day in the morning when I arrived at school, I always saw that some students were in the library or some were in the classroom. Then, after two or three lessons, we had a recess. All students sat on the ground or on the staircases and had snacks. I chatted with my classmates. At Livingstone, we went to different classrooms for different lessons. I really had fun at this school and I enjoyed the school life very much!

My Change
Before I went to Australia, I was quite scared when I was sleeping alone. After a few weeks, I was not that scared anymore. Also, I was not very good at communicating with Western people before. In Australia, I needed to communicate with Australians in English and I always did that, so after I came back from Australia, I am better at that. I have really seen a big change since I went to Australia, and I think that it was a good experience.
About Host Family

My homestay Dad is called Glenn Albert Batchelor and my homestay mum is called Julie-Anne Batchelor. I’ve no buddy, however, I stayed with another LMC student Erica Wong. Glenn and Julie-Anne are teachers at Emmanuel College. They have two cars, therefore, Glenn drives us to school every day and Julie-Anne drives another car to work. We go to church every Saturday. We go to the Children’s Church to play with the other children after church service. We always have BBQ for dinner, and for dessert, we always have brownies or a scoop of ice-cream. Their daughter works at Livingstone Christian College. Glenn and Julie-Anne are very friendly and nice. They always chat and share photos with us. Glenn teaches me how to cook. Julie-Anne gets our breakfast ready so that we can eat our breakfast when we go downstairs. Although I don’t have a buddy, I’m very glad and content. My homestay family brought Erica and me to the beach, rainforest and in a boat to the Pacific Ocean. It’s another enjoyable and fun learning experience!

Breakthrough

After I joined the trip, I’ve had many breakthroughs. Firstly, I don’t feel scared at night. In Australia, when it was almost five or six, the sky turns grey, and when it was eight, it was very dark. If you turn off the light, you won’t see anything! Secondly, I don’t cry when I’m bleeding, as I know that tears can’t solve any problems. At the camp, we had an activity called ‘Body Boarding’, the sand scratched my skin and I hurt myself. My hands and legs bleed. Thirdly, I can do things faster. After the trip, I finish my homework in one or two hours every day; however, when I was in primary one to four, I took two to three hours. Fourthly, I’ve learnt to manage my time and get on well with my homestay family and my schoolmates. I’ve learnt how to take care of myself and how to pack up luggage too! Although this trip was expensive, I think it was worth it as a ‘once in a lifetime’ opportunity.

School Life

In Australia, the school rules are different from Hong Kong. The school is so free that you can run around in the classroom or outside the classroom. However, in Hong Kong if we run, we’ll be punished. There is no handbook for students. We only have one or two pieces of homework per day. Besides, schoolbags are not allowed to put in the classroom. They are put on the shelves outside the classroom. No eating is allowed in the classroom because it may attract mice or cockroaches. They need to prepare lunchbox themselves or get their lunch in the tuck shop. School life in Australia is relaxing.
Hayden Wong Hoi Tung

Breakthrough
On the first day in Australia, although it was very cold, we had some water activities at the campsite. First we did “Body Boarding” at the beach. I got hurt and drank a lot of sea water when the big waves came. The water is salty and cold. The activity was fun and exciting. I think I was brave.

Next day, we went to have “Beach Games”, “Building sandcastles” and “Filling the bucket” is a fun game. After that, we climbed a high rope, the rope hurt my hands because it was very tough.

The next day, we went to the zoo. I was very excited and interested. We saw many animals such as a snake, parrots, peacocks and kangaroos. Koalas are furry and cute. They look like a grey ball. We can’t see them in Hong Kong. Later we watched a show with a man shaving sheep’s and goat’s wool. After this trip, I learnt ‘Begin With The End In Mind’. We should never give up if we haven’t completed the task. We need to be proactive. If I open my mind, I will make more friends.

