2013年度澳洲全方位學習之旅

Life-wide learning in Australia 2013

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 schools in Australia in 2003. They were really impressed by the values, lifestyle and education system demonstrated by the Australians. Therefore, they saw the opportunity for students to experience different learning styles when they join the lessons in Australia. Moreover, they would be immersed in a strong English learning environment while staying with local Australian 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 launched into a completely different programme way so that students can stay with local host families and attend regular lessons in Australia.

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

As soon as Principal Sit returned to the 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 to stay with homestay families. Students’ self-management skills and confidence in speaking English were greatly improved.

Thanks 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 LMC students through this programme for years to come.
Goals

- Strengthen students’ English language skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking)
- Develop students’ self-management skills and emotional 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:

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

1st Training (21-2-2014)
- Introduce five training courses to students
- Distribute the “Pre-Trip Project”
- Become well equipped for Australia trip

2nd Training (24/4-27/4/2014)
- The Salvation Army Ma Wan Youth Camp (Three - Day Training Camp)
- Team building, problem solving, self-management and emotional control

3rd Training (24-5-2014)
- Overcome Emotional Development

4th Training (21-6-2014)
- Getting to know Australia
- Understanding table manners

5th Training (11-7-2014)
- Distribute and explain the handbooks
- Prepare before the trip
2nd Training (24/4-27/4/2014)
The Salvation Army Ma Wan Youth Camp (Three-Day Training Camp)
-Team building, problem solving, self-management and emotional control
3rd Training (24-5-2014) - Overcome Emotional Development
4th Training (21-6-2014)
Getting to know Australia and understanding table manners
Words from the Principal

Principal Joyce SIT

This was the third time our school held The Life Wide Learning Trip in Australia. The arrangements were essentially the same as before, but the teachers added the “get a change or get a breakthrough” theme, which became the aim of this year’s program.

During the 21 days, the children faced many challenges. Besides leaving home, being independent, and living with other families and meeting strangers, they also had to face language barriers, control their emotions, make their own decisions and experience different ways of learning. The children, of course, had to do their best to face the challenges. During the journey, teachers tried to learn more about the children by debriefing the group daily, encouraging students to write diaries and visiting their host families. Then, according to their needs, the teachers taught and encouraged them, letting the children know more about their personalities, abilities and limits. Then, by focusing on their strengths, we were able to lead them to success, by making a breakthrough and working towards an aim.

25 kids and 5 teachers made the perfect group. The teachers played different roles, such as the solemn teacher, the kind teacher and the caring teacher. Sometimes, they even dived in and played with them, like rolling on the grass with them and getting on the rides with them. When teachers face problems regarding the children, they would cooperate and let the children learn in the progress. Actually, the trip didn’t go as smoothly as you may think. In the beginning, a child got seriously homesick and was under an emotional “spell”. The teachers tried many ways to cheer her up, even asking her Australian class teacher to help by giving her encouragement. Finally, after praying and some encouragement, she quickly recovered and got over it. She was also able to discover more about herself, understanding that every person has a weaker and soft side. To get over it, you have to face reality, then slowly, you will recover from it.

I have to thank our Lord and Father, for this time, all of this year’s host families were Christians. Each and every one of them is filled with love and care. They let the children learn more about God, that when they have to follow and rely on God when they are facing challenges. This is a rare chance for the children, so I hope this helps them change and reach a breakthrough in their self-learning to grow stronger and stronger!
校長的話
薛鳳鳴校長

這是本校第三屆舉辦的澳洲全方位學習之旅，行程與安排與前幾次大大分別。不過，師長加入了“get a change/get a breakthrough”為主題，成為每一個參與者的目標。

在這 21 天裡，孩子們面對挑戰可不少。除了離家遠行，要自我照顧，隻身入住外國家庭，與陌生人生活相處外，還需要面對語言限制、情緒處理、選擇解難，和應付那不一樣的學習模式。當然，孩子們全心全力以赴，以應付各樣的挑戰。在這過程中，師長透過每天的共學、日記反思及寄住家庭探訪，藉以了解孩子的心路歷程，再按各人的需求和需要，給與輔導、鼓勵和跟進，讓他們認識真正的自己，包括性格、能力、限制和盲點，繼而引導他們突破自我，為自己訂立往後的成長目標。

25 個孩子、5 位師長，簡直是個完美組合。師長扮演著不同的角色，有嚴肅果斷的訓導老師，也有溫柔體貼的媽媽型老師，更有與他們打成一片，一同探索、一同放飛動夢想的玩伴老師。師長遇上學生問題的時候，就會啟動小宇宙，彼此配合，讓孩子學在其中。事實上，整個旅程並不是一帆風順，開始的時候已有一位向來很強的孩子處處碰壁，掉進情緒深谷掙不出來，師長用了不少方法，還動用了正在外地遊學的班主任，給與鼓勵及肯定，最後親自一起禱告、陪伴和鼓勵，不久，她克服了，突破了，而且對自己的認識也加深了，明白到每個人總有軟弱的一面，要克服就得先要接受，然後慢慢的克服難過。

感謝天父，今次的所有寄宿家庭都是基督徒家庭，充滿著關顧、愛與教導，讓孩子對天父有更深的認識。在這高低落差、極具挑戰的環境下，學生們有同理心、步步跟隨。這是難得的成長機會，盼望這次旅程為他們的人生展開新頁，在每一個突破及改變之上繼續努力，邁向成長！
A Wonderful Study Tour in Australia

During the summer of 2014, I organized and planned my first trip to Brisbane, Australia with my supportive principal and colleagues. This was a marvelous experience!

Students who came on this year's trip were truly amazing. They were able to confidently go off on their own for short periods of time to explore Australia. It was a fantastic experience for our students to attend Livingstone Christian College. Students there are considerate, thoughtful and polite. Seeing the students develop and grow was a really rewarding experience for me.

Wherever I went, the highlight was always meeting the people, hearing their stories, and experiencing their joy and thankfulness expressed through praying and singing! It was also fantastic to hear almost every Aussie family we met saying that they felt thankful for God’s grace and blessings.

The trip was a huge success. I would just like to say thank you to our principal, Ms. Sit, and my colleagues for all of their support. I am glad that I have had this valuable opportunity to get to know our colleagues and students better and that we could share this experience together. Thanks to everyone for making it so unforgettable and meaningful.

I am looking forward to being a part of this program again in the future!
My second trip to Australia

It was my honour to bring twenty-five students to Australia for three weeks with Principal St. Miss Deon, Miss Summer and Miss Candy. We were just like a big family. We always took good care of each other. I felt so blessed to have such good children and colleagues to share this experience with me.

It was the second time I went to Australia. Teachers and buddies from Livingstone Christian College were the best, especially Principal David. It was great that they were all supportive and helpful.

At the beginning, we designed the self-improvement scheme. We gave achievement coupons for children to reach the goal of brushing up on their English. They were willing to speak English and they spoke fluently as well. We were very delighted to see the students’ good progress.

We visited all the children at their homes after school and they were getting on pretty well. Since the homestay families did not know how to speak Chinese, the students spoke English all the time. They built a good sense of belonging with their homestay families too. They worked, played and studied together. They also built up good relationships between the families and themselves.

The magical three weeks seemed to pass quickly. Our children learnt to be brave, independent and co-operative. They could do many things by themselves even cooking and self management. How incredible! They grew to be more considerate and more mature. Also, I found that their school results at Livingstone were awesome. They were doing better than we expected. It was amazing! This was a worthwhile program. We enjoyed it very much!

All in all, I have learnt that parents should help their children be more independent. Let them try things out on their own in the beginning. The children may have difficulties but don’t give up! Children can do such wonderful things that you can never imagined! Believe in your kids and trust them to be active and responsible young people.
I am very delighted that “Life wide Learning in Australia 2013” was a great successful study trip during the summer holiday. I strongly believe that learning is a lifelong skill. Hands-on learning experiences are the greatest opportunities that we as educators can provide for our next generation. As I helped organize this trip, I realized that knowledge is easier to teach than skills.

In preparation for this year’s trip, there were five different sessions of training for our students. Each session provided different aims and objectives for preparing our students for their trip. The objectives of the training sessions included but were not limited to: problem solving skills, emotional control, etc.

It wasn’t an easy task for BSTWLMC students to be able to stay away from their parents for three weeks. However, it wasn’t an easy task for our parents to be able to release their kids for three weeks either. Self awareness and relationship building are the two precious learning experiences that both parents and students were able to gain.

Last but not least, I would like to thank God for his watching over us on the trip. He let us meet great people and experience great events while we were in the trip.
Introduction
It was my first time to lead a group of students on a 21-day overseas trip. On one hand I was excited to experience something new with the kids. On the other hand, I was quite worried about the trip. How would students behave in an unfamiliar place? How could I deal with homesickness? Could they adapt to the new environment? Would there be any accidents in the trips? It was really a big challenge not only for students but also for the teachers. Thank God, what I worried about before the trip did not happen during the trip. Students adapted to the new environment quickly. The homestay families were nice, kind, and meticulous in taking care of the children and their various needs. More importantly, no student was injured or got sick during the trip. We had really experienced God’s guidance and grace on the trip.

Experience with students
In these 21 days, a special relationship was built between teachers and students. We played not just the role of a teacher, but also an observer, a counselor and a mother.

During the trip, we were able to gain an all-round understanding of each student.

In school we could mainly observe their academic performance and how they interacted with other students. Additionally, we could observe how they acted in an unfamiliar environment by seeing how they handled difficulties and how they interacted with peers of a different nationality.

There was one kid who is usually very quiet in the Hong Kong. At the beginning we were quite worried about whether he could get along with other people in Australia. However, at the end, the homestay family commented that this kid was very active and passionate. On the last day, he even hugged the homestay family and cried because he knew he would miss them. I have learnt that children can behave completely different in different circumstances.

Exposure to a new culture
Besides it being the first time to lead a group of students on an overseas trip, it was also my first time to live in a different culture for a relatively long period of time. There were two things that really impressed me. Firstly I was amazed by the work and life balance found in Australia. In Hong Kong most of us are living stressful and busy lives and it is normal for us to arrive home from work at 8 or 9 pm and sometimes we even have to work on Saturday or Sunday.

But people in Australia generally arrive home by 5pm and Saturday and Sunday are reserved for spending time with their families, a time which they treasure a lot.

Another thing that impressed me on the trip is the close proximity to the natural environment. In Hong Kong we seldom have the chance to be exposed to the natural environment. In Australia, however, we were exposed to the natural environment every day. We could watch the sunrises every morning in Australia. In this environment, we were much more relaxed and felt ourselves being closer to God by feeling his creations.
School life

Today, I woke up at half past six because I needed to go to school with my homestay buddies. When we arrived at school, I went to the library. After that, some teachers brought us to our classrooms. We were all in different classes. I sat with my buddy. In the morning, we had morning tea. I ate cake during morning tea. At lunch, I had sandwiches. After lunch, my class teacher let me introduce myself. I spoke loudly and all my classmates gave me a big round of applause. I felt glad because my new classmates were kind and nice. I learnt to be brave when giving a presentation because when you grow up, you will always have presentations. I need to be brave when I am presenting something.

Homestay

Today I woke up early. I had to watch my homestay’s youngest daughter play tennis. She has played tennis since she was young. She had two tennis matches and she won both of them. After that, we ate sushi for lunch. I ate so much that I felt really full. My favorite dish in the sushi shop was chicken fingers. I drank lemon tea too. At night, we watched a movie together. It was fun.

