



The Sentinel

Friday, March 19

We were able to sleep in until 7:30 this morning after a late night on Broadway. We enjoyed a leisurely breakfast, stuffed all of our possessions into our bulging suitcases and headed into New York for our final few stops of the trip.

We enjoyed a fabulous tour of the New York waterway in which we were able to marvel at the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the impressive New York City skyline. Students and parents were able to listen to a knowledgeable native New Yorker share a plethora of information about the history of the city. It was a beautiful day on the Hudson with temperatures in the low seventies.

From there we headed to Battery Park where we were able to buy some last minute souvenirs. From the looks of it, many of our students wanted to go home with as little money as possible. We took a brief walk and were able to see Wall Street, the New York Stock Exchange, and Trinity Church. We moved quickly through the streets, however, we definitely looked like tourists with over seventy people in our group, carrying cameras around our necks, wearing green foam Statue of Liberty crowns, and gawking at the big buildings.

After a quick bite to eat, our group battled New York traffic one last time on the way to the airport. We said goodbye to our fabulous tour guides and amazing bus drivers. Our tour guides, Sohailah and Jessica, shared with us many anecdotes and facts about our Nation's history and they challenged us to think about how we can make a difference just like our forefathers. Our bus drivers were able to maneuver us through some tough traffic. We thank them all for making this trip so meaningful.

Our trip home went smoothly, but it was a long journey. We left Newark and flew to LAX with a brief layover in San Francisco. After everyone got their luggage, we boarded two buses for the last leg of our trip. As we rode the buses home, many of the passengers slept, others competed in DS competitions, while still others were listening to a fascinating discussion between our bus driver and one of our parents. We arrived safely at RCS with a big crowd anticipating our arrival.

This concludes this year's trip. We have been blessed by so many wonderful experiences. Earlier in the week, one of our parents commented that she hoped we would have a memorable week. Instead of listing a few quotable quotes today, we thought we would end this writing by listing our top ten moments that made the 2010 DC trip memorable.

1. Listening to our students and parents pray during an emotional time on the Capitol steps.
2. This trip was filled with trips. Whether it was students in the Capitol, a student and parent at Arlington, or countless other near misses, it was clear that this group needs to improve their walking abilities.
3. Jake H. and his time in the ER as he needed four stitches.
4. Fire Alarm!!! Seeing parents and students running down 12 flights of stairs at 10:32 in the evening was something to behold. Life lesson – always bring your shoes!
5. Fast paced sightseeing – seeing our group hustle from one place to another. Our group tried to see as much as possible in the limited time that we had.

6. Being in Times Square on St. Patrick's Day. Even the Empire State Building was dressed in green.
7. A great group of students!! They listened well, knew their stuff, and were a joy to hang out with.
8. Participating in a church service at the National Cathedral and having three of our students present the elements.
9. A beautiful, sunny 70 degree boat ride in the New York Waterway.
10. As we stopped for a photo stop at the White House, Vice-President Joe Biden rode by with his motorcade.