About Host Family
There are four people in my homestay family. Their surname is “Teague”. My host father is Mr. Teague. My host mum is Melinda. My friends are Hannah and Sophie. On the first day, I went to school with my buddies, I was excited. The Australian school is bigger. I thought we had easy Maths lessons there. At the weekend, my host family took me to watch a movie. We went to the park to have a picnic and ride bicycles. I tried to teach my buddies how to ride a bicycle. I was very proud that I could teach them. We also went to Sophie’s friend’s birthday party. It was fun. I am grateful to my homestay family for taking care of me and treating me well.
I think the culture in Australia is really different from China. Australians’ life is simple, free and laisurable. Chinese’ life is packed brimful and unduly luxurious. For example, Australians choose their clothing or buy things easily and quickly. Yet, Chinese will usually compare prices between shops. Also, Australians are not usually late when meeting friends. They would rather wake up earlier and make sure that they are not late. They also think being late is very impolite. While Chinese think being late is very normal and that their friends don’t usually care about it. Besides, Australians eat almost five meals a day whereas we only have three meals a day.

Both cultures have some good and bad points that I like and I don’t like. However, I really enjoyed Australian culture during this study trip!

About Host Family

My Host Family was very important to me during this AUS trip. They are Uncle Dean, Auntie Lisa, Brianna and Ella. They treated me so well. Every night, Auntie Lisa would hug me and say “Have a nice dream, just call me if you are hungry. I’ll cook for you!” I was really glad to have a fantastic home stay family to stay with during this trip. Also, they always gave me their best and tried to help us with our homework! Uncle Dean is humorous and conscientious.

One Sunday afternoon the whole family came back home after Church. On the way home, Uncle Dean asked many questions about my family. There was a question that I couldn’t explain to him well. So he stopped the car and helped me to answer the questions one by one, patiently.

My buddies, Brianna and Ella were so funny. Although, their ages were not the same, they were like twins! They both like acting and laughing all the time. They are always cheerful. There were no matters that couldn’t be solved by them. Ella likes going to school and she would help me with my homework. Also, Brianna would always lend me her notebook. When she was free, she would ask if I know how to use the computer or did I enjoy my day.

Sometimes, both of them would bring me to the park or the backyard to have fun with them. I really liked my host family from Australia and I cried a lot in the Parents’ farewell party. So I will always remember them dearly.
About Host Family
I stayed with a mother, two children and a Hong Kong student. The elder child’s name is Nick. He likes to play soccer and the cello. The younger child's name is Sam. She likes to read books and play video games. Her favourite game was Smash Bros. The Mother’s name is Nathalie. She always baked her famous cookies. I tried them and they were tasty! The Hong Kong student’s name is Geshi. He likes to do rock climbing. He can get to the top of the wall in a second!

School Life
On the first day of school, I felt very nervous because I was going to meet my new classmates. My teacher’s name was Miss Smith. She taught me Maths, History and Art. My favourite subject was Maths because it was very easy to understand. I enjoyed the school library because there were many interesting books. I enjoyed the computer room too because I could search for new words. I liked playing during recess because the school is so big. It made my school life in Australia unforgettable.

Comparison
In Summer, Australia’s weather is so dry and cold. But Hong Kong’s weather is hot and wet. When it is night time in Australia, we can see the stars clearly. There are no trains in my town. Schools in Australia are like houses. Hong Kong schools have many floors.
About Host Family
I went into a friendly family, the Skerman Family. They welcomed me very much. I felt glad that God had prepared a fantastic homestay for me. On the last week of the trip, I hurt my elbow. They took care of me very well and helped me to do things that I couldn't do with one good hand. They also helped me to pack some of my luggage. I was very pleased. They took me to many famous places in Brisbane like the Red Bridge Park. We had lots of fun. Now we still keep in touch, we also exchanged Christmas cards by mail.

Culture
Many Australians believe in God. They pray before every meal. My homestay told me that some Australians still use horses to travel. The cars can go extremely fast on the highway. But fortunately, there are seldom accidents. Some of the roads don't have lights. I think it is dangerous. Also, some houses have a fire place, they need to chop wood to make fire in winter, of course the wood is from some fallen trees.