Today I felt happy because I watched a movie and ate sushi. They are both my favorite things. I learnt to join all the activities with my homestay and met more friends. When I go to school tomorrow, I will not just play with the same friends but make new friends.

Culture

Yesterday was a big day. We had to go to school at eight o’clock in the morning.

We went to many places. The first place was Currumbin Wildlife Park. We were divided into four groups. All the groups could choose which place they wanted to visit.

After that, we went to see Australia Show. It showed a man cutting a sheep’s fur. I thought it was not fair for the sheep.

The second place we went was Gold Coast. It was beautiful. I made a sandcastle with my classmates and I collected a lot of shells. The third place we went was a souvenir shop. I bought many things for my parents, friends and classmates. I felt happy because I could go to the real Gold Coast. I had lots of fun there.

In the process of discussing where to go in Currumbin Wildlife Park with my groupmates, I learnt how to work as a team and respect others’ opinions.
Breakthrough
During this trip, my main breakthrough was becoming much more independent. I met a friendly homestay family and nice classmates. They had helped me a lot so that I could adapt to the new environment quickly. Also, I became more active.

I had not cried on the whole trip until I realized that I was going to leave my homestay. I will surely visit Australia and my homestay again in the future.

What an amazing summer! What an amazing trip!

Undoubtedly, the learning trip in Australia expanded the students' horizons and became an unforgettable experience for them.

I am thankful for such a well-organised overseas learning opportunity. I am also thankful for such the wonderful teachers and Principal Sit who have the passion and vision to bring the kids on this trip. I am grateful for our ties with Sha Tin Wai Lui Ming Choi Primary School.

From the very beginning, I saw full commitment from all the dedicated teachers and Principal Sit. Cherie, my youngest daughter, learned many good lessons not only from the trip itself, but also the selection process as well as the series of intensive pre-trip training.

Without the sacrifice, arrangement and liaison of the teachers and Principal Sit, the kids might not have such a good chance to learn and have fun overseas. Every day Cherie had in Australia meant a lot and marked many sweet memories to her.

She was blessed for being hosted by a loving family. She was also fortunate to be part of such a good cultural exchange and develop friendship with many others, especially with the host family. When recalled by Cherie, be it adventure training, overseas school life or even weekend day-out activity, she simply described that all were wonderful!

Upon her return, Cherie gave us a big smile at the airport. From this, I saw that she grew, in different aspects, from her overseas experience.

What is "education"? We think we learned from the teachers and Principal Sit. It is always not a simple knowledge transfer process but a role model building for the kids to mirror. "Let it go", Cherie’s favourite song to sing in Australia every day, has inspired us and has been suggested by the teachers and Principal Sit that the parents should learn to "let it go" and let kids grow!

It is a blessing from our Heavenly Father! Amen!
Homestay

Today, I went to the beach with my homestay family. We played touch football and some ball games. They were fun. Then we went to grandma’s home. There was a big pool and we had fish and chips for dinner. They taught us how to use a sewing machine and they even gave me something to bring back to Hong Kong for my Dad and Mum!

I felt happy with my homestay family. They are nice. When I cried, they helped me. They played with me too.

I learnt to be brave because we need to stay here for 19 days. When I miss my family, I could think about my happy times I had with my family before. I will learn to help my homestay and be brave too.

Culture

We woke up early and went to the Sea World. We went on fun rides and saw the Dolphin Show and Sea Lion Show. It was fun. We touched some sting rays and saw some penguins. We also went on some rides.

I felt excited. It was my first time going to Sea World. My homestay bought me a dolphin pillow pet and a dolphin T-shirt as gifts!

I learnt more about the sea life. We saw many different animals and touched them and read the information about them. I will learn more about animals and how to save them.

School life

Today, we had our sports lesson in the morning. We played baseball. It was my first time playing baseball. I got a home run! It was very exciting! After school, we went home and baked the cookies. They were delicious. We studied for our grammar test, too. I got all correct in the practice! I hope I can get a full mark on the grammar test tomorrow.

I felt very excited because tomorrow is our test. We will also have art and IT lesson tomorrow. My homestay family said we could watch ‘Frozen’ again! I love this movie very much.

I learnt how to make cookies. We could make Anzac cookies at home too. They were easy to make. I think I can try to make them in Hong Kong.
Breakthrough

I can do housework and homework by myself now. My dad doesn’t have to remind me and get angry. I can also help my mum take care of my sister. I have given my family a lot of burden. Despite their busy schedules, they still have to take care of me. I believe that they will be more relaxed and will be able to do the things they want when I am in Australia.

Home Stay Family

Thanks so much for your hospitality over the past three weeks in welcoming Eunice and giving her such a wonderful and warm home-stay experience in Australia!

Eunice has shared with us the places she was brought to, the food that she tried, the fun that she had and the love that she felt with your family. We are indeed impressed when we see the self-made craft work of welcome on the wall and are really appreciative of your kindness and thoughtfulness to Eunice.

May we thank you, Brianna and Liam, again for providing Eunice with such a meaningful experience. We are sure that the time she had with you will live with her forever.

Teachers and Principal

Thank you teachers and Principal! It was such a systematic, well-planned and carefully monitored school activity. We witnessed the great efforts and the love the school gave to its students. Despite a year’s hectic work, the team of teachers, led by the Principal, opted to have a march with students to Australia, giving up their family time, rest time and play time. The trip not only enlightens the children, but also assures parents that we can count on the school. We definitely feel proud to have our child in LCO!
Culture
Today was my tenth day in Australia. It was the most exciting day too because we went to Movie World.

In the morning, I went to school at 8:00. In the library I called my mom. I was very happy to talk to her. After that, we took the bus to Movie World. There, we watched a 4D movie together.

After that we had free time. I played on Wild West falls, Road runner, Batwing, Bumper car, etc. I had a lot of fun today.

School Life
Today was my fourteenth day in Australia. I woke up at 7 am this morning, ate breakfast, and went to school with my homestay.

At school we had reading time. During that time, I read a book about dogs which I learnt something new about dogs. After that we went back to classroom for bible lesson.

After that we had morning tea. During morning tea, I played with Max and his friends. I was happy. After morning tea, we had mathematics lesson. During the lesson we had a time table game and I won the game. After the time table game, we were given some exercises about clocks and reading times to do. I learnt how to use “to” and “past” to express time. Later, we had lunch and I played handball with my friends.

After school, I went to Max’s friend’s house. His home was very big and his dog was very big too. We went to the backyard to have a walk. I saw a horse and we played basketball there. It was an exciting day!

Homestay
Today was my nineteenth day in Australia. Today we all slept late and did not go outside because it was a relaxing day.

In the morning, I woke up at 8:30 and I had breakfast. After breakfast, my homestay dad and mum went to the supermarket. After they came back, they said they have some presents for me. Max gave me a Super Awesome Boxing kangaroo. Zac gave me an Australia Boahle. Georgia gave me a Gold Coast Cap. Mum gave me a pen and Dad gave me a Queensland calendar. They really love me a lot.

After that we watched TV for a while and we roasted marshmallows on the fire. It was very yummy.

I played trampoline with Max and Dad. In the game, we have to fight and fall down. At the end, dad lost and he was sad. I was very happy to win the game.

Breakthrough
We finished the 2014 Life Wide learning trip in Australia today. During this wonderful trip, I had much fun and we went to many places in Australia. They are all very beautiful and amazing places. For example, we went to Movie World, Currumbin Wildlife Zoo, the Sanctuary, Gold Coast, etc. We had tried many activities too, such as body boarding, climbing, and collecting shells.
My favorite activity in Australia was visiting Movie World. It is because I had an amazing day at Movie world. I learnt that scary rides are just games and there is no danger at all.

My breakthrough during the trip is that even though I never rode on scary rides before, I tried out many scary rides at Movie World.

I have also learnt a lot of things on the trip, such as how to cooperate with others and respect others. I would try to do the same in Hong Kong. I was very happy on the trip!

First of all, I would like to thank Principal Sit and the teachers again for organizing such a wonderful program for LMC students in the summer holiday. We are very grateful that Gavyn could participate and experience his first life journey by himself this summer.

I still remember the first time Gavyn showed interest in this program was back in 2012. He had taken an application form but in the end he didn’t hand it in because he was not confident enough. This year, the opportunity for this program came again and after his long consideration and discussion with his twin brother, he finally decided to apply and give it a try. Although he still was not sure if he could make it, he jumped out from his comfort zone to take the challenge, and we are all so proud of him!

From the photos, the DEEP log book, teachers’ feedback and Gavyn’s own sharing, I know these 21 days on his Australia journey really provided a lot for Gavyn. Not only was he able to learn more about the Australian culture, the people, the food, the school, but he also gained much knowledge from how he interacted, communicated and lived with others (homestay). Most importantly, Gavyn proved to himself he can make it! This amazing Australian trip for sure will be an important milestone in Gavyn’s life experience.
Homestay

My homestay was a nice, kind and funny family. My homestay mum’s name was Melinda. My homestay father was called Trevor. My big sister was Hannah and my little sister was called Sophie! They had a cat called Mow. On Saturday, mum had to go to work. I thought Hannah and Sophie would be bored so I played hide and seek with them. I also watched movies and played Barbie with Sophie! We all had a great time spending the day together.

School life

Today was the first day to school. I felt very excited to see my classmates so I went there early. I saw Samuel at school. He said good morning to me.

Next, we started to go into the classroom. Scott, Alvin, Issae and I went to class 7B. Our class was having a Chinese lesson, which I thought was easy. When we finished the lesson, I suddenly missed my family. Therefore, I started to cry. My new good friend, Leah comforted me and lent me some tissues to wipe away the tears in my eyes.

The next lesson was English lesson. The teacher told us about adjectives and adverbs. She also gave us homework.

After that, Leah took me to a dance lesson. Since I don’t like dancing, I just sat beside the wall. When the lesson ended, I was still crying. Leah took me to the library. I saw Miss Siu there. She talked to me and made me better. She said “When you see people smiling. You will feel happy too.” I learned something new. She also prayed with me. After praying, I stopped crying. We can ask God for help when we have problem. I thank God and Miss Siu for their help.

On the second day, I felt better and changed my clothes to go to school. However, we were a little bit late. First, I went to my class and met up with my new friend, Leah.

Today’s first lesson was math lesson. We had 3 minutes to do some easy exercises. I couldn’t believe that “1 + 1” was grade 7’s math. I was sure I got full marks.

After that, I had history lesson. I felt bored most of the time. When the lesson had ended, I went to the library to get my D.E.E.P back. When I was about to leave, Miss Man asked me to stay. She gave some records for me to listen. I felt surprised that it was Mr. Chiu and Miss Fan! They are good teachers. They taught me math and Chinese.

Then, my tears started to come down. They cheered me up and asked me to be brave. When it was time to go home, Miss Man asked me to listen another record. I knew that it was Miss Ting. I felt glad that even though she was in U.S.A, she still woke up to make a record for me. Therefore, I had to have a breakthrough and became a new Holly!!

Thank you to all three teachers. I love you all!

