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The Standard

A publication of St. Andrew's Academy

St. Andrew's Middle Schoolers Visit the East Coast

The St. Andrew's middle school group arrived at their Manhattan accommodations June 1st after midnight, though it was only 9 pm on the West Coast. In the

morning, the tall buildings confirmed what the travelers knew from the long flight the day before: They were no longer in Kansas—or Lake Almanor. New York City opened her arms to the students with warm weather as they ferried to Liberty Island to see Lady Liberty and look at the New York skyline. Ellis Island told the amazing stories of generations of immigrants to America. After a bungled subway ride (they were distracted by a traveling musician),

the St. Andrew's group decided to walk back through Central Park to First RE Church, Manhattan, where they were staying. The park was amazingly beautiful in the middle of so many tall buildings. The top of the Empire State building was a favorite of NYC for a number of the students. The good food and the people-watching were a favorite of the staff.

To get to Philadelphia, the next stop, the group took a taxi ride to Penn Station and then an evening train, going through New Jersey where three of the students were born.

Philadelphia introduced us to our host family, who fearlessly welcomed visitors from all over the country that weekend. Many thanks to the Miller family!

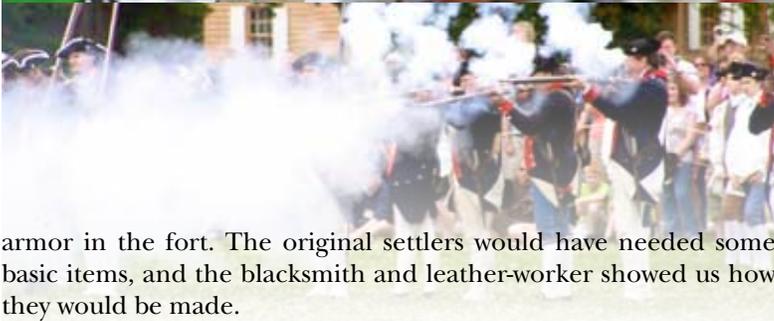


No visit to Philadelphia would be complete without that local fare, the Philly Cheesesteak Sandwich. Christ Academy, a sister school, joined St. Andrew's for lunch and for a day of sightseeing around Philadelphia. One of the wonderful sites visited was Christ Church, founded in 1695. This Church was attended by 15 signers of the Declaration of Independence, as well as George Washington and Betsy Ross.

Colonial Williamsburg deserves at least a full day, and the travelers began the day hearing

Mr. Thomas Jefferson address an excited crowd about the recent actions of Great Britain. Once the political meeting was over, there was shopping, dining, and attending the local court. Many locals were talkative, and all travelers were assured of their safety by the mustering of the militia at the end of the day.

The next day, the travelers stepped yet further back in time, to Jamestown fort, a struggling little settlement of 1607 whose fate was uncertain. The musket fire certainly caught the attention of our students, and they enjoyed trying on the



armor in the fort. The original settlers would have needed some basic items, and the blacksmith and leather-worker showed us how they would be made.

The next day, after stopping at Appomattox Court House, the St. Andrew's travelers found the tiny town of Check, Virginia, where graduate Serena Howe is working at Seven Springs Organic Farm. After pizza at Mickey G's in nearby Floyd, the group continued the long trek to Mills River, North Carolina, where they would stay while attending the General Assembly of the Anglican Church of North America near Asheville.

As frequently happens, the St. Andrew's uniforms caught the attention of many at the Assembly, including Archbishop Robert Duncan, who visited for a few minutes with the students. The youngest travelers, entering sixth grade, had quite a bit of success selling the choir's CDs at synod, funding some of the trip this way.

All Saints' Church in Mills River housed the group while in North Carolina, and the choir sang for service Sunday morning. The rector of All Saints', Father William Martin, has been a friend of the school for many years. The choir visited his previous church in Monterey on several spring break trips.

The return trip from North Carolina to Virginia brought the travelers into contact with several friends. Mr. & Mrs. Baker (Mr. Baker is a former St. Andrew's faculty member) in Richmond put the group up for a night, and barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers for them. Father & Mrs. Camlin, Deacon Kell, and parishioners of Holy Trinity Church in Fairfax entertained the group one evening, as well. And during their whole time in Virginia, the travelers enjoyed the lovely home and hospitality of the Smith family.

Four days were spent in Washington, DC, visiting the Smithsonian's museums of Air & Space, Natural History, and American History; the National Gallery of Art; the National Archives; the Folger Shakespeare Library; the Supreme Court; the Library of Congress; and the National Cathedral.

Favorite aspects of the trip? "The Empire State Building, Capitol Building, and... Air & Space!" according to one student. Another student said, "The Natural History Museum, because there were lots of crystals and animals."

SETTING A CHILD UP FOR SUCCESS: Boarding School for Middle School Students

by John Seel, Ph.D.

When a baby's physical growth is stunted, it is considered a tragedy. The aim of parenting is not to prolong childhood, but to encourage maturity. Yet parents often make choices that stunt the growth of their children. We live with the accepted pattern of a twenty-seven year old "man-child" still living at home. The aim of parenting should be to promote the maturity and growing independence of a child. We need to celebrate adulthood, not immaturity and dependence. In this light, boarding schools are a significant educational option that parents need to consider.

Parents need to be champions of the kind of discipline and maturity evidenced among many of the young athletes at this year's Olympic Games. They are not the product of coddling, but of wise choices and hard work. Gold-medal winning gymnast Gabby Douglas left her single mother to live with a family in another state to train. It was difficult at times, but the result is evident for all to see.

Ideally, boarding school pushes the child out of the family nest into a protected environment before the stakes are too high. It prepares the child for the often-squandered independence of the college years. A third of college freshmen drop out of college after a year, in part because they have not developed the self-discipline to live successfully on their own. They have been over-coddled. I am the fruit of boarding school beginning in the seventh grade, as are all my three children.

The real measure of a child's character is witnessed outside the confines of the home. A child's use of time, the friends he chooses, the habits he forms are best seen outside the four walls of the family home. With the advent of omnipresent communication technology, parents are remaining in high hover mode long after the psychological umbilical cords should have been cut. When a child calls home from college to ask what

she should have for lunch, one gets a sense of the extent of the problem. Such stories are legion.

Having a child leave home at an early age is not easy. It is fraught with anxiety for the parent and the child. But it is an important step in the process of maturity. In the past, a child at thirteen was expected to assume adult responsibilities. Children were regularly sent to Oxford and Cambridge at the age of fourteen and fifteen. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was approximately the same age at the time of Jesus' conception. We have prolonged childhood and have culturally stunted maturity. I sent my twelve-year-old son to work on a sheep farm in Tain, Scotland for a summer. He had to negotiate the international flight, customs at Heathrow, living with a new family, digging potatoes, and learning his way around sheep. He succeeded in all, though he learned to hate sheep.

Not all boarding schools are equally helpful. Parents need to choose a school with teachers, dorm parents, and friends who share their values. One needs to place one's child in a context where boundaries are maintained and maturity expected. It is in such places where children can come fully into their own and develop the independence and maturity that will serve them well in their college years.

In this regard, St. Andrew's Academy's boarding program is ideal. Boarding children live with families or in a small boarding house, and attend a school with a close-knit community that makes spiritual formation and educational excellence a daily routine. Childhood is filled with potential difficulties, and even more so in today's media saturated youth culture.

Sometimes parents feel that a boarding education is an abdication of their parenting responsibilities, when in fact it is a fulfillment of them.



Interns at St. Andrew's!

This year St. Andrew's has once again been blessed with participants in the internship program—and not just one intern, but two. Deborah Vaughan and Samuel Miller arrived in Lake Almanor in July to begin their one-year term at St. Andrew's Church and Academy as part of the Lindisfarne House program.

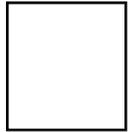
Deborah Vaughan, who was born in South Africa, now hails from the Central Coast area where she has lived with her six siblings for the past 13 years. Deborah became familiar with St. Andrew's through friends at Christ the King parish in Atascadero, a parish Father Foos attended before moving back to Lake Almanor. "I want to find out if I have the capacity to be a teacher," says Miss Vaughan.

Deborah brings several years' experience running the family business to St. Andrew's, where she will be heading up office administration as well as assisting in the classroom.

Samuel Miller is from all over, but most recently Philadelphia. He decided to attend the Lindisfarne House Gap Year program after graduating from Christ Academy, a sister school to St. Andrew's, because, he says, he "wanted to do something worthwhile and beneficial to others." The Lindisfarne House program is oriented toward service and spiritual formation.

Mr. Miller will be assisting as an aide and tutor at St. Andrew's as well doing public relations work. He has two younger sisters, his favorite color is blue, and he loves Corgies. He plans to attend college in Europe studying the Liberal Arts.

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Photos: clockwise from top right—
Federal Hall, NYC; Yorktown, VA; Independence Hall, Philadelphia; Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home; boys in armor at Jamestown Fort, VA; Replica of the Susan Constant at Jamestown Fort.



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