School Life
At school, the classmates were friendly. They always played ball games with us. We never go bored at recess. Principal Sit and all the LMC teachers took care of us very well. When I hurt my elbow, they came and talked to me. I felt glad. Their school is huge. There were fields to play football on and an enormous basketball court for doing exercise on. There were many classrooms. I would be lost if I walk around alone. They had a big library that was two times bigger than ours! There were many computers too! I wish our school was as big as Livingstone.
"Overseas Study Tour Programme" is no longer a seldom seen term as our school has received hundreds of leaflets from different organizations around Hong Kong. If our school joined a tour and cooperate with the organization, then they would plan the schedule, accommodation and travel. Truth be told, it really reduces the teachers’ burden as they have their daily teaching routine to consider. However, the teachers in our school not only want our students to widen their horizons and explore different cultures, but also to cultivate an attitude of independent learning. As a result, teachers have taken this opportunity to arrange a life-wide study trip for our students, which is a truly remarkable experience.

The vision of LMC is to gather the strength of God and man. We strive to build a new generation characterized by a love of God and mankind; being benevolent and brave, mild and modest yet having the heart to serve the whole world. The Australia life-wide learning programme is a multi-level tour as students can have a plethora of experiences with their Australians counterparts which they could not achieve or obtain in their regular daily school lives. 29 students were selected to join our programme this year. They may not have brilliant academic result or artistic talent, but they are the ones who were most willing to devote themselves to this learning programme.

Breakthrough and discoveries are the two major components of this trip. Students were required to express themselves through D.E.E.P. It is a daily reflection which includes four elements. They are Description, Emotion, Evaluation and Plan. Students reflect and record a diary on a daily basis. As a result, they gain a deeper understanding of themselves and a better grasp of the English language.

There is an idiom that describes the students’ feelings after the tour. It’s good to stay at home a year, and it’s hard to go out an hour. On this trip, students should learn to be more independent. Students may have difficulties but they do not give up easily. Parents should be instilled with the belief that their children can do wonderful things that they had never imagined! Within these three weeks, our students learnt to be brave, independent and co-operative. They could do many things by themselves such as cooking, gardening and self-management. Moreover, since the homestay families did not know how to speak Chinese, students spoke English with the host families and buddies all the time. They built a good sense of belonging with their Australian families. What a valuable experience it is! They have grown to be more considerate and more mature.

The life-wide learning programme has definitely become an important milestone on the path of our students’ growth!
It has been my great pleasure to lead the life-wide learning programme in Australia 2012. Also, it is the second year we have organized a study trip at LMC. Self-directed learning is a hot issue nowadays. Travelling to Australia provides a golden opportunity for promoting it. As the saying goes, give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. I had this saying in mind when I organized the programme. Students at LMC are eager to learn different things, especially in academic aspects, however, they neglect the needs of learning life skills. This programme can really strengthen students’ growth in this regard.

In order to prepare our students for the life-wide learning programme, we had arranged 5 different training sessions which took place not only in the school but also at the youth village. All of them were unforgettable and precious experiences which students could not miss any part of it. They strengthened the students’ minds in preparing for the trip. Each session contained different learning objectives. They were team building, problem solving, self-management and emotional control. All of them are crucial elements that led to the success of this year’s study trip.

In both years of the study trip, it wasn’t an easy task for the students to stay away from their parents for 3 weeks. At the same, it wasn’t an easy task for the parents either. Parents should let their children be more independent so they can be mature. Let children try at the beginning. Parents should support and encourage their children not to give up so as to build up their relationship. It will have a positive impact.

Last but not least, I would like to thank God for leading our way to Australia. We met great people and experienced important events in Livingstone and Australia. “While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” John 12:36
My trip to Australia was an experience of a life-time. It was not only a time to relax and enjoy but also a time to learn and reflect.

This learning journey commenced well before the trip. It started when the time we interviewed the applicants. Through talking to the students, I had a better understanding of the students’ lives outside school. Surprised was I to find that, contrary to common belief, junior students could be so much better organised than their senior counterparts. Academic competence was no guarantee for self-care capability. “This is the right training for you,” I whispered to myself.

That was what had been delivered. With careful planning of each activity, students were given opportunities to take care of themselves and their belongings, cooperate and treasure team work, understand and express their emotion. I, more a facilitator than a teacher, had a good time observing: the passionate helpers needed no prompt to show their support; the potential leaders showed their colours in times of stress and confusion. There were times of joy and times of pain. During the whole course, the children challenged themselves. All participants, having set their goal, advanced at their own pace through the experience.

Thanks to the daily reflection, our children have come up with a clearer self-concept and a better understanding of their own disposition. Without doubt, their English has been polished in varying degree, so has their sense of responsibility.

Needless to say, each of us had a wonderful time there in the other hemisphere. One could share our joy reading the Facebook – the fresh scrumptious food, the panoramic ocean view and the soothing lifestyle made the trip memorable. Even the sky was an ever-changing canvas which kept holding this admirer in awe of the wonders of nature.

Australia, I will come again!
Australian Trip reflection
The Australian Trip this year was truly an enchanting experience. For both the kids and the teachers, we experienced a wealth of amazing things and met wonderful people. Here are some snapshots.

Host Family
The host families lavished God’s love for our students – daily care, weekend excursions and much more, treating them as their own and showing them the reason behind is Jesus loves them, and so they love us.

Nature in the Neighbourhood
The trip was a great chance to encounter quite a vast array of treasure the nature offers – touching furry kangaroos and more at a natural reserve, lifting a majestic mud crab, body-boarding with cool, refreshing waves and silky smooth sand at Gold Coast, hearing constant presence of crows, breathing in fresh air, and admiring a starry southern sky after splendid sunsets day after day.

English Enhanced
The kids’ English improved. Their readiness to talk in English to their host was like a second nature to them. Their daily reflection – D.I.E.P. gave us a glimpse into what they could express and achieve. But that’s not all, teachers’ English are also improved. Those catchy phrases would surely ring a bell for those who had been there – “No worries”, “That’s a good idea!” to name a few.

Alone but not lonely
Even though the kids have to be on their own thousands of miles away from their parents, they have shown great resilience to this challenge. Teachers care, host family’s love and the bonding they have formed among themselves made their trip enjoyable, if not enviable.

Parents’ love more treasured
Every package and every letter from the parents was met with great expectation. And every single chance to hear their parents’ voice over the phone would sure be emotional. We could see how much they missed their daddy and mummy, and how much they treasured the trip at the same time.

Farewell party. Homeward journey.
The tears at the farewell party were pure gratitude because of the bond being formed between the host family and our kids. Our students take off for their homeward journey after visiting a home away from home.
Miss Sally Chan

The time went by so fast! It has already been two months since our trip to Australia. This was an unforgettable learning programme. I would like to thank Principal David, Principal Sit and all the teachers who arranged this successful learning programme for our students. During those three weeks, Principals, teachers and homestay families in Australia took care of every LMC child. I noticed that they really enjoyed staying and learning at every moment. It was a challenging experience for our young kids studying abroad, applying their English language and social communication skills completely everywhere they went. I appreciate that all of them tried their best and overcame their difficulties. I think that this was a great opportunity for students to be immersed in a new culture and language environment by taking part in cultural experiences like studying at a local primary school, making friends with local Australian children, preparing food, washing clothes, etc.

Thanks to the programme, LMC students were also exposed to new ways of thinking which have allowed them to experience personal growth and independence both at home and at school. They have been rewarded with various valuable life-experience through working out new problems practically and exploring themselves in nature including visiting the beaches on the Gold coast and the Wildlife Currumbin Sanctuary. All kinds of activities prepared our children for the all-round development education which will surely open their eyes to the world and build up their self-confidence for gaining great inspiration and achieving the highest accomplishments in the future. I really hope that our students will make use of the useful life skills they have acquired and engage them in their further development.
Life - Wide Learning in Australia 2012-2013

Face your weakness, brighten your future
After a series of training sessions and preparation throughout the year, the most anticipating trip started on 16th July, 2013. Thank God for this wonderful arrangement and the leadership of Principal Sit. Both students and teachers had a fruitful and delightful study trip. I would like to share my feelings by using the 3R (Recognition, Reflection and Refreshment).

