



THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM ANACAPA SCHOOL . . .

Trips at Anacapa School from 1981 to 2014

There is no doubt that Anacapa trips are some of the most potent, long-term, positive memories students take away from their Anacapa years. A comment often heard over the years from our alumni is that they appreciate the fact that they went to places they would never have gone. Although we have maintained the early-on established annual scheduling of the Beginning-of-the-Year and End-of-the-Year Trips with many of the same venues, trips have actually changed substantially from the early days.

Trips in the first decades of our school history were primarily bonding and experiential in nature. For example, the school climbed Half Dome in Yosemite nine different times, which took enormous amounts of teamwork and coordination to meet the challenges involved with that epic hike. As time has gone by, especially in the last ten years, trips have become in addition to experiential and bonding opportunities, more and more educational. For example, with the recent Zion trip last September, SBCC Professor of Geology Jeff Meyer came to Anacapa on the Friday before the trip to prep our students on the geologic history of the canyons of Zion and Bryce. At Zion, a National Park educational specialist greeted us on our first morning to brief the students on the natural history of Zion and Bryce.

Before the Lower School took off on our recent trip to Sacramento, the Director of Public Works for the City of Santa Barbara, Rebecca Bjork, came to our class and gave us a detailed history of Santa Barbara's water resources and the State Water Project. Her contacts with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in Sacramento opened doors for our students to meet with a representative from DWR to explain the need for the controversial Twin Tunnels project backed by Governor Brown. To balance that perspective, we later met with Bill Wells, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce, on location at the Delta. Bill took us on an educational tour of a Delta levee and explained to the students why he and his group, Restore the Delta, are so adamantly against the Twin Tunnels.

The Upper School will be leaving on June 7 for a five-day trip to Boston, as a culmination to our early United States history class this year. After having studied the Birth of the American Revolution in Boston, students will now be able to take a tour of the Freedom Trail led by a re-enactor and visit Plymouth Plantation, the homes of the Adams family, Lexington, Concord, Walden Pond, Boston University, Harvard University, and historic Fenway Park, among many other destinations in the Boston area.

In addition to past trips throughout the United States, Anacapa has made five summer trips to Europe. The most recent one was in 2012 with 16 students and alumni traveling to Italy.

Our Beginning-of-the-Year Trip next September was recently finalized. We will be returning to Santa Cruz Island to visit the Channel Islands National Park, camping at the Scorpion anchorage campground. You can bet that the students will learn beforehand from specialists about the Channel Islands, and when we are there, bonding, hiking, beach activities, and learning will abound!

~~ Gordon and Suzie Sichi

For a full chronology of Anacapa School trips over the years, visit our school Web site at the following link:
<http://www.anacapaschool.org/experiential-learning/trips/>