Culture

Today, I felt very excited because I had to go to Movie World! We arrived there by bus. First, we went to the 4D Theater and watched a movie called Journey 2: The Mysterious Island. I thought that movie was exciting but a little bit scary.
Next, the teacher said we had about 1 hour and 30 minutes free time. Therefore we went to the WB Kids World. When we were planning where to go first in WB Kids World, I saw a mini train. Riding on this train became our first activity. I felt really bored on this train.

Next, we went to the Hollywood mini boomer car. I thought it was just for little kids. Then, we found a roller coaster which was the smallest ride in the park. I thought that was interesting. We went on it two times!

After that, it was time for lunch. I ate a sandwich and a big banana! That was a great lunch. After that, I rode “Batwing Space shot”. I was really afraid when it started to rise up. It was really fast!! However, I loved it!

After the shot, we wanted to go to the Soupy- Doo coaster. However, it was closed. We were disappointed. After that, we found a game called Wild West Fall. That was really exciting! Miss Wong and I got crazy on this game! I played it for thirteen times!

Breakthrough

On this trip, I learnt many things. Everything I learnt is good for my future. I was very glad that I could come to Australia for 21 days. I want to thank all the teachers, my family and God.

I was seriously homesick at the beginning of the trip. I also found myself being fragile in a strange environment. During this hard time, teachers especially Miss Siu gave me great support. She told me that nobody could help me but myself. Therefore, I knew that I should solve this problem seriously. I tried my best to step out and away from my negative emotions.

Jasmine had also introduced some friends to me. They were nice and kind. We chatted happily at school. They also helped me to overcome my difficulties.

家長篇

何愷寧 家長

來說，今次的考驗過程是艱辛的，但卻深刻和寶貴，明白到家庭的重要，亦學懂「克服困難全靠自己」的道理。她也體會到令別人開心，自己也開心。這次的學習經歷，非常有意義，對愷寧日後的成長，十分重要。

對家長來說，讓孩子參加「澳洲之旅」除了讓他們認識當地文化外，最重要還是讓他們認識自己。由愷寧初期因思鄉而感到孤單失落，到最終成功打開心扉，過程殊不簡單。她終於明白到凡事要靠自己，無論經歷喜或愁，都要面對，相信愷寧從今次的「澳洲之旅」能深深體會到和學習到，亦學懂了解決困難、珍惜和感恩。

今次「澳洲之旅」的成功，全賴校長、文老師、黃老師、張老師、蕭老師和home stay family為孩子們所付出的一切，特此衷心感謝。她們為幫助愷寧克服困難，花盡心思，給予無限支持和關懷，相信比在港的父母更有一番體會。最後，特別感謝愷寧班主任丁老師和趙老師、范老師，他們特地從海外帶給愷寧一段鼓勵說話，令她充滿力量，亦令我們感動萬分。
Homestay

Today is the second day in my homestay. I am glad that my homestay is a very good one. They are all nice and helpful, especially the mother of the homestay. I have two buddies. Their names are James and Maddison. James is a grade two student. His name is same as my best friend’s name. Maddison sometimes goes to work. We seldom play together. Their father is called Chris. He works at the airport. He doesn’t work on Saturdays. He is very polite. Their mother is called Kristen. She is very nice. She is a pharmacist. They were Ivan’s homestay family last year. They are Christian.

Although my homestay is good, I still miss my family very much. I couldn’t fall asleep yesterday. However, I prayed to God that I would be able to sleep well. I hope I can sleep well tonight.

School life

Today was the third day of school. I had a Chinese lesson in the afternoon. I liked the Chinese lesson because the teacher is very kind. I saw her yesterday. She asked me and Ashley our Chinese names and we both had to tell our classmates what our Chinese names mean in English. It was difficult. However, Ashley helped me explain what my Chinese name means so my classmates would understand. After the lesson, they tried to say my Chinese name.

I also got a letter and present from my parents. I felt happy that my parents and my lovely brother were fine and got me two nice presents. However, I felt sad and homesick. I missed my family very much. I hope my parents can receive my letter soon.

I had an English spelling test today. This test was more difficult than the last one. I got only ten marks. However, Ashley said I improved a lot. I felt really happy. I hope I could get more marks next time. However, I will not have another test because I am going back to Hong Kong soon.

I brought my white T-shirt to school today. Many of my friends signed their names on it. I also got their e-mail addresses. My class teacher signed on my T-shirt too. I told them I would return to Hong Kong next Tuesday. My buddy said he loved me. All of my friends said, ‘I will miss you, Samuel.’ I was touched. I really like them all. Miss Chan and some of my friends asked me to come back next year. However, I don’t think I could come here next year. I will try to send e-mail to all of them after I return to Hong Kong. Miss Chan told me that they will go to Hong Kong next year.

I felt very homesick. I missed my family but I didn’t want to leave my friends in Australia. I hope I will have a great time tomorrow.
Breakthrough

During the trip in Australia, I made many breakthroughs and changes. This is my first time to leave my parents for 21 days. In these three weeks, I missed my family very much. I will treasure the time I spend with them in the future.

Also, I could have a chance to study at year seven and speak English for 21 days. It was very challenging for me. At first, I thought it was going to be very hard. However, I was able to communicate well with others in English. I am not afraid of speaking English anymore.

More importantly, I have a better relationship with God after the trip. Although I prayed regularly before going to Australia, I did not take a deeper look at my own weaknesses. I learnt to rely more on God during the trip.

Last but not least, I became more independent after the trip. I learnt how to take care of myself and become tougher. I will not give up easily in the future because I know I am able to overcome all difficulties.

2. 英語躍升

同是接觸的一刻，揚子出口成文，一開口便脫出流暢的英語，令我們感到驚喜。弟弟不斷要求哥哥「轉中文口」，好讓他能易於溝通。在一整段英語的環境下，是能磨鍊孩子的英語能力，這也是我們所期待的。

3. 緊靠上帝

十歲孩子，離開父母，生活和學習上少不免會遇到大大小小的難題。過程中，揚子不時經電話、電郵等方法與父母溝通，又未必能隨時隨地向老師請教。怎樣辦呢？他的秘訣是向上帝禱告，學習交託，全然依靠。兒子能發出信仰，令我們萬分欣賞。

4. 嘗試尋夢

昔日，揚子談論的是理想職業、今天，他卻在尋找人生夢想——移民澳洲。他欣賞當地的生活環境，學習風氣、風土人情，他更希望能再次探望學習伴侶，回味那短暫但美好的生活點滴。懂得尋夢，是成長的美好印記。

在教養子女的過程中，要做到悠閒自在，懂得放下，談何容易！幸好有此機會，讓我們夫婦二人學習放手，讓孩子能展開翅膀，飛得更遠，學習更多，更有自尊。再次衷心感謝校長、文老師、黃老師、張老師和蕭老師，你們精心的策劃，無私的付出和真誠的關愛，孩子真的成長了！這真是難能可貴的一課。
Homestay
Today was the eleventh day in Australia. When I got up, Brooke said “Today we will go to a special place.” So I quickly put on my clothes. The first place in the “special plan” was Jumping Park. I jumped and jumped there and it was very exciting.

The second place in the “special plan” was a minigolf field. We climbed the rocks, played with water and played minigolf. It was fun! At night, Brooke said “Tomorrow we will have a BBQ.” BBQ always makes me excited!

School life
Today was the fourteenth day in Australia. Today we had Bible, English, Mathematics and Chinese lessons at school. The Chinese lesson was very easy.

When we were having morning tea, I played football with Creeper and other friends I have met.

It was very fun. When we went to the playground to play football, I saw my homestay Dad Scott. It was my first time seeing Scott in school. When we were waiting for Scott, someone gave me a big balloon. However, the big balloon was broken.

Culture
Today we had a special day. We wanted to go bowling. Because of this, we quickly showered and did our D.E.E.P quickly too.

After we had arrived at the bowling place, there were many people already bowling there. Scott was generally the winner but there were also times when Opal or I would win. Scott won the final game. There was also basketball, car games and other games at the bowling site.
Opal, Gabby, Joell and I played a lot of games with the tokens. I also bought an armband and bouncy ball. We were all very happy.

**Breakthrough**

I finished all the D.E.E.P., but why I wrote D.E.E.P? Teachers said that D.E.E.P is to record the changes that happen to me after going on the Australia trip. My change is that my English has improved. Also, I am no longer afraid of flying in airplanes and I can take care of myself.

We were really looking forward to Sky returning from Australia on 5th August. Honestly speaking, being separated for 21 days meant a lot for us. The moment he arrived in the airport, I felt something was different. We were really surprised by his responses when we tried to carry his luggage. He said “Mum and Dad, I have grown up and I am able to take care of my own stuff”.

After three weeks, I could see that my son obviously became more motivated, self-confident, responsible and independent. He certainly grew dramatically. The teachers’ guidance and lessons have definitely affected him greatly. We really hope that Sky continues on this direction in which you have pointed him.

As a mother, I found it difficult to think about having my son go to Australia. I couldn’t really sleep at night and constantly checked and waiting for him to hear from him and see pictures that he took every day. Where did he go or what he was doing? Did he get used to the food there? Did he get sick? All these questions were going through from my mind, but I over-thinking it. In fact, my child is capable of taking care of himself and his peers which I was not expected before. I really appreciate how helpful the teachers and the host family were and the positive impact they made on my son.

Not only did Sky learned a lot during his journey but we, as parents, also learned from this experience. We learned how to let go and give sufficient freedom to our son. I am so proud of all the children who participated in this year’s trip!

We are so lucky for Sky to be part of your school and to participate in this journey. We sincerely thank you for all your endless support.
Homestay

Today, Emily and I said “Good morning!” to our homestay mum and grandma. We played ball games together. Our buddy is called Romana. Her mum is nice too. We ate rice with meat last night.

This morning, I ate cereal with rice water. When we finished our breakfast, we helped our homestay mum clean her car. We made ourselves wet. When we finished cleaning the car, we played some games. They were all fun and the car was very clean too. I thought washing cars was fun. We made the car clean but we were very tired. I learnt how to wash the car. Before washing the car, we fed the guinea pigs. It’s very exciting. I liked to feed them very much. They were cute. I will help my dad wash his car too.

We had beans with bread for lunch. And then, we went for a walk. I took some beautiful pictures. It was cold outside. We went to the park and stayed for a while.

Today, I learnt more about Australia. I ate some Australia food. I learnt about taking care of guinea pigs too. They eat green things every day. They are very cute. I think you will love them too. Today, I felt cheerful because I fed guinea pigs.

In the afternoon, I played with Emily because our homestay mum had to wash our clothes and cook for us. We just played cards. We played happily. We went outside the house to take a walk and play.

School life

Today was Wednesday. It was the third day we went to school. I learnt something new today at school.

Today, I went to school on time. When we had finished handing in our handbook, we went to our classroom. Many people greeted me. The first lesson was English lesson. We wrote some poems. It was fun. We learnt about rhyming words. I had learnt rhyming poems in primary 4. I loved to make those poems very much. I thought I was good at rhyming because I could help my group think some sentences for the poem. I was happy that I could help my group.

The second lesson was math lesson. I had learnt about measurements today. I got a worksheet in class. I was the first one who answered all the questions. Also, we played some math games too. For example, there was a triangle. We were asked to put 1-7 on a triangle to make the same sum at each row.

When I was playing, I couldn’t find the answer. Then, the teacher told us the answer. I knew how to solve it then. The math games were fun. I liked to play them very much. I thought I needed to do more so that I could change my mind.