Recognition
On this trip, the growth of the students is really amazing. At the beginning of the programme, our principal organized a life-wide learning camp in order to build up the trust between the students and teachers. Within these three days, students needed to face challenges assigned by the instructors. I am so proud that all the students have done a fantastic job on building a necessary foundation for the remaining trip.

Students’ learning attitude and spirit have also improved during their learning in Australia. They were highly involved and immersed in the local curriculum. All their listening, writing, reading and speaking in English are greatly enhanced. They built up confidence to communicate with people by using English which is really difficult to achieve in lessons in Hong Kong.

Reflection
Compared with some study tours, this study tour really provided a platform for both teachers and students to understand the learning habits of Australia. Students are able to reflect deeper and deeper about their way of treating others. It was reflected in their personal DIEP.

Refreshment
This is really a valuable experience as we have visited many tourist spots with the students. The fresh air, fabulous weather and smiles of the students are so attractive. In contrast to what we have seen in Hong Kong, the experience of getting to taste nature is really treasurable for students and teachers. It provides a chance for us to stand in awe of the wonders of the natural world.

This life-wide learning tour not only enriched students’ learning motivation, but also enhanced students’ self reflection. I was so lucky that I could participate in this meaningful programme. See ya!
陳浩銘 家長感想

『媽媽，我在澳州的日子過得很開心！』我接機時他對我說第一句話。

他告訴我幾天自動起床上學收拾牀鋪，主動每天完成英文家課 (D.I.E.R) 也會幫助接待家庭做家務就像做晚餐、洗車甚至照顧生病的同學，定時提醒他吃藥。他和接待家庭相處愉快，用英語溝通完全沒有問題。這種種事情聽在我們耳裏既感新鮮也令人興奮。我這個自小被家人照顧得無微不緻的兒子竟然可以如此獨立和主動，他真的成長了。

在這裏我要感謝薛校長和籌辦老師文雁菁老師、陳麗君老師、陳惠玲老師、丁昊老師和曾眷儀老師。他們在去澳洲前，悉心安排兩次宿營和多次訓練，為浩銘在心理和生活調適上作好準備。

在澳洲的日子，老師團隊為我們的孩子拍攝了無數的照片，更在晚間繼續剪輯影片，放在網上給我們一班家長觀看。回來後，亦為我們準備一輯圖片集。

澳洲之旅是浩銘成長中重要的一節。

區顯洋 家長感想

放手讓孩子踏上這次澳洲之旅，對每位家長來說，都是極不容易的。整個過程心中忐忑，一方面渴望孩子能透過這次訓練，變得獨立、堅毅、勇敢，另一方面又懷疑，為孩子付出這麼多，上述的期望最終會否落空？

而顯洋這次之行所得，卻超乎我們預期，因為他在過程中學習到：

一、想得的東西是要自己爭取——他很認真地寫了一封信來說服我們讓他參與這次活動；

二、害怕的東西是要克服——他最怕刺激的機動遊戲，但在師長們的鼓勵下還是參與了，雖然最後真的「坐到嘔」；

三、做錯事要承擔後果——他因好奇，學玩滑板並不懂基礎手勢，但他還是盡量不依賴別人、照顧好自己；

四、透過努力來建設將來的理想生活——旅程讓他明白世界之大並認識到不同的文化及生活方式，讓他對將來多了一份憧憬。

我們衷心感謝薛校長、文老師，以及各位有份策劃與承辦這次活動的師長們，沒有您們辛勞的付出、悉心的安排及無比的關愛，孩子們就沒有這難忘而寶貴的學習機會。我曾問顯洋，整個旅程與那位老師最熟稔，他回應竟是薛校長，他解釋因薛校長在他跌倒那一夜陪伴在側，從醫院離開時已是深夜，最後他被安排到校長與老師住宿的地方借宿。此外，薛校長還鼓勵並陪伴他坐那一趟令他「坐到嘔」的機動遊戲。這些點滴，我相信孩子都會畢生難忘、一生受益。
Dear Principal Sit and teachers,

Thank you for organizing such a wonderful and unforgettable learning trip for students at LMC. We are very grateful that Torres had a chance to participate. It is a trip that we think he will remember forever.

