THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Week of Jun 13 - Jun 17

The students have been in especially high spirits this week in the lead up to today’s Moving with the Arts event. We hope our parents enjoyed it as much as we did! Our students worked hard to prepare and we could not be more proud! In other news, our students enjoyed a fun pizza party this week. For more information, see below.

Once again, we regret to announce that Saturday’s Family Picnic has been cancelled. However, we wish all of our fathers a very Happy Father’s Day!

DID YOU KNOW

House Point Party

Did you know that every month, our four student houses—Creators, Archers, Rangers and Explorers—compete to win a special pizza party in their honor? That’s right! Throughout each month, students can win points for their houses by earning Gladitude Cards as a result of good behavior. The house with the most points at the end of the month gets a pizza party!

Recently, it was the Archers who took the top spot. There is one final House Point celebration to go. Who will take the honor?
HAVE KIDS, WILL TRAVEL (Part 1)

Why travel is the best education for children

In the field of education, we often talk about the value of hands-on learning as a means of stimulating children’s minds and keeping them engaged, motivated and excited about education. Of course, no matter how hard our teachers try to create the perfect lesson, nothing beats travel as the ultimate hands-on learning experience.

Simply put, travel is the best education a child can receive.

Studies have shown that well-traveled children are not only more tolerant, more confident, more open-minded and more willing to take risks, they are also more flexible and observant. These qualities translate to better learners and better world citizens.

As you prepare to embark on your travels this summer, keep these four tips in mind to ensure your next family trip is an exciting learning adventure.

Let Your Children Take the Lead (sort of)
No, we don’t mean you should let them make all of the decisions (unless back-to-back meals of candy are your idea of nutrition). However, rather than playing the trial role of parent, travel agent and tour guide, delegate a few duties to your children. One simple way to do this is to let them be the navigators—with your guidance, of course! Fortunately, our students already have experience with this!

Most hotel lobbies and tourist kiosks offer maps of the surrounding area, indicating points of interest and other key destinations (e.g., banks, travel agencies, etc.). Begin each day by perusing the map with your children, pointing out the places that you will visit and their relative locations. Plan the order in which you will arrive at each site and how you plan to get there. If you will be walking, look up the streets you will take.

Mark the trail in pen if you need to. If you will be taking the bus or subway, look up where the stops are and the names of the stations. Then, hand the map—and the proverbial reins—over to your children (making sure to keep an extra copy on you) and off you go!

Throughout the day, ask your children questions such as, “How many more stop signs?” or “Which way should we turn now?” Doing so will reinforce the importance of their roles, as well as remind them that they are active members on the trip, not merely welcome stowaways who are along for the ride!

Encourage Observation
Children learn through all five senses, so it is no surprise that they are also keen observers. Children are constantly soaking up details that adults might miss or find innate. Encourage your children to reveal what they see, smell, hear, taste and feel. Doing so will help

them process the information and promote retention. Whenever you are somewhere that offers pamphlets, such as a museum or park, pick one up to read with your children. Then, try to spot the items and locations referenced.

Throughout your journey, be sure to comment on the similarities and differences in culture and lifestyle. What are the people wearing? What are they speaking? What are their houses like? Asking such questions will encourage your children to think about how other people live.

Encourage Reflection
At the end of each day, sit down with your children to reflect on the day’s events. Discuss what each of you liked, disliked and why. Draw comparisons to activities that you and your children have enjoyed on previous holidays.

If your children enjoy writing or drawing, bring a notebook and some coloring pencils along for the journey and allot some time each evening for them to add to their journals. Talk about the journal as a resource that they can use when sharing their favorite memories with friends and teachers back home. Suggest turning the journal into a scrapbook by adding photos, ticket stubs, pressed flowers and the like.

Try New Things—Together
Many parents would like their children to try new things, but are unwilling to do so themselves. To that we say, swallow your pride and your fear and take the leap together! Try skiing for the first time and forget about how silly you look. Sometimes the extra push children need is to see their parents leading by example.

IN PHOTOS

Moving With the Arts
At long last, our highly anticipated Moving With the Arts event finally arrived on Friday, June 17! Here is a peek at some of the day’s activities:

1. A group of children engaged in a dance activity.
2. A student holding a piece of art they created.
3. A teacher facilitating an art project.
4. Children sitting in a circle for a group discussion.
5. A child holding a colorful craft they made.