Global Perspectives

Clough Center for Global Understanding
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BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
Founded in 1635

MISSION STATEMENT:
Boston Latin School seeks to ground its students in a contemporary classical education in preparation for successful college studies, responsible and engaged citizenship and a rewarding life.

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Clough Center Supports International Education Week

Boston Latin School celebrated International Education Week from November 14-16 with programming that included a showcase of BLS global travel programs, the chance for students to learn about BLS partner global summer opportunities and the BLS Cultural and Global Club Fair.

Monday afternoon’s event provided BLS students in grades 7-12 time to learn about the school’s many short term global learning opportunities. Poster boards were displayed and students and teachers from the trips were present to talk with interested students.

Representatives from BLS partners CIEE and United Planet were here on Tuesday to share information about their summer travel programs. Over the past four summers dozens of BLS students have participated in these learning adventures, supported by the Clough Center.

Wednesday’s Cultural and Global Club Fair proved to be the most exciting day as dozens of students gathered in the dining hall to view exhibits from about 15 different clubs and listen to global educator and TED Talk presenter Terrance Smith discuss his travel experiences.

“Terrance did a nice job connecting with the students and talking to them about the cultural baggage we all need to discard when we travel,” said Clough Center Director Zach Smith.

BLS Student Serves in Chile

Class I student Marina Nguyen joined the growing ranks of BLS students serving abroad by traveling to Chile with Student Diplomacy Corps (SDC) last summer.

As part of the month long program, Marina explored cities, towns, coastal regions and islands with SDC students whom she bonded with during the cultural and language immersion experience.

After the program orientation and exploration of Santiago, it was off to La Ligua, where she stayed with a host family. During the week-long stay, Marina was welcomed by both the host family and community. She celebrated her birthday in La Ligua and one of her new friends remembered her favorite flavor of ice cream and brought it to the party.

The next stop on the journey was Valparaiso where Marina found her “city equivalent of a soul mate.” She spent the week exploring the creative spirit, vibrant colors and artwork of the city and practicing her Spanish.

The final excursion was to Easter Island or Rapa Nui, where she participated in a field exploration and was “transformed” by the natural beauty of the water and land. She explored and reflected on her connection to the environment.

To learn more about Marina’s trip, click here.

German Teachers in the Movies

BLS German teachers Jen Kuchta and Dan Gavin recently participated in the filming of a German language TV movie at WGBH studios in Boston.

With the help of a BLS German 1 parent who works at the station, Ms. Kuchta and Mr. Gavin were filmed as extras in the movie by accomplished German director Sebastian Grobler, who worked on the Academy Award winning German film Beyond Silence.

“We were treated like royalty by the film crew,” stated Ms. Kuchta. “They appreciated having German speaking Americans on the set.”

Director Grobler has also produced a feature full length film on how soccer was first introduced to Germany from England early in the 20th century.

Ms. Kuchta and Mr. Gavin plan to use the film in their German language classes later this year and then set up a skype between the director and their students.

Global traveler and educator Terrance Smith (R) spoke during International Education Week.