We believe this trip has had lasting impacts on his growth. From the pictures posted, we can see that he was very comfortable in learning and social with students in English. Also, he had a great time with his home stay family. He learned to appreciate the kindness and friendship extended to him from someone who did not know him at all. Overall, he enjoyed this trip very much and told me that he would love to join again.

Torres has become more proactive to ask for help, even strangers at street for directions; more willing to share his feelings and views on things happened around him. The most near and dear to my heart is his openness to express his caring and appreciation toward us.

Overall, we think this experience is invaluable to Torres in his journey of becoming an independent, caring, and appreciative person.

Lastly, we would like to once again thank you for such an outstanding job done by Principal Sit and teachers, and others who make this a memorable, valuable, and enjoyable trip.

駱天穎 家長感想

記得女兒臨上機去澳洲前，看見她眼淚汪汪，強忍著淚水的樣子，自己也有些忐忑，既擔心她會廿一天離開家人遠赴另一國家，她會一切安好嗎？但亦心裡興奮她被老師、校長揀選參與這全方位學習之旅，實在難能可貴！不但可以在澳洲學校上課，更寄宿當地家庭，又有校長、老師們的帶領，教導，並非一般旅行社的遊學團可比擬呢！到了澳洲之後，當我看到老師上載女兒笑容燦爛的照片時，就分享到她的喜悅，使我安心多了！而女兒收到家書時常笑得開心，我感受到她在思念家人，知道親情之可貴！再看到她寫的日常，亦肯定她在學校和寄宿家庭過得很愉快！回到香港後，女兒說校長覺得她說話太細聲，鼓勵她做風紀，要大膽些，結果她真的當上了風紀！之前她曾拒絕我這提議呢！衷心多謝校長、老師用心安排這活動，使孩子擴闊眼界，提升英語溝通和寫作能力，增強自信心……今年的暑假，我的二

兒子雖然只是三年級，但因他也將踏上這澳洲之旅，因為我深信他一定同樣獲得豐富的經歷和學習！
去年，值得我感恩其中一件事情，就是小女曉嵐在暑假参加了學校舉辦的「澳洲全方位學習之旅」，經歷了一個不同的旅程。在長達三星期的旅程中，老師要求孩子們接受不同的挑戰與困難。離開親朋舊友之隔，衝破英語能力之際，學習當地學校作文化交流；課課未訪的師生家庭相處兩星期……。曉嵐透過蘭校長和老師們的關愛與鼓勵及同學們的互相扶持，她都能一一跨過這些重重困難突破自我。作為家長的我們當中不能伸出援手，明白這就是整個訓練過程的精髓。藉此感謹謝蘭校長和老師們在旅程中精心策劃及無私的付出，帶給孩子一個難忘及美好的經歷。

回家後，她珍惜與家人相處時間，我們母女關係比以往更親切，經常有不計無時可話的心底話，這是我意外的收穫。

李曉嵐 家長感想

王爾琪 家長感想 Erica Wong's Mom

Back in 2011, when Erica was still in P4, the school announced that they would be organizing a trip to Australia.

I asked my daughter if she wanted to go.

"No, thanks," my shy and soft-spoken girl replied immediately.

A year later, the same opportunity came again.

For the second time, I asked Erica if she wanted to go to Australia.

Surprisingly, she gave me a different answer.

"It looks interesting. Mom, do you think I should go?"

"Why not? The world is a big place. Go out to have a look. If you let the chance slip away again, you might regret one day."

So Erica decided to take this giant step. Yes, she WAS going to Australia!

After the decision was made, a series of interviews, meetings and training sessions followed. The school made a lot of effort to prepare the kids for the trip. Many tasks were given. With school exams and other activities going on, it wasn't easy for us to find time for the extra work. But Erica knew she needed to sacrifice in order for the trip to happen.

Time flew. Soon, it was time for the kids to go off to Australia. At the airport, we said our goodbyes and saw the kids walking into the departure gates. What a breakthrough for the kids to walk this journey by themselves. Yet, it was even more difficult for the parents to learn to finally let go.

