BLS Hosts Students From Beijing as Part of Exchange

Twenty-four students from Experimental High School (EHS) in Beijing recently completed the inbound component of the BLS-Beijing Home Stay Exchange program. Twenty-one BLS students in Classes I, II and III hosted the EHS students in their homes and at BLS for 16 days and nights as part of the program.

Now in its third year, the home stay exchange program brings grade 10 students from the international program at EHS to BLS to attend classes and experience the life of an American teenager in Boston. In addition to attending classes the Beijing students participate in several social events with their BLS partners, visit area colleges and experience many of the historic and cultural sites in the Boston area. The program is made possible through the support of the BLS Clough Center for Global Understanding.

The exchange students had an integrated schedule during their 2+ weeks at BLS, attending 2-3 classes a day with their host partners, 2-3 classes of their choice, and a custom class taught by one of three BLS teachers, Ms. Webb, Ms. Elliott and Ms. Pinchem.

In addition to attending classes, the exchange students had lunch in the dining hall daily and attended athletic events and after school clubs. They also hung out with their partners and friends at home, in their neighborhoods and downtown, going to the movies, out to lunch, shopping and other teen activities.

There were several group activities scheduled as well, commencing with the MLK Day of Service at BLS on the day that the group arrived. The BLS and EHS students got to know each other while completing service projects in the dining hall with hundreds of other volunteers. (see photo)

“The group activities, including the MLK Day of Service provided an opportunity for all of the students to socialize and learn more about the Boston and BLS communities,” stated Program Coordinator Mr. Kennelly.

Students also participated in a night out ice-skating at the Frog Pond, a Chinese New Year celebration in the dining hall and a second Chinese New Year feast at the home of BLS exchange host Mai McGonagle (Class III).

In April, 20 BLS students will travel to Beijing and homestay with EHS partner students. While there, they will attend school daily, visit historic and cultural sites in and around Beijing and experience the life of a Chinese teenager.

German & Chinese Global Events

The Modern Foreign Language (MFL) Department sponsored several global events recently including visits from the German Consul General and the Officer of Cultural and Press Affairs of the German Consulate as well as Chinese art classes taught by a visiting artist.

Dozens of students and faculty members joined Consul General Dr. Ralf Horlemann as he hosted a discussion of the “White Rose” exhibit that was at BLS last month. Students from Ms. Kuchta’s German I class and Ms. Freeman’s Facing History class had the opportunity to ask Dr. Horlemann questions about Germany during WWII and the “White Rose” movement as well as Germany today.

Students interested in careers in the foreign service or government has the opportunity to hear from Elizabeth von Wagner and ask her questions about how their study of world languages will enhance their career opportunities.

Close to 500 Chinese language, culture and world history students learned about the history and techniques of Chinese art and created their own black ink paintings as part of a Chinese New Year event coordinated by Chinese teacher Ms. Yang.

Chinese artist and teacher Young Li discussed the history and traditions of Chinese classical art and instructed the students in the basics of painting.

BLS students show off their Chinese style panda paintings

BLS Model UN Competes at Harvard

Sixteen BLS students represented Ghana at the Harvard MUN, participating in ten different General Assembly committees.

- Polina Yudin (Class III), Sam Zuniga (Class III) and Mariah Mansoor (Class II) all received Verbal Commendation for their work. In addition Janna Ramadan (Class II) was recognized as an Outstanding Delegate.

The BLS Model UN participates in several Model UN’s each year with the support of the Clough Center for Global Understanding. Earlier in the year the club hosted the ExMUN along with Latin Academy.

BLS Model UN students Polina Yudin, Sam Zuniga, Janna Ramadan and Maria Mansoor at HMUN.