

Thursday 2nd October 2014

Top Tens!

We are sitting at the airport waiting to board our plane to Auckland. Here are some top 10s from our trip.

Top 10 highlights (in no particular order)

Tuk Tuk ride (race) from the market to the hotel
Meeting & eating time with our epals
Shopping at the Wan Shou Gong markets and bargaining
Connie's party at the tea house
Visiting the Ancient village
Visiting the Meiling mountains & walking across the swing bridge
Visiting the military university
Eating local food
Crowd walking in the temple markets
Farewell performance at NFLS

Top 10 funniest moments

Mrs Williams blushing while being photographed with young military students
Celebrity photographs & people staring at us
The mis-interpreted signs
Dom being named baozi boy (baozi is a fresh meat package))
Avoiding spitting
The TV programme out the window (who needs TV when you live 10 levels above the busiest street in Nanchang and watch the comings & goings)
Old happy man at the Anyi ancient village
Oropi kids eating strange animals parts (pigs ears, frogs, chicken feet, chicken head, pigs extra leg, pigs intestine, octopus, cows stomach with chilli)

Interestings

Toilet experiences
Walking the markets and smelling the aged tofu
The rubbish in the streets
Smoking inside and outside everywhere
The hotel swimming pool
Learning about foot binding in ancient China
Smog - we miss seeing the blue sky
Bare bottom babies - it is common for babies to not wear nappies with a hole in the back of their pants.

Wednesday 1st October 2014

Day 8

Another busy day at NFLS today. This is a PE lesson. The class who exercises in the straightest lines wins the prize and gets to wear the red hat.



We started the day with a lesson in Chinese music appreciation



Followed by a calligraphy lesson



Then lunch in the cafeteria



Check out the size of this school!



Time for the farewell. Some students performed for us.
This guy was extremely good with a yo yo.



Beautiful dancing



Time for Oropi to showcase their singing. The Chinese students joined in for the Jasmine Flower song.



The boys on the saxophones



This is a traditional Chinese guitar



The principal of NFLS presented this beautiful gift to Oropi.



We called in to visit another school in the area. The roll is over 10,000!!! (including the middle school & college).



This is a middle school classroom. Typical class size is between 70 - 80 students per class



Tomorrow is our last day. We are planning an early morning so we can hit the markets and get back in time to pack our bags and get to the airport.

This has been an amazing trip and we have met so many lovely people. Our 9 students have had a blast and handled the busy schedule really well. Parents should be very proud of these awesome kids.

We head off tomorrow at 2pm. Our flight back to Auckland departs at midnight so it will be a long day.

We are looking forward to hitting the fresh country air in Oropi.

Tuesday 30th September 2014

Day 7 – A Day At School

Today we arrived at Nanchang Foreign Language School at 9am. We started the day with a lesson in Chinese knots.



Then off into the heat for a PE lesson and Tai Chi



A few of the parents went off to explore a local market. Some serious shopping was crammed into only a few hours and there was some impressive bargaining going on. It's hard work shopping so we stopped to sample some local street food.



Mmmmm octopus kebabs. Mrs Williams is in her element here. The locals love her!!! (And so do we!).



Back to school. The kids have been in classes all morning making lots of new friends.





Time for a lesson in Mandarin.



Caitlin's epal sharing her story with the class. We have made great friends and our epals are very keen to come to NZ. We would love the opportunity to show our new friends around NZ. They have been so welcoming and generous.



Tonight we are heading out for dinner and having a quiet evening in.

Dinner with a host family.



Dinner out with the group



Tai Chi at NFLS







Another exciting morning at school planned tomorrow.

Monday 29th September 2014

Day 6 – Sunday

Today we drove out of the city to Anyi Ancient Village.

The Anyi Ancient Village is a well-preserved national cultural heritage which covers an area of about 3 kilometers.



Harvesting rice



This is rice drying. It is also common to see rice drying on the side of the roads and highways.



There is a lot of produce for sale in the streets.



These men are bashing up peanuts and honey to sell.



Farmers grow cotton in the area and this woman is using her loom to make fabric.



This Camphor tree is over 1000 years old.



One of the locals



Sunday 28th September 2014

Day 5 – Saturday

Today we all split up and spent the day with our epals.
One of the suggested places of interest was the heroes museum.



Then out to lunch at the mall followed by some shopping.



Off to the waterfront for some fun. Caitlin & Tiari enjoyed a few rides then we rushed back to get glammed up to go off to a local tea house for a show & dinner.



This has been one of the highlights of our trip. Some local children showcased their talent, the children played games, we enjoyed a tea ceremony & face changing show.



Amy performed a lovely song – Castle on a Cloud



Gorgeous tea



Beautiful Jenny sharing her talent





The magic face changing performance was entertaining



Oropi singing Tauranga Moana and The Jasmine Flower



Saturday 27th September 2014

Day 4 Part 1

It has been another huge day in Nanchang. We started the day at the badashanren meihu scenic spot. Located in Nanchang City's Yunpu District, the construction area covers 485,000 square metres. The first phase consists of four zones: culture exhibition, water city scenery, Suihansanyou (the three cold-weather friends pine, bamboo and plum) and entertainment. The group enjoyed seeing the calligraphy exhibition by Chinese painter Bada Shanren (1626 - 1705) He was of noble lineage, being a descendant of the [Ming dynasty](#) prince [Zhu Quan](#). Art historians have named him as a leading painter of the period.