Before the next lesson, we had our lunch. I ate some bread-like pizza. I loved it. After I had my lunch, I went to the room above the library.
Breakthrough

In this trip, I learnt many things. First, I learnt more about myself. I can now speak very fluent English and I can happily play with others. Also, I learnt more about Australia. Australia is a big country with many nice places where we can enjoy the natural environment, for example: the Gold Coast and Daisy Hill. There are many special animals in Australia, such as: kangaroos, koalas, cockatoos, Tammar Wallabies, etc. All of them are cute.

More importantly, I found Australians are very friendly. My homestay gave me lots of support that helped me adapt to the new environment very quickly. Also, I had made many Australian friends at school. They chatted and played with me.

I enjoyed this trip very much. It made me become more confident. I will introduce the trip to my friends and invite them to join in future years.

We are very delighted that Yoyo had the chance to join “Life Wide Learning in Australia” during this summer holiday.

During this trip, she needed to participate in some tasks that she had not tried before. We were very worried. However, our fears vanished very quickly when we were reminded of the strong support and back-up of our teachers. We learned about her life in Australia and drew great comfort through the photos shared online in the school network. Yoyo enjoyed this trip very much and it surely opened her eyes and built up her self-confidence.

We are deeply grateful to our Principal Sit, Miss Deon, Miss Connie, Miss Wong, Miss Siu, Livingstone Christian College and her homestay who provided this desirable learning chance, endless care and love on this wonderful trip. We believe that she had a memorable journey.
School Life
Today was the school day. I was happy this morning. At lunch, I went to the library and met my teachers. After that, I played soccer with my buddy and had a lot of fun.

In the sports lesson, I played baseball. I found it was very fun and interesting. After school, I went to the supermarket with my homestay family. They bought some tomatoes and eggs for me, because I wanted to cook for them. When we went back home, my homestay mum started to cook our dinner. From watching her cook, I learned more English words and terms like soy sauce. For dessert, I had apple pie.

Breakthrough
Today was our last day in Australia. I ate some cake, because today was my classmate’s birthday. It was tasty.

At lunch, I went to the library to exchange my coupons for prizes. I bought a blue handball. I also bought a tiger prawn and a cup of ice cream, which was delicious.

After that, Miss Man took us to the oval to take some photos. The photos we took were funny.

At night, my homestay family and I went to the farewell party. First, I sang two songs. Then, we ate dinner. I ate two hotdogs and they were delicious. I felt delighted.
Last summer our eldest daughter Faye joined the "Life wide learning in Australia" exchange. From her experience, we understood that it is a very good program for children. For this reason, we let our son Alex join the program this year even though he is only 9 years old. We believed he can get a fantastic experience and improve English through communicating with others. After he came back from Australia, he missed his homestay family very much and even cried three times since coming home. He still sings the Australian national anthem and has his watch set to Australian time. He told us about his happy experience there. We knew he enjoyed his trip and did well in Australia. We are thankful for the school principal and teachers for not only organizing this program, but also looking after and building up the children during the vacation. We look forward to the program and definitely would let our youngest daughter, Belle, to take part in the future. Thank you very much.
My homestay family

Today, I woke up and I saw my homestay family and my buddy. My buddy’s name is Romana and she is in G.1. She is older than me. YoYo and I are in the same homestay.

Our homestay gave us a ball to play so we went outside to play ball and badminton. Our homestay mum came out to ask us to put out our clothes under the sun to dry them. Afterwards, we helped wash mum’s car. The windows and wheels were dirty. After we washed them, the car was clean. After washing the car, we looked at the guinea pigs. One of them is brown and the other one is black. We fed them with some grass. They liked to eat green things.

Then we came into the house to have lunch. We ate some beans, bread and grapes. Everything was yummy. Then we played in the room. After that, mum took us to the park. We also took the dog to the park too. We played on the swings and the slide, and saw many birds and trees there. I really enjoy going to the park. I learnt how to take the dog for a walk. I was very happy today.

The Beach

Today, mum took us to the beach. The beach was called Wellington Point.

When we arrived at the beach, we walked around on the beach and saw many shells. They were so beautiful so I picked some shells to bring home. Although they are pretty, the shells on the sand hurt my feet.

When we walked back, we found some crabs on the beach.

My happy day

Today, I went to the zoo. I saw many kinds of animals there. There were kangaroos, koalas and crocodiles. I took a lot of photos.

I went to see the kangaroos by mini train. I enjoyed it very much. I fed the birds. They were so pretty and flew over people’s heads.

Then, I went shopping for souvenirs for my Hong Kong family. I bought a box of hand cream, a magnet and a packet of macadamia nuts. I thought that my family would love them all.
After that, I had dinner with my Hong Kong teachers and classmates at McDonalds. I loved eating food there.

I learnt how to feed birds. I was very happy today!

**Last day in Australia**

Today was the last day in Australia. We went to the airport. We said goodbye to our homestay families. We were sad. We will miss each other.

I really enjoyed my school days at Livingstone College. I will miss my homestay family and my friends in Australia very much! I learnt many things at Livingstone. I learnt to speak more English and how to take care of myself.

Finally, I hope I can see my homestay family again!
About Host Family

Today I went to Paradise Country Aussie Farm with my homestay family.

When we arrived at the farm, we watched the Stock Horse Arena. The horses ran very fast. They were even faster than cars!

Then, we went to Show Paddocks. We watched as the stockmen and their dogs rounded up a flock of sheep. We learnt how to throw a boomerang, milk a cow, and crack a stockman’s whip.

Next, we had our lunch. My homestay mum and Josh had steak burgers. I had a chicken burger for lunch. It was tasty.

Finally, we went to Clancy’s Opal Mine. We could experience the thrill of uncovering our very own opal in Clancy’s Opal Mine. At the end of the day, I took my opal back home.

FAREWELL!!!!!!!!!!!

Today was my last day in Australia. I didn’t want to leave because I know I will miss my homestay family and my friends in Livingstone Christian College.

When I went to school with Josh, I felt upset because today was our last day to go to school. I needed to say goodbye to them.

At night, we had a farewell party with our homestay families. First, we sang songs to our homestay family to thank them for looking after us during this trip. We sang “I am a small part of the world”.

Then, we had dinner. The food was very delicious. I was very thankful that the homestay families prepared food for us to eat.
Time flies! Three weeks of the Life wide-learning program in Australia has been completed successfully. It was a challenging experience for our kids to study abroad and learn about a different culture and lifestyle.

Looking back to last week, we arrived early at the airport and were looking forward to seeing our son Isaac come back to Hong Kong. When he saw us, we asked him “How did you like your trip?” He said “Mum and Dad, I really enjoyed staying in Australia. I wanted to stay there for few more weeks!” Hearing that, we knew we made the right decision to let him join this learning program.

After going back home, Isaac immediately sent an email to his homestay family to let them know he had safely returned home and to express his gratefulness towards them for their kindness and care. He also shared his experience with us. He made use of “Google Earth” to introduce us to the places where he had visited such as Gold Coast, Movie World, Surfers Paradise, Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium, Mount Cool-Tha, Paradise Country Aussie Farm, Sea World Theme Park, etc. He also showed us the way from his homestay family’s house to Livingstone Christian College. We believed that he was really enjoyed this trip and would be unforgettable and invaluable to him.

Lastly, we would like to thank Principal Sit, Miss Man, Miss Connie, Miss Siu and Miss Wong for taking good care of our child on this fantastic trip. We are also deeply grateful for the hospitality of his homestay family.
Breakthrough
The trip has finished. I changed a lot on this Australia trip. I am now more independent.

When I was eight, I want to Hawaii by myself. I cried a lot. On this trip, I did not cry. I learnt to take care of myself and help people by doing housework.

I was brave to try different and new things on this Australia trip such as body boarding. It was cool! Moreover, I was not afraid to play on the giant swing. I held onto the rope and went upwards to 20 metres. It was exciting!

I improved on my English because I used English to communicate with my homestay family and new friends. When I didn’t know how to say something in English, they taught me and they didn’t laugh at me, so I didn’t feel scared to speak in English.

It was a wonderful and meaningful trip in Australia. I enjoyed it very much! If I have a chance to go to Australia again, that would be great!

The movie
Today, I went to the cinema with my homestay family. We watched the movie “Flo 2”. The movie was talking about a family of birds who move from Brazil to the jungle. They helped save the jungle from people who wanted to harm the jungle and animals. In the end, they saved the jungle and all the animals congratulated them. They were so happy.

I felt excited because it was the first time I watched that movie. The movie was funny and exciting. Also, the birds were brave since they could save the jungle. I was proud of them.

In this experience, I learnt when people get in trouble, you need to help each other. Then, people will help you too.
Two years ago, when Jocelyn was 8 years old, I sent her to stay with her aunt in Hawaii for 1 month during summer break, hoping she could learn to be more independent and expose herself to different cultures. However, it didn’t turn out as planned; she cried and called home almost every night and swore that she wouldn’t go to any overseas learning camps by herself again. I was shocked when she told me that she was interested to go on this Australian trip and worried that she would be homesick like last time. She assured me that would be able to do it this time and would like to take this opportunity to learn to be more independent, build up her self-confidence, practice her English, and also learn about the Australian culture. I was very impressed by her proposal for this trip and due to the trust that I have in the school, I decided to let her try going overseas one more time.

On the day Jocelyn left for Australia, I was so worried and kept reminding her to check all the luggage and travel documents. Principal Sit stopped me and told me that I should let go otherwise Jocelyn wouldn’t be able to learn to be independent! I couldn’t hold my tears when I saw her walk through customs. At that moment, I realized that this trip is not only a good learning experience for Jocelyn but for me as well. I would like to thank Principal Sit and the teachers’ thoughtfulness by giving us updates and posting the pictures of Jocelyn and her classmates on Facebook. I was really relieved when I saw all the smiling faces in the pictures.

Today is the 11th day since Jocelyn came back from Australia. It seems that she has become even closer to our family and appreciative of the time that we spend together. Jocelyn is very proud of herself and told me that she has learned a lot during this trip. She has the courage to take new challenges, will try to think of solutions when there are difficulties, and has the confidence to speak English and communicate with others. I also noticed that she became more independent after this trip. She tidies her bed and cooks breakfast by herself every morning. Her English writing skills and vocabulary have also improved. All of these prove that she has grown up a lot after this trip. I truly believe that this trip will be become a fun and unforgettable memory in her primary school life. Last but not least, thank you Principal Sit, Miss Man, Miss Connie, Miss Siu and Miss Wong for all the detailed and thoughtful arrangements which have made this Australian trip a memorable experience for all the kids.
My Homestay Family & My Daily Life

Today, I was not late to school because I woke up at six o’clock. I got a new hat today. I like the hat, but the hat was too big, I tried the small one before. However, the small one was too small. I did not finish my lunch because I needed to go to the library.

After school, I went to a big room. The room was in the back of the school. We went there to watch some students to read some passages and sing some songs. I think this was boring.

After fifteen minutes we went to CoCo Noodles to buy noodles and rissole. I felt better because I was hungry.

After dinner, I went to see the dogs. When I opened the door, the biggest dog came into the house. I felt scared. I learnt to be careful and how to take care of animals like dogs and chickens.

