



21 April 2017

Planning Ahead

Tuesday-Friday, 25-28 April – **Achievement Testing**. Please be sure your children are well-rested and have a good breakfast each morning.

Tuesday, 1 May – **Science Fair**, final projects due, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday-Wednesday, 1-2 May – **Science Fair** judging.

Thursday, 3 May – **Parent-Teacher Fellowship and Science Fair**, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 13 May – **ACSI Track Meet**, Bangor, PA. 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.



Plan Now for Family Trips this Summer!

Last month, Ruthi and I spent three days with seven high school students in Washington, D.C. touring our nation's capital. The Capitol building, Library of Congress, U. S. Botanical Garden, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, various of the Smithsonian museums, and Arlington National Cemetery where we watched the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were all highlights for various of the students. (pictures on Facebook®)

However, we made an interesting observation. Those students whose parents regularly took them on trips to various places of educational interest were, themselves, most interested in the places we visited. Those students whose parents rarely, if ever, have taken them on trips to visit museums, historical sites, or other places away from the city could hardly have cared less about most of the places we saw.

Michelle Kulas in "The Benefits of Educational Travel for Children"¹ identifies a number of benefits of taking time away from home with the kids.

(1) Quality time together with family. We at school can take the kids on trips and have the privilege of introducing them to their world (and we love to do it), but family ties are strengthened if they can enjoy these experiences with you. They also learn that you are interested in learning which increases their motivation to learn.

(2) Hands-on Learning. Many museums have areas that are interactive, allowing children to experience science and history first-hand. This is especially true of festival days where demonstrators may reenact life from a different place or time.

(3) Appreciation for Different Cultures. NYC is an amazing place to raise a family. Ruthi and I enjoy taking a day in the summer to explore an ethnic neighborhood. Brighton Beach (Russian), Williamsburg (Jewish), KoreaTown on 32nd street, and Chinatown have opened our eyes to the diversity of people and cultures in our world, without ever leaving the city.

(4) New Perspective on History. Visiting the places where significant historical events have happened provides context for classroom learning. It's exciting when studying a certain country or event when a student raises his hand and says, "I've been there! I've seen that!"

(5) Better School Grades. It's not hard to understand that children who have enjoyed these kinds of family experiences get better grades in school. They are able to connect their learning with their own life experience. They know that their parents are learners, too. And they are simply much more interested in the world around them and motivated to learn about it.

I hope that, as you plan your summer, you can schedule some time together with your children, whether a day trip to the city or a longer trip out of the city. You will be investing in your family, your children, and their future!

¹ Kulas, Michelle, "The Benefits of Educational Travel for Children," *USAToday*, <http://traveltips.usatoday.com/benefits-educational-travel-children-52243.html>, accessed 20 April 2017.