Keep an eye out for new calligraphy equipment in the classrooms when we get back.









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Our friend Caroline who was showing us around for the day thought it would be nice to call in to her old University for lunch. She made a few calls and then the bus took us to the Nanchung University Military School. We were welcomed by such lovely people and many students followed us around so they could take photos and practise their English. We stayed for a tour of their barracks and classrooms then enjoyed more fantastic Chinese food made in their canteen. We are thinking of changing the lunch menu in term 4 to incorporate some of our favourite Chinese dishes.







The locals have taken a shine to Caitlin with her blonde hair & blue eyes.



Classrooms are very basic. They use blackboards & chalk. Certainly different to how our classrooms look.



Dom making more new friends







The best sweet and sour we have ever tasted!



Saturday 27th September 2014

Day 4 Part 2

We visited a Buddhist temple that was very beautiful.





Across the road from this temple was BayYi Park. The park is relatively small. Wandering around we saw a lot of people practising Qigong, Tai Chai, playing traditional Chinese instruments and even washing their dogs in the lake.





This woman spoke good English and was keen for her son to talk to us. He was very shy.



Typical street food



The night markets next to our hotel have recently opened and are very crowded.



Friday 26th September 2014

Deng Xiaoping and the Meiling Mountains

Awesome day sightseeing today. Weather was a humid 28 degrees but it felt more like 35! We started with breakfast in the hotel then headed off to the deng xiaoping museum.

Deng Xiaoping was a Chinese [revolutionary](#) and [statesman](#). He was the leader of [China](#) from 1978 until his retirement in 1992. After [Mao Zedong](#)'s death, Deng led his country through far-reaching market economic reforms. While Deng never held office as the [head of state](#), [head of government](#) or [General Secretary](#) he nonetheless was the "[paramount leader](#)" of the People's Republic of China from December 1978 to 1992.



Then we were headed for the Meiling Mountains. We stopped off for lunch on the way and enjoyed a selection of delicious Chinese food including mushrooms, tofu, pork meatballs, frog, cow livers, and Chinese vegetables. The region is well known for its spicy food so everything was served with a generous helping of chilli!





Then with full tummies we were off to the Mountains to climb Lion Rock. The view was spectacular!





These are the rice fields on the way up Lion Mountain.



Photo of the rice out drying.



And we stopped off at a village to do a spot of shopping.



We are heading out to the local markets tonight and are looking forward to meeting the locals & soaking up the street culture. Xai jian.

Thursday 25th September 2014

Arrival in Nanchang



Boarding the flight to Nanchang Nanchang Airport



It was a really big deal having the Oropi students visit the school, they were treated like royalty.



With E-Pals outside the school



At the school









Wednesday 24th September 2014

The Journey Begins

Arrived safely at Auckland airport, waiting to board ...



Tuesday 23rd September 2014

Mr T's Beijing Trip Continued...





Monday, 22nd September 2014

Mr T's Beijing Trip

Mr Turner has been sampling the local culture and cuisine in Beijing! Check out his photos. Would you like to eat some of those things?!





















Monday, 15th September 2014

The One Week Countdown is On!

We have had our final meeting today in preparation four our trip to Nanchang, China on September 23rd. In this blog we will be posting photos and comments in relation to our programme. We will be skypeing everyone back at Oropi School during the last week of this term and will present to you all when we get home about our discoveries.

Here is our programme:

OROPi SCHOOL VISIT NANCHANG and THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE SCHOOL - SEPTEMBER 23 - 1 Oct 2014

Day	Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	Tue 23	Home in New Zealand	Shuttle to Auckland	10.00 Depart Auckland

2	Wed 24	6.00 Arrive Guanzhou 9.25 Arrive ChangBei Drive to Jin Feng Hotel and settle in. Lunch ?	Spend afternoon at NFLS meet e-pals, etc	Bayi Square with e-pals?
3	Thu 25	NFLS with e-pals	Technology Museum/ Taewang Ge without e-pals?	Dinner with Host Families
4	Fri 26	Deng Xiao Peng Museum Zhong's Supplement Factory without e-pals?	Meiling Mountains without e-pals?	Tea Ceremony
6	Sat 27	Jiangxi Performing Arts Centre Gallery and Theatres without e-pals	Ba Yi Park You Ming Temple without e-pals	Without e-pals Hong Gu Tan Fountains Quadbike to Nanchang Eye Ferris Wheel
7	Sun 28	Anyi Ancient Village Without e-pals.	Anyi Ancient Village Without e-pals.	Freetime Possibly meeting another group of students
8	Mon 29 Jasmine Flower song day	NFLS with e-pals.	Heroes Museum Without e-pals.	Walking Street Markets without e-pals
9	Tue 30	NFLS With e-pals.	Farewell from NFLS	Freetime
10	Wed 1 Oct	??? Depart Nanchang for Guanzhou and Auckland	Heading home to New Zealand.	Home.

Where is Nanchang?

Nanchang is in southern China. We fly from Auckland to Guangzhou, then from Guangzhou to Nanchang. It is a 15 hour journey.

Can you find Nanchang and Guangzhou?