Every morning at five o’clock the rooster crows when it sees the sunlight. It is its job to say good morning to all the chickens. The chicken's job is laying eggs for us to eat. When the chicken sits on the eggs they can hatch. I also help Isabella to pick the dog’s poo.

Farewell Party

Today was my last day at school. I had to go back to Hong Kong soon but I wanted to stay in Australia. I thought Australia was better than Hong Kong. However, I missed my mum, dad and sister. I took many photos with my homestay family. We had a farewell party at school near the basketball court. We sang some songs in front of our homestay families, teachers, and principals. We needed to leave early because my homestay brother and sister were sick. I learned that I need to take care of myself.

Breakthrough

I had learnt about time management. For example, I had to wake up at six thirty to get ready for breakfast. I also learned how to be friends with animals. Once, I saw a cat and the cat ran away. And now when I go near a cat, it will come to me.
家長篇
鍾栢謙 家長

致校長老師們:

由十二月報名參加這個遊學團開始，栢謙已有明顯的改變。從小到大栢謙都是個「即來之，則安之」的孩子，他未曾主動爭取過任何想要的東西。

起初，我認為栢謙只是「三分鐘熱度」，想不到他真的切切实實地去填表格，找陳老師幫忙，在家裏練習英語對話和做家務，這一切實在令我驚喜之外。有一天，老師派他一張通告，細閱後他知道可以跟隊去澳洲，當時他滿心高興，頭有點暈，手有點顫，以為自己在做夢。他深呼吸一口再細讀通告，當確定被選中後，他興奮得大叫「我成功了！」。

在往後的培訓過程中，栢謙居然忘記了出席第四次的培訓集會，要老師致電提醒，他亦為這次的過失自責和後悔。這次的經驗令他在日後的時間管理上更謹慎。

出發的當天看到栢謙面上掛著笑臉向我們揮手和充滿信心的大步大步走進機場大堂，我知道決定讓他獨自前往開放的澳洲是明智的決定，這不但能發掘他的潛能亦給我一次重新認識兒子的機會。

21天的旅程眨眼便告完結，滿臉笑容的栢謙跟隨營隊從入境大堂一步一步走向我們，這畫面實在令我感動和難忘。在回家的路上，亦不時聽到他跟妹妹說英語和唱英語歌曲，他亦與我們分享在澳洲家庭的生活情況，開始時有點生疏，但不久便培養出互相信任和肯定。相信這澳洲之旅必定帶給他前所未有的寶貴和愉快的體驗。

在此感謝薛校長及各位老師在百忙中送我一張掛念的心。這次愉快的旅程令你們的悉心照顧和妥善的安排，在此衷心感謝。
Culture

Today we went to Movie World. It was really fun but tiring. I played all the thrill rides. They were all very exciting.

I love the Wild West Falls Adventure Ride the most. It was really exciting. We rode on that ride two times. At first, we rushed and went in the entrance. However, we saw people were all wet and started to panic because we didn’t know that we would be allowed to get wet going the ride. Then, we discussed if we should go on it for a while. At last, we went to the Bumper Cars because it looks fun. When we went in, it was very quiet, because there was nobody there at that time. Therefore, we played this two times. I found this very fun. Alvin didn’t like to bump into others, so he drove round and round. Sometimes, I bumped into him as I thought it would be much more exciting.

After playing Bumpers Cars, we saw Principal Sit. We asked her if we could play the Wild West Falls Adventure Ride. She said we could have fun and the sun would dry us up. We were all excited to try the ride and ran to it. When we stepped onto the boat, I felt that my pants were already wet. Luckily, my pants were a little water proof, so my pants dried up very fast. For the first few minutes, we went up. Then, we didn’t know that it was going down and we all screamed when it went up and down. My body jumped up for a second. Then, it went very slow. There were some water effects and lighting effects. We were all very surprised. Then, we went up again. When the door opened, we looked down, it was so deep. The boat rushed down. I put up my hands. It was so fun. There was a camera up there. There was a picture of us riding on the Wild West Falls. I went on that four times in a row.

After that, I played the roller-coaster. We went to the kid’s playground. Actually, I wanted to play the big roller-coaster. However, none of them wanted to play. Therefore, we played that ride. That ride was less than 1 minute. It was not really. However, my friends thought it was very fun. After playing that we had lunch.

I just remembered that we also watched a 4D movie in the morning. The movie was called “Journey 2: The Mysterious Island.” I watched that movie last year. It was fantastic. This time the movie was just 15 minutes. Therefore, they skipped many parts, but the 4D effects were really cool. The chairs moved and water splashed out. I like watching 4D movies.

After lunch, I played the Batwing ride with my friends. At first, we thought it was very scary. However, after we played that, we thought it was fun. We played that Batwing three times. It was so cool.

Then I rode the Green Lantern ride with the teachers. It was really exciting. It spun 360 degrees. I was so dizzy after this ride.

Then, we played AFKHAM ASYLUM. This ride was really crazy. It has 3 spins. I was very scared.

The superman ride was very fast but not very scary.

Today was a fun but tiring day. I hope I would go there again next time.

Breakthrough

During these 21 days in Australia trip, I have many breakthrough. For example, I am not scared of heights anymore, I can live with my own eat. I have no regrets going on this trip.
I learnt how to be a generous gentleman. Now, I think about others’ feelings, if I just think about myself, I would be very selfish and no one would like me. Therefore, on this Australia trip, I helped people by learning how to think about others.

Before this Australia trip, my aim was to know more people in Queensland because I am very shy. If I want to meet more friends, I will need to be polite to them and respect them. I would also need to be active and cooperative because if I am still shy, then I could not overcome my difficulties and this trip would be meaningless. I tried to be active and cooperative so I was able to meet friends in Australia. I was very happy. Aussie people are very kind and nice. Therefore I could be friends with them easily.

I also learnt to be disciplined on this trip. Because I was away from my parents, I learnt to take care of myself and to be self-disciplined. If not, I would not be able to live on my own. Before going back to Hong Kong everyone should have made some changes, because we have overcome many things. For example, everybody had a try on the swing. We were all very scared at first. However, after playing, we all wanted to play again. We should try everything new even when we were very scared. We don’t know what will happen if we don’t try. If we try something and we don’t like it, that was fine because at least we tried. However, if we like that, that is a good thing.

Anyway, during this Australia trip, I have learnt a lot of things and it was fantastic. This was an unforgettable trip.

21 days compared to a lifetime is a relatively short affair. However, for a 12-year-old boy’s first independent trip abroad, it can be considered a lifetime. Needless to say, I can attest that it too felt like a lifetime for us parents. Naturally, like all parents, we shared the same anxiety and apprehensions.

21 days passed. With our son now back in our arms, all the fears and anxieties seemed to have magically disappeared. In addition, like a returning warrior from a recent conquest, we patiently listen to the adventures and mishaps with great earnest and excitement. Our son, who left as a little baby, has now returned as a little young warrior boy. We are both proud and relieved.

During his 21 days away from us, I am certain that Scott has tasted a little of what total freedom and liberation feels like. He has also gained a great understanding of Australia. More importantly, he has gained experiences relating to cultural integration, adapting to different environments, and also venturing beyond his own comfort zone.

21 days of learning was the essence of the trip. We undoubtedly agree that much has been learnt. However, we do sincerely hope and pray that it will also evolve into a lifetime of giving, sharing and caring. These were the virtues extended to Scott by his homestay family during his stay in Australia. They have touched his life and have made a significant impression on him. We pray that Scott, in turn, will also touch the lives of others who have the opportunity of knowing him in his lifetime.

My son being away for 21 days will hopefully turn into a lifetime of giving, sharing and caring.
My First School Day
Today was full of excitement. Today was my first day at Livingstone Christian College. It is enjoyable to learn there everyday. The teachers and classmates are all nice. I like them very much.

Today we had Chinese, English, Media and Science lessons. I thought that the Chinese lesson was the easiest lesson because Chinese is my first language. In this lesson, I learnt that I needed to help others when they need help. My classmates thought it was difficult to learn Chinese. As I am good at Chinese, I was able to help them.

This experience made me feel happy because I helped them learn more in their Chinese lesson and they could gain more Chinese knowledge.

I plan to help others when they need help. Although I am not good at something, I need to try my best to help him or her.

Culture
Today was the most exciting day in my life. We went to the theme park Movie World. When we went inside Movie World, I took some photos. Then, the teachers told us we could start having fun. First, I went to try the Wild West Falls Adventure Ride with my classmates. We thought that it was really fun. So, we rode it two more times. After that, we went to watch a car show. It was really fantastic so I took some videos and photos.

In the afternoon, our teachers brought us each a yummy ice-cream cone. I chose strawberry ice-cream. It was sweet. We left there at around 5p.m.

I learnt that we needed to try everything. I was really scared of heights and the rides. However, after going to the Movie World, I am not scared of heights now and I like to go on the rides too.

When I go to the theme park again, I will try all the roller coasters and interesting rides. Also, I will not be scared of heights anymore.

Culture
Today, we had a new family member come from Vanuatu. He is very nice. His name is Berry.

In the afternoon, Berry talked about his country. His country doesn’t have a TV or an air-conditioner. He doesn’t have many things that we do in Hong Kong. In his country, they have dance performances every morning. They also kill 5 pigs every morning. They put the pigs in a fire for a whole day. After that, they can have pigs for their dinner. He also shared a lot of his experience in his country and he told us he is a teacher. He has about 25 students.

I thought it is a really nice experience for me to live with people from different countries at the same time. I thank God for giving me such a really good chance for me to improve my English in Australia. Hope that God can give me more chances.

After I go back to Hong Kong, I can share this experience with my friends and my family.
Breakthrough

During these 21 days, I got many breakthroughs. My biggest breakthrough is I learnt that I can't only think of myself as we need to think of others first. If I just think of myself, it would be very selfish.

I also learnt how to take care of myself. It was not easy to leave my parents for twenty-one days. Luckily, in my homestay, they were all very nice and made me feel comfortable.

During the 3 camping days, I tried so many things and I got lots of experience. For example, I tried body boarding and the Giant Swing, which was almost twenty meters tall. I think this wonderful experience can help me in the future.

At last, I think this is a wonderful and meaningful trip. I needed to thank Ms. Sit and all the teachers for giving me a chance to go to Australia.

When we heard from Alvin that there was a chance to go to Australia and experience a school and home life there, we had a family meeting and decided that it was a good opportunity for him. Luckily, he was selected for this trip and our wishes came true. We all felt excited and thankful for this overseas opportunity.

While preparing for the trip, we watched Principal Sit and the teachers as they worked meticulously and conscientiously. They spent a lot of time with the children, with aims that they could learn more from the trip and maximize their experiences.

After they left for Australia, it was unavoidable to think about him. We kept a close eye on 'facebook' for the group's latest updates and photos every day. We were extremely concerned about them but upon seeing their posts, we were assured that they were fine and having a great time.

After the 21-day journey, they came back to Hong Kong safely. We missed Alvin very much and asked him about a hundred questions. He felt so excited, recalling his memory and talking about his experience. It seemed that he had matured greatly!

Lastly, I would like to have the opportunity to thank Principal Sit and the teachers for their contribution and their efforts to strengthen our children. Additionally, I would also like to say thank you to all the family members of Shea's family, Alvin's homestay in Australia. Thank you for your kind and warm hospitality to welcome Alvin into your family. I believe that he will never forget staying with you all and the people who took care of him. Here, I bless you all peace for years to come.

