



NEWS FROM THE



A Meaningful Exchange with Our Young Guests from Switzerland

Every year in spring, the Swiss School in Singapore hosts a group of exchange students from one of the municipality schools from its Patronal Canton of Zug.

This year, we were delighted to welcome eight exchange students from Risch-Rotkreuz, Switzerland, and their teacher Ms Juliana Schmidt.

WARM HOSPITALITY AND INTERESTING EXCURSIONS

Each child was assigned to a host family whose children were in the Primary 6 class. These families went out of their way to ensure that their exchange child felt at home and had an enriching experience here in Singapore.

Over the course of two weeks, the students joined the Primary 6 class for regular lessons and also took part in school excursions to Chinatown, Little India, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and Pulau Ubin. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to enjoy a change of pace, meet new people, practise their English skills and experience the local culture in vibrant, cosmopolitan Singapore.

SAVOURING SINGAPORE

Towards the end of the second week of their exchange programme, we asked the students to share their impressions of the Lion City, Swiss School and the local lifestyle. When asked what they liked most about Singapore, local food was high on all of their lists. Butter chicken, roti prata, chicken rice and dumplings were among the most loved dishes.

Exchange students Rebecca and Fabienne found the taste of durian quite intriguing and numbered it among the most memorable foods sampled in Singapore. Students

also praised the cleanliness of the city, its impressive tall buildings, abundance of nature and interesting culture. The exchange teacher, Juliana Schmidt said, "I liked the local food especially. The food is affordable and the choices are amazing. There is also a lot to see in Singapore that's great!"

PLEASANT SURPRISES AND DELIGHTFUL DIFFERENCES

Next, the exchange students discussed about the differences between their schools and the Swiss School in Singapore. They all really liked the location of the Swiss School in the tropics nestled amongst lush nature. Exchange student Elena commented, "The Swiss School here is much bigger and the lessons are more fun." Meanwhile Darline found it interesting that students here were required to wear uniforms whereas in Switzerland, they wear casual clothes to school. Laura said, "The major difference I noticed was that the classrooms here are air-conditioned and the students mostly speak English."

MEMORIES MADE AND FRIENDSHIPS FORMED

Students were asked about their favourite part of Singapore's culture and what they will miss most about their time here.

"There are many religions here in Singapore. It's impressive how people of different cultures live harmoniously together," remarked Tobia. Lenny and Jamie found it fascinating that people here happily queue and wait patiently in line. Exchange students Darline, Laura and Rebecca said that they will especially miss the Swiss School, their host families and their new friends in Primary 6. Ms Juliana Schmidt and the rest of the students agreed, and added that the weather and nature will be greatly missed too.

Likewise, the Swiss School in Singapore will fondly remember the visit from the exchange students from Zug.

Article courtesy of Reena Rai

Photos courtesy of Swiss School in Singapore