BLS Students Travel Abroad During April Break

Ninety BLS students in classes I-V traveled to Asia and Europe over spring break, visiting 7 different countries while making connections to curriculum, culture, language and history, as well as making new friends.

The 15th annual Facing History study tour to Eastern Europe brought 46 students to sites that supported their understanding of WWII, the Holocaust, the Cold War and post 1989 Europe. Home-stay and Chinese high school were the themes of the BLS-Beijing Exchange trip to China. The students saw the Terra Cotta Warriors in Xi’an and then spent a week with their Beijing home-stay partners, attending school with them daily.

Fifteen French language students participated in a study tour of Normandy, Brittany and England that focused on the intertwined history of the three regions. Ireland was the destination for 22 students who visited Dublin and Belfast. Students toured historic and cultural sites and developed a deeper understanding of the Irish immigrant experience.

Students and faculty on all trips received support from the Clough Center for Global Understanding and the BLSA.

Post Grad Gap Year in India

“Where are you going to college next year?” is a common question heard around the corridors of BLS quite often this time of year.

“To India for a gap year program,” is the not-so-common response of senior Matthew Nguyen.

Accepted into Xavier University in Cincinnati, Matthew has decided to defer matriculation for a year while he explores global service and medicine in India and another location yet to be determined.

“It’s a good bridge between high school and college,” stated Matthew, “and it will help me mature and become better prepared for college studies.”

Matthew’s global interests were sparked last year when he participated in a summer medical internship in Poland. He enjoyed the experience abroad so much that he researched and applied for the Carpe Diem Latitudes gap year program.

His interest in India comes from involvement with the BLS Desi Society.

“My mother was hesitant, but I was able to convince her to allow me to participate,” stated Matthew.

Exploiting the Classics in France

Classics master Heather Nabbefeld traveled to Caesar’s Gaul (aka France) this past April to explore the artifacts and ruins of Caesar’s conquests and the Roman Empire.

The trip had several goals, including supporting the development of curriculum materials for the Classics department, exploring the possibility of leading a student study tour of the region and conducting research in European medieval history.

The Burgundy cities of Alesia, Bibracte and Autun were central to Ms. Nabbefeld’s exploration of Caesar’s Gaul.

Museums in these cities supported her in developing a deeper understanding of Roman history.

No trip to France would be complete without a stop in Paris. It was here that the connections between Paris, and the classical world became so evident in structures like the Arc de Triomphe and the Pantheon...