We wish that such a journey can be organized every year so that more of our LMC children can enjoy it!
School Life

Today was a fun day! In the morning, my homestay mum forgot to give me breakfast. Therefore, I just had a quick breakfast and then went to school.

First, we had two music lessons and one special lesson. We sang two songs and teacher told us stories about the Bible.

At the morning tea time, I had some yoghurt and grapes. After the morning tea time, I had three lessons. They were Science, Chinese and English. In the Chinese lesson, I had a lot of fun. My buddies speak Chinese. Their speaking was very funny because they could only speak in one pitch.

After these lessons, I had lunch. When I was having lunch, my friends were playing handball. I finished my lunch and played handball with them. After lunch time, I had two boring Maths lessons.

I left the school at 3:00p.m. because I had to go to the library with my homestay mum. After that, we went to a big park and I played with Nick. We had a lot of fun there. I will try to make more fun memories at my homestay house.

I also learnt what 10% means. For example, 10% of 100 is 10. That is what I learnt today.

Culture

Today was a special day. It was a holiday. We went to Movie World!

When we arrived at Movie World, we went to the ice-cream shop. The teachers told us the scale of the
park. Then, we went to play the games!

I played with my primary friends on the first game. They wanted to go to the Kid’s World and ride on the little train. I thought this was not a game. The second ride we went on was a small roller coaster. This was more exciting. I rode on this roller coaster with many friends. We had a lot of fun. The third ride was “Batman”. For the first time, I went with Cherry. For the second time, I went by myself. Lastly, for the third time, I rode on it with all Primary 5 girls.

At lunch time, I had my lunch with my schoolmates and teachers. After that, I went on the “Wild West Falls Adventure” ride. In the afternoon, I only went on this ride. I didn’t go on other rides because it was fun.

Today, I learned that I needed to be brave. If we are brave, we can do many things. For example, if I’m brave enough to play roller coaster, I can have fun.

I am going to go on roller coasters in Hong Kong Disneyland.
Life with Homestay

Today, I went to church in the morning. I went to the kids’ church. It was fun inside. I learnt how to read the bible.

In the afternoon, we went to “SKY WALK”. We walked on a very high walkway. We walked to the end of the stream. The water was falling down under a rock.

After that, we went to have ice-cream and visited Lisi on the farm. I played on the trampoline with Mitchel and Nathan. Then, we had dinner together.

I hope I will have a good trip and do everything I planned to do in Australia before coming.

School Life

Today, I went to school. We had two English lessons in the morning.

In the English lessons, we had a reading workshop. There were four corners which included: “Word on the Street” game, comprehension, find rhyming words and read book with teacher.

I’ve done all four activities before during another lesson. Firstly, I played the “Word on the Street” game. Then I listed rhyming words. After that, I read a story with the teacher. Finally, I did the reading comprehension about ant. Today, I played the “Word on the Street” game again.

I learned more words and I hope I can do more things in English lessons to improve my English.

Breakthrough

First, I eat more and my mum said I eat faster than before. Second, I am braver than before because I was able to ride on the “Wild West Fall” fourteen times. Third, I can take care of myself properly and I didn’t get sick on this trip. Lastly, I am stronger than before.

My homestay is very friendly. Her name is called Cathy Adams and I didn’t have a buddy. However, I lived happily with her. When I cried, she said “It’s ok to cry, I know you miss your mum.” So, I liked to live with Cathy. I had many wonderful days with her and I am glad to have a good homestay to live with. I had a great trip.
One day, my daughter, Hayley, came home and told us in an enthusiastic tone that she wished to join this year’s Life Wide Learning in Australia. It was such an unbelievable plea coming out from an eight-year-old girl who had never left us for even one day. For this trip, she would have to be away from home for ‘THREE WEEKS’ without our company. Although we understood that it would be a valuable eye-widening experience to explore different cultures, connect with a buddy and live with a host family, it was not an easy decision to make.

At the beginning, we discussed the difficulties and uncertainties with her many times with hopes of convincing her to renounce this determination. Conversely, we were persuaded by her enthusiasm and confidence. She readily anticipated all difficulties she would be facing abroad. She even honestly told us that she would be ready to cry during the trip because she understood that she would miss us very much. Nevertheless, she displayed her readiness to take up the challenges ahead for exploring a different learning experience in Australia.

Once the decision was made, she took her own every initiative to submit the application, attend the interview and finally successfully seize the opportunity. She thanked God as she believed that this was an amazing gift for her and she was so excited to tell everyone that she would go to Australia during the summer vacation.

In the three weeks while Hayley was away, it was the most painful days in our lives. We could only get know about her whereabouts through the program’s official Facebook page. We longed for the day when we would be able to hear her voice again. But we were dismayed by her ‘mature’ decision to not calling us. We knew and worried that her homesickness must be reaching an unprecedented level. Our anxiety as parents was indescribable then.

Upon her return home, our worries were confirmed when she shared with us that she did cry a lot during the trip even though she also enjoyed it very much. She however got this precious opportunity to discover a lot about her inner-self. Obviously, she learnt how to control her emotions and build up her confidence in speaking and writing English.

We are proud of Hayley as she had a strong sense of confidence to take the challenge and overcome the foreseeable difficulties at a young age. We could say that her capacity in self-motivation and confidence was greatly enhanced.

We thank God for giving a good and kind host, Cathy, to Hayley during her homestay in Australia.

We thank God for Principal Sit and a team of hardworking teachers for organizing such a wonderful program for our children.

Hope we all remember these good memories which are full of God’s blessings.
Starting my Journey

Last night, we flew all the way from Hong Kong to Australia. I was so excited because my teachers told us we would go body boarding in the big blue sea. At first, we put down our luggage in the room. Then, we had lunch in the dinning room. I ate a large hamburger and some French fries. I was so full so that I gain energy to play body boarding. I played with my friends happily. I had a lot of fun. I felt very tired after body boarding. I also felt glad because God gave us such great weather for this activity.

I’ve learnt how to body board. It’s fun. We should put our hands like a letter “L.” If not, it was wrong. I need to be brave during these 3 weeks, teaching myself not to be shy.

About Host Family

Today, I woke up at seven thirty this morning. I was so tired because I went on the “Wild West Falls Adventure” fourteen times yesterday. I just drank a cup of hot chocolate and mom said, “We are going to eat breakfast in Brisbane.”

Then, we drove more than one hour to Brisbane and had a delicious breakfast. After that, we walked by a candy shop and I bought some ice-cream flavor Jelly-Beans. I met my friend, Eunice, too.

We drove more than one hour again and went back to home. I taught Ashlee and Hayley how to use a paper to fold a boat. We put the paper boat in the pool and it didn’t sink!

I learnt if I put a paper boat in the water, it would not sink.

Excursion

Today was Saturday but we needed to go to Wildlife Currumbin Sanctuary and Gold Coast. So, we went to school and went on a coach. The driver drove us to the Sanctuary.

On the way to Wildlife Currumbin Sanctuary, we practiced a song called “I am a small part of the world” because we will sing this song on Monday night at the farewell party.

In the Sanctuary, I saw a lot of animals, including kangaroos, koalas, emu, sheep and many animals that I couldn’t even write out.
Next, we went to Gold Coast. Miss Man said Gold Coast is one of the biggest beaches in the world. I found more than twenty shells. I will give some to Hayley and Ashlee and take some back to Hong Kong. Also, I brought a bottle of sand back from Gold Coast.

After that, we went to a souvenir shop and Woolworths supermarket to buy some souvenirs and food for our families, friends, and homestay families. I bought a dinner bell for my homestay mom because when she finishes cooking dinner or lunch, she calls us to come downstairs loudly and pains her throat. If she uses the bell, she won’t strain her throat again.

Then, we went to McDonald’s for dinner. After dinner, we went to school and followed our homestay families to go back home.

I felt happy but a bit sad because we almost need to go back to Hong Kong. I had learnt a group of people must have teamwork. We need to work together.

When Christie was selected to be one of the students to join the Life Wide Learning program in Australia 2014, we were sure the trip would be an unforgettable experience for Christie.

Our worries were all gone when we realized Principal Sit and teachers had organized a well-structured training program before the trip. Christie had to write up a self-introductory book, learn about western table manners, self-pack all the items on the trip’s checklist and prepare other things she would need during the three-week’s stay in Australia. These activities were not only an invaluable experience to Christie learning to be independent but also made her understand she has to prepare things well for any tasks to be successful.

Time flew. Thanks to all the teachers and technology nowadays, we could see all the happy faces of Christie and her homestay family posted on the internet. She adapted well to the new environment. She made new friends, who she communicated with in English. There was no better way to meet new people and learn about the culture than by living there.

Learning to get around on your own is a life lesson. After this trip, Christie is more mature, proactive to solve problems by her own and will ask for help if needed. Although the trip challenged Christie and us to step out of our comfort zones initially, she now sees a whole new world and has experienced something entirely new. What she has learnt from this trip will surely benefit her and prepare her to face challenges in the future.

Lastly, we must express our gratitude to Principal Sit and all the teachers who have been working hard and spending their tremendous time, effort and love on the students to make this trip successful and memorable. Thank you!
Culture
Today was Friday. I woke up and had a slice of bread. I went to the school library and meet with my classmates and teachers. Then, we went to the Movie World. We first watched a 4D adventure movie. The chair moved and there was water and air coming from the chairs. The movie was exciting. Then, we had free time to play games. My favorite game was Wild West Fall. It was exciting. I took pictures with Batman too! I helped Miss Connie take photos when she was on the roller coaster called “Superman Escape”. After that, I ate mango ice-cream. It was tasty. Originally, I didn’t play the Wild West Fall. However, I remembered Miss Man said we had to try all new things. So, I tried my best. I know that if we try, we will know more. The Wild West Fall was fun and I must try everything in the future.

School Life
Today was my eighth day of school. We had English and Science lessons. During the English lesson, I read a book called “Dr. Grogro”. It was interesting. Then, I had a Science lesson. I touched many different kinds of rocks and drew them in my notebook. At lunch time, we learned a song called “I am a small part of the world”. We will sing it in the farewell party next Monday. After that, I watched a musical called “The Jungle Book”. I didn’t want to watch it because it was boring. So, I played with my friends.

About Host Family
Sky cooked tomato with egg and onion for our homestay tonight. I helped him beat the egg, peel the onion, and cut the tomato. When I peeled the onion, I cried. It was because I forgot to take on my glasses.

I learned that I had to do everything carefully and I must listen to what teachers say.
Excursion

Today was Saturday. It was a fun day. First, I went to school. Then I went to Wildlife Currimbin Sanctuary by coach. I touched some kangaroos. They are soft. I saw Dingo and an Australian show. I touched a snake during the show. After that, we went to Gold Coast. I built a sand castle and I took a lot of sand. Then, we went to a shop and bought some souvenirs. We went to the Woolworth supermarket too. I bought some snacks for my homestay, my dad and my mum. Finally, we ate McDonalds for dinner. I learned to think well before doing anything.

