**China Trip 2015 PMI**

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| **Pre-Trip** |
| * Fundraising was a huge success * Cameras one per child – may not need this next time – one good camera is fine * WeChat has been fantastic * Uniforms were smart looking and appropriate for the weather – parent of the school – print first names not last * Teachers taking students out for Chinese dinner was great! Helped with bonding and also learning etiquette * Trip booklets were great and are a must! The kids needed them – add extra content for the Shanghai section * Visas arrived quite late!! * Need the school itinerary earlier |

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|  | **Plus** | **Minus** | **Ideas** |
| Saturday 19th December | | | |
| Met at Auckland Airport at 8:30 for an 11pm flight | * Plenty of time for check in etc. * Sky couches for the girls were amazing * Night flight meant we got some sleep |  | * Remind everyone of international travel requirements eg. 100ml limit, plastic bags * Teachers need to pack extra plastic bags * Get kids to fill in their own departure cards once check-in is completed * Pack a pair of shorts in carry on bag to get changed into on arrival in Shanghai |
| Sunday 20th December | | | |
| Arrival in Shanghai | * Time of flight meant no queues at the airport | * No one there to receive us!? * No SIM cards ready for teachers |  |
| Shuttle bus to Yuyao and hotel |  | * Long bus ride | * Always ask for bullet train * If we have to go by bus then ask the guide to show sights etc. during the ride * Pack a mini speaker for music Bring along hard drive with movies |
| Kaiyuan hotel | * Great facilities and room setup – 1 teacher with 2 girls | * Because of the rooms requested our hotel was a little out of the city so we had to taxi everywhere | * Check with 2016 parents about their accommodation preferences – or lay it out right at the start so they are aware. |
| Lunch and Shopping at Wanda Plaza | * Limited the girls to 200RMB for spending. |  |  |
| Dinner | * Meant to go back to Wanda Plaza but ended up getting McDonalds takeaway and having it in the hotel | * Need to add a briefing on this night and send them to bed early! Girls were still on a high in ‘holiday mode’ |  |
| Monday 21st September | | | |
| Arrival at school - | * 2 items in Kapa Haka costumes | * Need to give the kids a talk in the morning about what they will be facing and what our expectations are – guidance about what to do in class - strategies for what to do if stressed. |  |
| Visit to Hermudu | * Good to hear about the history |  |  |
| Lunch at school |  |  | * Bit more prep needed here |
| School lesson – children’s show |  | * Had no control over this |  |
| Sending off to homestay families | * Fine |  |  |
| Dealing with teary kids! | * Stick to our guns like we did – allow kids to voice concerns and break it down item by item * Line of communication is good (parent – Crystal – us) |  | * Need to add a section in profile to say what kind of homestay/student they should be paired with eg. loud, quiet |
| Tuesday 22nd September | | | |
| Morning programme – visiting specialty classes in the morning and joining in for fitness | * This was good – nice for the kids to be together again after their first night away |  |  |
| Music lesson, PE lesson, