

# The RCS Patriot Press

Wednesday, March 12

Wednesday began with a 7 a.m. wake up call. One of the comments heard thus far has been, "Boy it seems like all we do is eat and walk!" Therefore a few words about our day's food selections: Breakfast once again consisted of a hardy selection of pancakes, eggs (a bit runny, which is unfortunate because they were quite good yesterday), and a selection of those cute, small cereal boxes and various muffins and Danishes. Most parents also yearn for what has turned out to be an incredibly strong cup of coffee. So that's a little bit about breakfast.



We then boarded the buses and headed north to Philadelphia. On the bus ride, a few of us resumed a deep sleep cycle. Other students appreciated the opportunity to listen to iPods and play video games, even on cell phones (Mr. Wit broke par on *Tiger Woods*). We also watched a couple movies, including the amazingly historically inaccurate *National Treasure* and the inspiring *Facing the Giants*.

Our first stop in Philly was The Bourse for a quick lunch. For our third straight food court meal, many opted for a burger, salad, sushi, or the legendary cheese steak. After lunch, we ventured over to the Constitution Center. Here we viewed an inspiring multimedia presentation on "We the People." We then experienced many interactive displays on the various aspects of government. A few students swore themselves in as president and



others tried on Supreme Court robes. One teacher remarked after seeing the future justices, "I'm moving to Canada." After a few pictures with our favorite Constitution signers ("Dude, James Madison was short!"), we headed to Independence Hall to see the most important historical room in the U.S.



The National Park ranger explained some interesting facts about the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. She also debunked some of our *National Treasure* myths – it turns out the exterior scenes of the movie were filmed at

the actual Independence Hall, and the interior shots were done at the replica at Knott's Berry Farm. As we meandered through the Hall and on into the Liberty Bell center, the words "We the People" continued to resonate in our heads and in our hearts.

After the sightseeing in the city of Brotherly Love, we continued our journey north to New York City. A few naps and the movies resumed until the view of the sky line appeared. Unfortunately, traffic slowed to a crawl entering the Lincoln Tunnel. We eventually made it to Manhattan and headed to Chevy's for dinner ("Viva Mexico!"). We were treated to an elegant buffet of chicken and beef tacos with rice and beans. Ozzie and staff treated us well and I would recommend this stop to anyone visiting the Big Apple. After



dinner, we went to the Empire State Building. A few tourists overcame their fear of heights and ascended the 86 floors to the breezy observatory. The view was incomparable and a few students peered over the edge as others searched for the Statue of Liberty. We were back in line by nine to descend the tower and head back to New Jersey for our night at the Meadowlands Embassy Suites.

**Quotable Quotes:**

**“Dude, it’s been like 5 hours and your ex is already flirting with someone else....what the heck?!?!?!?” -Madison G.**

**“We’re loud, we’re proud, we’re.....oh we’re just loud.” -Bus #2**

**“This trip has exceeded my expectations.” -Parent**

**“Is Mr. Jorritsma sleeping again???” -Tour Guide Sohailah**

**“Mr. Wit...for 60 bucks can I get my cell phone *and* iPod back?” -An exasperated student**

**“Four cell phones, three and half iPods, two switchblade combs, five laser-pointers....this burden of contraband is starting to weigh me down.” -Mr. Wit**

**“Mr. Wit, is it true you have a penalty box on your bus?” -A concerned student**