家長篇

黃凱言 家長

今年暑假，家中就讀小三兒子選擇了參加「澳州全方位之旅」，一個八歲的小孩子將要跟隨校長、老師們到一個遙遠地方生活 21 天，實在需要無比的勇氣及人生重大考驗。

由報名到出發已經歷不少學習時刻，簡直是難關重重，要兼顧學習還要接受各項培訓、訓練營及製作報告，還要學習煮一款菜式到澳州煮給 Homestay 享用。透過老師們的協助、教導，我看到凱言從培訓中學習了很多，他會接觸很多新事物、學習失敗、學習處理自

己情緒，少一點勇氣也不可。

出發時候到了，看見凱言面有自信，開開心心自行完成航班登記、將行李寄還，與家長們拍照留念後走進離境大堂，踏上旅程。

現今科技發達，感謝師長們為孩子們拍照、錄影，好讓家長們能夠在網絡上看見他們的相片、錄像，以解思念之情。

二十一日很快過去，我們一家懷著興奮心情到機場迎接凱言，遠處看見孩子們整齊排列，浩浩蕩蕩從入境大堂有秩序出來，心裡不禁想：真的成熟了！

由於家中姐姐也參加過「澳州全方位之旅」，可以說是”週來人”所以弟弟一到步見到姐姐便迫不及待與姐姐分享在澳州遇上的好多，他們倆有說不完的話題呢！回來到現在已差不多一月時間，我看到姐姐也更懂得著書弟弟，而弟弟也會照顧姐姐，這旅程使我家兩孩子也能學會珍惜彼此親情。

在此，非常感謝校長、文老師、Miss Connie、黃老師、黃老師，在旅程中悉心安排、教導和關懷，也不忘感謝澳州接待的家人 Mrs. Brooke Pickett & Mr. Scott.
My First School Day

Today could be considered a bad day or a good day. Today was the first day of school. I rode to school by scooter. But I fell down on the ground and got hurt.

Today, our teachers told us what grade we were in. When I knew I was in year 7, I felt shocked as year 7’s English, History and Science lessons are difficult. My first lesson was Science. They were talking about mixtures. Sometimes, I didn’t know what they were talking about. However, I had a friend to help me the whole day.

I was glad as I could make new friends in this school. After that, we had lunch together. I played a skipping game with Madison and her friends.

My classmates taught me how to use a computer and also how to play with rope. I think I should practice riding a scooter when I go back home. I hope I will have nice day tomorrow.

School Life

Today, my class had Chinese lesson again. In the Chinese lesson, we talked about our Chinese names. Our teacher asked us to write our Chinese name on the whiteboard and asked us to tell our Aussie classmates why our parents gave us these Chinese names. I hardly could explain as I needed to translate my name and explain it in English.

All of the lessons were fun but I liked Art lesson the most. Today, I drew a beautiful picture. We needed to use different patterns and drew on a black sheet. I drew a pattern with many circles. My Art teacher liked my drawing very much.

After I got home, I felt hungry. So, my homestay mum cooked Thai Red Curry. It was the first time I tried this dish. It tasted good. We also had Pappadams for our dinner. We put a spoon of rice on Pappadam and ate it. My buddy’s brother, Harrison, wanted to see how I used a pair of chopsticks to eat rice. So I used chopsticks and showed him. I talked a lot about my home and family. Apart from dinner, we also had dessert. It was a doughnut with a scoop of ice-cream.

I am thankful for my parents as they gave me a good name. Also, I learnt how to put different patterns together so the picture will become a beautiful one. I will show my picture to my family.

Life with Homestay

It was a beautiful morning. We went to Ormeau as Harrison had football practice there. When we were waiting for Harrison, I played an iPad games with Madison. It was called “Spot the Difference”! We played until level 07.

After we had our lunch, we went to the beach at Labrador to feed the pelicans. Sometimes, the pelicans fought as they wanted to eat the big fish. Then, we all had a Bonfire party. We toasted marshmallows and made “smores”. I met two Hong Kong students. They are 16 years old. We talked about our schools. After the party, we went to the Chili Man Restaurant. We ate pad thai noodles. After that, we went to “Burleigh Heads” and viewed Surfers Paradise at night. It was very beautiful as I could see the waves and the lights.
I learnt how to use wooden skewers to toast marshmallows. And I learnt I couldn’t touch the black snake with red belly as it is poisonous. We killed it by hitting its head. We put it in the fire.

I felt proud to be a Chinese. When I went shopping, many things were made in China. I believe I will find more things that were made in China.

**School Life**

Today, I was busy as I had much homework to do.

We had Science lesson today. The teacher was changed as the original teacher was sick and he wanted to stay at home. The new teacher taught us what is H\(_2\)O. I wrote many notes and drew pictures in this lesson.

Before lunch, I had a cooking lesson. Today, we baked chocolate muffins. Hannah and I were in the same group. When we were mixing the butter, we did a wrong step. We should put the butter inside the microwave first. So we took out the butter quickly and put it back in the microwave. At last, we made some delicious cakes. I gave some cakes to my teachers. I hope they liked them.

I really enjoyed the cooking lesson as I made yummy cakes with Hannah. All of us had fun.

I learnt why Hydrogen (H) is bigger than Oxygen (O). Moreover, I learnt why all the sea lives rely on oxygen in water.

I hope I can make the chocolate muffins to my family.

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**家長篇**

**譚凱晴 家長**

一個清晨，電話響起來，是老師從澳洲來電，之後換成凱晴接聽，她第一句話是：「爸爸媽媽，我不是太掛念你們！」那一刻，我知道做對了。

記得兩年前，我們已希望凱晴參加澳洲遊學團。但凱晴卻很害怕，怕與陌生人接觸，更怕要以英語對話。直至今年，經校長和老師鼓勵後，凱晴終於參加了。由第一次訓練到她登機當日，我們見證著她的轉變，由害怕變得積極，由被動變得獨立。

凱晴回港後，興奮地與我們談到澳洲的學校生活，她的笑容和身體語言，都告訴我們這個旅程是多麼有趣和值得回味。
My homestay family

After the catch a crab tour, we went to Livingstone College. We had to take our big luggage and meet our homestay families!

Suddenly, someone called my name – Ashley Chan! I stood up and saw a very beautiful homestay mom. She had two little kids with her. There was a boy and a girl. One was Joshy and one was Mickey. At that moment, I thought that it was great. I was going to have two adorable buddies. But then, I found out my real buddy, Alisha, is sixteen years old. She is very beautiful! Her eyes are very pretty. They are very blue. Her eyes are very blue. And Alisha is very tall. Maybe almost two heads taller than me. Soon we got to go to my Auntie Rebecca’s home.

Her home is huge. My home is nothing compared to hers. I want to have a home like hers one day.

While Mom went to the shop to buy some cheese, Alesha showed me her house. It’s got a front yard, a backyard, a TV room, a music room, etc. Alesha can play four different kinds of music instruments!

While we were eating dinner, I chatted with my new family. They are the best family I’ve met in Australia! I love my new family!

After that, we went to meet Alisha’s boyfriend, Shaun. He is a year 12 student in Livingstone. He is a prefect there! And he is even taller than Alisha.

Alesha came back home at around eleven o’clock! It was very late. I hoped she had a good night sleep.

Thank you God for planning such a great homestay for me! I will appreciate this great honour of having a great day! Please bless me with strength for tomorrow, even though my homestay doesn’t have activities planned.
Breakthrough

During these 21 days, I’ve learnt a lot, did a lot and hopefully changed a lot. One of the important things I learnt is not to judge people. If my life is full of judgments, friendships will never last. I think I’ve changed into a person that will be considerate towards other people. I’ve also learnt not to always try to be the main character. Therefore, I should not change the truth into words that will make me look good.

Our family anxiously waited at the airport gate for her arrival. We were filled with anticipation and curiosity about her Australian experience and if (and how) she has changed or grown during her time away from home. It didn’t take long before we got our answers.

When Ashley came out of the arrival hall, she ran to me and said, “Mommy, I’m sorry.” Though her greeting surprised me, I paused to let her continue. “I watched my homestay argue and my buddy was so mean to her Mom, who looked so hurt. I realized that I’m like that sometimes and I feel bad. I don’t want us to fight like that,” she said, with teary eyes. It was a touching moment where I saw my daughter becoming more considerate. She was able to put herself in others’ shoes and was beginning to appreciate her family.

Ashley then hugged her Dad and showered her little sister with kisses. I watched their interaction and could see a more patient and gentler Ashley. Not only was she accommodating to her little sister, but was also voluntarily generous in putting her sister’s interests first. My heart smiled in appreciation.

During the car ride home, Ashley shared many wonderful stories about school in Livingstone, life with her homestay, and friends that she has made. She talked about how her homestay Mom broke her leg, but all she worried about was finding someone to take Ashley to school. Ashley was moved by her thoughtfulness. Prior to this, Ashley would often measure people’s affection for her by counting things that they have given her—toys, clothes, etc. Through the selfless actions of her host mother, Ashley saw the intangible aspects of love. She began to appreciate others’ kindness—an invaluable lesson indeed.
School Life

Today, it was my first school day at Livingstone Christian College. I enjoyed this new school life very much.

I am in class 4C. My class teacher is called Mrs. Wishart. She teaches us History and English.

The first lesson was English Dictation. Some of the main words were easy and some of them were hard. However, I got 24 out of 25 on the test.

The next lesson was Maths. My teacher is called Mrs. Gloria. We learnt how to multiply 3-100 and I loved Maths lessons a lot.

After lunch, we had a History lesson. We talked about “First contact with Gwegal”, did a worksheet and watched a movie. I learnt a lot of history and historical people.

After History lesson, it was almost time to go home so we got our schoolbags and dashed towards the library to grab a book to read until it was time to go home. I like the library because there is a lot of books for us to read and I love reading.

I have a good start in LCC. I made a lot of new friends like Brianna, Molly and Paris. I have good teachers and classmates in LCC. The teachers taught us useful things and let us sit with friends. Classmates talked and played with us during the recess.

After that, we went home and washed up. I wrote in my journal (DEEP). Then, I brought Chelsey and Josh to their swimming class and I saw them swimming with laughter. I hope I can swim with Chelsey and Josh.

My homestay family will bring me to Gold Coast to swim so I’m grateful.

Do you want to swim, Ms Connie?

My Breakthrough

In the past, I was shy and timid. I hated to speak in front of a lot of people and I dared not to try high and scary things. After the Aussie trip, I had a lot of breakthroughs.

One day, a lot of us spoke in Cantonese. We had to sing a song as a punishment. When it was my turn, I felt like butterflies were flying in my tummy. I really wanted to escape but there was nowhere to go. Then I faced it and everyone sang with me. I found that I was not scared anymore. Furthermore, on the last school day, I directed all my Aussie classmates to take a group photo and everyone gave me a standing observation as I could manage to speak clearly in front of a lot of people.

Before, I was scared of heights but I had a chance to play on a super tall roller coaster in Movie World. At first, I felt scared and did not want to try but I still tried it. After the ride, I found that I could do it.

Another thing I was afraid was swimming in the sea because I always swim in swimming pools. After I went to The Gold Coast with my host Family, they patiently taught me. Finally, I overcame my weaknesses.
Moreover, I was afraid of cockroaches before. After the trip, I am still afraid of cockroaches but I won’t scream anymore.

Also, I always cried when I bleed. After the body boarding, I got hurt of my knees and I bled. I did not cry anymore.

I felt very warm to have a lot of good friends in this trip.

