

C.H.O.I.C.E. Alternative School

"A supportive educational program for students willing to commit to personal and academic success."

December 19, 2006

Dear Washington State Coalition for International Education:



On behalf of Sue's English class that joined her on her trip to Seattle, we would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity with your contribution towards furthering our international quest.

We appreciate the opportunity you gave us to learn about other cultures and religions. Some of the things we found extremely interesting were the cultures we faced. Our first stop was at a Chinese Antique Mall. We were amazed at the displays, such as the giant waterfall, and the story behind the deities. Also, we found the artifacts astoundingly beautiful, and their history mystifying. For instance, we learned of the goddess Kwan Yin, to whom the people prayed in times of need and suffering.

Another stop was at the Asian Market, Uwajimayo. We each were given a little money to explore the culture's unique foods. We enjoyed the variety, and saw things we'd never encountered before with each aisle. We bought an assortment of treats and beverages to try. Some we found extremely tasty, others we didn't like as much. However; we were glad for the opportunity to test them. Also, there was a Japanese Book Store nearby, and we browsed its wares, attempting to figure out what the symbols would mean in English. This, for some of us, was our favorite part of the trip.

On the trip we got a chance to see two beautiful buildings – St. Mark's Cathedral, and St. Spiridon's Orthodox Cathedral. We were awed by its strange architecture, and talked about how the two buildings differed.

After that, we traveled to the Italian restaurant, Buca Di Beppo. The interior decoration caught all of our attention – hundreds of photos lined the walls, and the ceilings were decorated with champagne bottles or a mural of singing angels (much like the ceiling in the Sistine Chapel, created by Michelangelo). Upon asking the students what their favorite part of the dinner was, they replied that everything was excellent – but they especially enjoyed the Apple Crostata. We were given time to talk to each other about our trip, before leaving and catching the ferry back to Bremerton. We then drove home.

The trip to Seattle was a mind boggling experience that we will remember for a lifetime. We all want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for allowing this to happen. You have furthered our knowledge of other cultures; and for some of us opened up a new passion for experiential learning.

Sincerely,
The Students of English 6.

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