Three weeks later, the kids safely returned to Hong Kong. My daughter seemed taller, more mature, more independent. It must have been an eye-opening experience for her. I'm grateful for the thoughtfulness and the loving support from Ms Sis, Ms Man, the two Ms Chans, Mr & Mrs Tsang and Mr & Mrs Batchelor (the homestay). May God continue to bless them abundantly.
Studying abroad, to my daughter (Charmaine Li), is an eye-opening experience. Being immersed in another culture, understanding differences and spotting similarities have an immense impact on her. Overall, she gained more in a summer than in a year because of the unique space in which she learned, experienced, and spent exploring another culture. The Australian Summer Program is beneficial to her personal growth and intellectual development. In addition to the invaluable friendship and bonds she built, spending time with her host family over the summer has made her more independent and socially outgoing, she is also more confident in speaking in English as her second language. I highly recommend all students to participate in this program as it will undoubtedly change their lives too. I would also like to thank Principal Sit and the teachers who made this program possible and such a success.

林尚勳 家長感想

孩子一天一天長大，學習的環境也不止於在家，又或在校園。室內，剛看到兒子尚勳那精力旺盛，每對事物都甚有奇想，常常對周邊的事物感興趣，我便知道我要給他多些接觸不同的活動，給他更大的學習環境！

剛好學校在去年暑假，薛校長跟多位老師又籌辦澳洲之旅，尚勳因此十分雀躍。

由面試直至離港上機的一刻，大小事都由他一手一腳的做！

3 星期沒有父母在旁，我問他，你可應付？他說當然沒問題！

相信男孩子多是識認力強，他對 homestay family 很快便熟落，每天上學也和 buddy 一起，學習不同的生活方式，不同种族的文化！

學習需要實境、過程、思考、解難。

尚勳回港後，他主動做早餐，準備飯桌，也喜歡多接觸外國人和留意外國新聞。現在，我們的話題多了，我也看到他也長大了！尚勳還說要努力學好英文，希望可以到外國留學。

很感謝薛校長和文老師，你們為沙營小增添不同的活動，令同學可擴闊視野，也感激各位老師，在澳洲沿途悉心的照顧！
Few months ago, we persuaded Jessica to attend the introductory talk on the Australia Study Trip. After serious consideration, Jessica decided to join the trip in order to broaden her scope of view and gain learning experiences abroad. Jessica is actually quite passive and introverted. However, she is willing to accept challenges, what she needs is more encouragement. This study trip is a golden chance for Jessica to be more independent and to face new challenges.

At the beginning, we kept wondering how Jessica’s life would be during the three-week trip in Australia. However, when we saw the smiling faces of Jessica in the photos, our worries vanished immediately. From the photos, we knew how happy Jessica was, and how much she enjoyed the trip. After knowing that Jessica would phone us, we could hardly sleep that night. Although we talked for a few minutes only, it was a great time for us. The home stay family was really nice. My daughter was so excited when she saw a cat in her home stay. She had good times in Australia and she had to solve problems on her own.

We are so proud of Jessica that she always strives for making improvements. As parents, we should also learn how to leave rooms for children to grow up according to their own talents and characters.

“Don’t let anyone make fun of you, just because you are young. Set an example for other followers by what you say and do, as well as by your love, faith, and purity.” Timothy 1 4:12

劉家宜 家長感想

由參加簡介會開始，女兒已進入訓練中，真的感謝校長及老師悉心的安排，讓每位孩子循序漸進地適應及認識這次不一樣的旅程。其實不只孩子在學習，家長們也一同學習放手讓孩子踏出一大步。

這次旅程中，有極好的機會給女兒克服自己的決點及把長處展現出來。雖然不是盡善盡美，但她勇於嘗試及突破自己已令我們深感開心。

回來後，女兒變得主動積極及有自信，若遇到困難的事情也堅持永不放棄及抱持樂觀的態度面對。我們相信這次的經歷已深深埋在女兒心中伴她茁壯成長。
Group photos
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