Thanks to Principal Sit, Miss Deon, Miss Wong, Miss Connie and Miss Siu for leading and coaching us in the trip. I learned not to cry all the time because tears cannot solve problems. I plan to be a strong girl ever after

We are grateful that Chic Yu was given the opportunity to join the Life Wide Learning journey to Australia in July 2014.

Thanks to Jesus, with His grace, all the children, teachers and principal were blessed and returned safely. We would also like to express our special gratitude to Principal Sit, Ms Deon, Ms Wong, Ms Siu and Ms Connie and their families for sacrificing their precious time and providing the extra effort in leading the tour during the summer holiday. The journey was not merely a tour, but an experience to nurture the children to break through their limitations, extend their strengths and build up their confidence.

Chic Yu had a great time in Australia. She visited Movie World, caught crabs, and went camping and shopping with schoolmates. While being away from her parents, the experience provided great chances for her to plan and make decisions independently, and, of course, bear any results caused accordingly.

Additionally, we were delighted to see her adapt to the study and homestay life shortly after settling down. She was especially blessed as her host family was a warm and friendly family with mixed cultures which offered her an even more special experience. From Livingstone’s families’ reception of the children, we could see God’s abundance of love.

Not only did we wish for her to be more independent and practice English, we also hoped she could count on Jesus and experience Him and all that He offers. The moments away from one’s own family and parents are the best time for the child to build a relation with Him. We, at home, other than missing Chic Yu, also experienced God’s deliverance by having the peace from Him, not worried about her safe and adaptation in a foreign country at all as she was under God’s own guidance and protection.

We wish to thank Livingstone as this wonderful school offers the annual program and organizes with the homestay families all the logistics of both the homestay and school arrangements. Also, thanks to LMC administrators for their assistances in going through all necessary formalities before the trip.

May God bless His people and let the cross-culture program testify His love.
Culture

Today, after eating breakfast (cereal with chocolate milk), my homestay dad, Scott, took me out to their little garden and learn to mow the grass. I was excited and I brought my camera with me. There were four steps for cutting the grass. First, we needed to push a car for cutting long grass. Then, we had to hop onto a huge car to cut along the pathway. After that, we had to use another cutter to cut the grass that was near or stuck to the rocks. Finally, we had to take out a blower and blow everything away. Finally, all the grass was cut. It was a tough job. Although it was difficult and there were much steps, I still enjoyed it. I tried to push the car, drive the huge car, and the blower. It was very fun, especially driving the car. But sometimes, the grass would fly everywhere and hurt my eyes. So I had to be careful.

Finally, I learnt how to cut the grass. I also learnt to cooperate with others and listen to them. I also learnt that to be good at something means to be well trained and to practice a lot. Like what Principal Sit said, people aren’t good at something when they are born. And Scott also needed to be well trained. So if I want to be good at something whether it be piano, violin or whatever, I have to practice. This is true for cutting the grass too.

After that, my homestay dad and I went back to the house to get some food for the dogs. We got some meat and fed them. They were not allowed to take the food until the owner said, “Take!” They were well trained. Then, we drove to have lunch. We went to meet Sarah first because the food courts were near her work. Her shop was full of beautiful but inexpensive things. She even gave me a beautiful pen, even though I just asked. They were really nice and I should also learn to be nice to others. So I had a big meal after visiting her shop. I had a slice of pizza. I had lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers on it. I also had a big cookie and a big cup of cola.

After lunch, I had a long free time. The homestay family had their own business to take care of, so I drew some pictures and watched a movie. It was relaxing. Then, I went to the conference room with the homestay family again. We just watched movies and had tea and free time. So it was very enjoyable.

At night, my homestay mum, Sharlene cooked dinner for us and I loved it too. Today was relaxing, but tomorrow will be school time. I have to pack up my stuff and get ready for tomorrow.
家長篇

黃恩許 家長

感謝薛校長、文老師、Ms Connie、董老師及黃老師，無論在旅程前、中及後期都有悉心的安排，照顧學生及家長無微不至，留給我們這段美好的回憶！

女兒的學習由最初五次培訓已開始了，每次也看見她學會有禮貌，有自理能力，有責任心等，到出發前自己獨立地整理行李，事事認真看待。旅程中，透過老師上載的照片及錄影片段，看見他們每天充實精彩的歷程：滑浪、捉蟹、校園學習、階運會、參觀動物園、Movie World、Home Stay生活等，師生面上燦爛的笑容仍歷歷在目呢！回港後，校長老師個別與學生家長面談，讓我對女兒有更深入了解。

令我最感動是深深感受主的恩典賜給整個旅程的人和事。學會感恩，堅持、彼此扶持、鼓勵、體諒、照顧、真誠關懷⋯一切充滿滿滿表現愛，紛沙呂小同學讀萬卷書，行萬里路，行思典之路。感謝主！
My New Friends

Today was the sixth day since I arrived in Australia. I miss my mom very much. After my homestay prayed for me, I only felt a little bit better.

Today was the first day I went to school. I made a lot of new friends. The one who sat next to me was called Jayden. He was very helpful. If the teacher said something very fast, he would repeat to me. If I didn’t know Maths or the correct punctuation, I could read the list that he wrote on my book.

During the morning tea and the lunch break, I went to play basketball with my new friends. They were all kind to pass the ball to me.

After school, my homestay brought me to a Christian bookshop to buy a bible for me. It was a gift for my family. While I was reading the bible, I remembered a sentence like this, “God can do everything.” I learnt that I don’t need to be scared. God can do everything.

Breakthrough

During my trip in Australia, I learnt a lot of things and made a lot of breakthroughs. They are the following:

1. I am not scared of darkness anymore because I know darkness just means there are no lights or we need to sleep.

2. I am not afraid of heights anymore. It is just a little bit higher than the ground.

3. I learned to play fewer games on the smartphone and computer.

4. We need to always talk to God, worship God and obey God.

5. I know God is real. I didn’t believe in God before because I couldn’t see God. Now, I know God is a holy spirit, we can’t see Him but we know He will protect us and help us.

6. Hong Kong is full of pollution. We should plant more trees.
家長篇

曾力行 家長

怎樣才可令力行突破自己，擴闊視野？我為這問題一直尋找答案，直至參加了澳洲全方位學習之旅的簡介會，我知道我終於找到了！

看著力行的背影走進禁區，我沒有依依不捨的心情，因為我對校長和老師的照顧是百分百信任，而且出發前的培訓亦為孩子作好準備，所以我滿心期待，突破回港的力行。

因 Facebook 是我們唯一可以看到孩子動向的渠道，所以我就多點留意，十足像年青 Fans 追星般投入，看到孩子們開心的笑容，也感受到那份喜悅的心情；而豐富的活動正正吻合全方位學習的主題。

從力行所寫的 D.E.E.P，我看到他一個又一個的突破，敢於嘗試，學懂反思，從經歷了解自己的強弱，多了一份自主的動力。更感恩的是力行對自己的信仰更肯定和有一份追求的心，學習廣告交托。

我深信今次的歷程，已深深的在孩子的成長路上，留下寶貴的回憶，成為他日後的里程碑！
School Life

Today I learnt Maths, Sports, some spelling words. I also watched my buddy’s show. It’s called “Jungle Book”.

During the Maths lesson, I learnt about different types of graphs. In the Sports lesson, I learnt how to play baseball. Playing baseball requires us to wear gloves and use a ball. First, two people get in a team. I was student one, my friend was student two. Student one needed to throw the ball. Student two had to use the gloves to catch it.

I also learnt some new spelling words. My teacher wrote some words on the board and I had to mark a sentence in my book. I wrote “Mum is proud of her son who is busy with all his work.”

After school, my buddy, Leilani performed in a show called “Jungle Book”. She was the main character, Shanti. Her show was excellent.

Breakthrough

I got to know more about myself in Australia. I am a quiet girl. I am shy to speak in front of people. At the beginning, I was afraid I couldn’t communicate well with others but at last I could do it.

I have learned to forgive people, listen to people, not to get angry easily and be nice to others. I love Australia more than Hong Kong. I am planning to study in Australia when I grow up.
有信心地去面對及克服困難，最終能夠遠赴澳洲，順利完成二十一天的學習及獨自寄宿當地家庭的生活。對她而言，這肯定是一生中的重大體驗和突破。我們也為此感到無限欣慰！

感恩這個不一樣的旅程，讓愷月獲得更多體驗，更多得著；天天成長、天天感恩！雖然暫時仍未見任何顯著的轉變，但我們深信這次旅程是她人生旅途中的一个重要里程碑，也是一個放滿了各種正能量種子的轉換點。有朝一日，所有種子都會茁壯成長，結出甘甜的果實，讓她享用一生。

最後，我們衷心感謝校長及四位老師，在過去半年頻繁的教學及行政工作以外，還要悉心策劃整個旅程的每一個細節；即使身處澳洲的三個星期，也是全程馬不停蹄、日以繼夜、不辭勞苦地工作及無微不至地照顧每位孩子。這些辛勞和不計較的付出，正正體現了他們擁有無限的教學熱誠和崇高使命。衷心向師們致敬！
School life

Today was the first day at school. I was so happy. We woke up at seven o'clock in the morning. We ate cereal and milk for our delicious breakfast. We went to school at eight twenty-five in the morning.

Next, I waited at the library for ten minutes to learn which class which I would join. First, we learnt about Jesus, watched a show, and talked about it for three minutes.

Then, it was the morning tea. I went to the football field to play soccer. Unfortunately, the ball hit my eye and it hurt a lot.

After that, we had Maths lesson for thirty minutes. We had lunch at twelve. We went to the classroom to have History lesson.

Finally, we went back home and we ate ice cream at night.

Breakthrough

I broke my first record in the campsite Giant Swing. I was afraid of heights before. But now, I feel better because the teachers and my friends cheered for me and it was so much fun.

In Hong Kong, my table manners are very bad. But after I had trained with Miss Wong, I am good now. Thank you Miss Wong for everything you taught me.

I learnt that I can't be selfish all the time. We need to help each other. Then, we will be happy.

Next, I also learnt that I am a bit lazy sometimes, I can't be lazy all the time.
The reason for me feeling so impressed is not only seeing Spencer having grown as an individual during the trip in Australia, but also the heartfelt care from Principal as well as all the teachers.

I could see and feel that the Principal and teachers used their whole hearts to observe, educate and provide the proper guidance to all the kids by working non-stop, sleeping late, and being patient and always putting the kids as their first priority. I really appreciate it and believe I have made the absolute best decision 3 years ago when Spencer started Primary 1 in BSTWLMC.

From looking at the photos shared by the Principal and teachers on Facebook, I was glad to know that Spencer is really growing up and enjoying his life in Australia — learning, playing football, enjoying the ice-cream, etc.

It was the first time for Spencer to be apart from his family for such a long time. Although my friends thought that he was too young to go at the age of 9, thought that I was so demanding to have him be more independent, I still made the decision to have him go and insisted him to do so as he is always relying on somebody. It was a good time for Spencer to take this chance to learn how to take care of himself and others.

After these three weeks in Australia, I found Spencer has started to be more open with his thoughts and has become more observant towards his surroundings. I can see he has worked very hard to achieve this and I understand he still has room for further development.

Last but not least, I wish to thank Principal Sit, Ms Wong, Ms Connie, Ms Siu & Ms Man for arranging and organizing such a memorable, valuable and playful trip for all the kids. Also, thank you to the homestay families for taking good care of all the kids during their stay!
Group photos
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