Grade 5/6 City Camp

A three day adventure began with excited chatter as we climbed aboard the bus. The noise level grew as we came closer to our destination. As we hopped off the bus gasps could be heard amongst the students who had never been to the city before. We unloaded our luggage, grabbed our backpacks and set out to explore.

Our first stop was the Art Centre where we were guided through different concert halls used for ballet, orchestra and opera performances. The designs of each hall was impressive with different architectural features used to create the different type of sounds wanted by the performers. We then travelled to the Shrine of Remembrance where we became lost in the history of Australia’s involvement in the many conflicts around the world, both past and present. A relaxing river cruise concluded our first day as we then tracked our way back for dinner.

The second day began with students playing a game of spotto as we strolled around the city. We then made our way to the Old Treasury Building where we learnt about the gold rush and some of the key people who were fighting for power and control during this time. This was followed by lunch at the Fitzroy Gardens and a tour of the MCG. Not a sound could be heard as the group were listening to our tour guides explain the ins and outs of the MCG including who played there, how the ground was prepared for either cricket or footy season, how players would come onto or leave the ground and about different events they held such as the sleepover being held that night to raise money for the homeless. We then made our way through the National Sports Museum located at the MCG which included an interactive section which the students absolutely loved. When it was time to leave we had to drag the students (and some of the staff as well) out of the building so we could make our way to the Eureka Skydeck. At the Eureka Skydeck we boarded an elevator to the 88th floor. It took less than forty seconds to climb the 88 floors and get us to the observation deck. Night had just begun to fall as we stepped out and admired the incredible view of Melbourne City beginning to light up. Time flew quickly and soon we were making our way back for dinner and some down time watching Paddington Bear.

The third day involved some haggling at the Queen Victoria Market followed by a trip to both the State Library and The Old Melbourne Gaol. Staring at the hangman’s rope made us all feel empathetic for those that had been through the jail but lucky as well that we live in a time when such conditions would not be tolerated. It was not long before our time was up and we had to make our way back for lunch and to board the bus home.

The camp is done and dusted and while we are all thankful to be home it is not an experience many of us, or our tired legs, will soon forget.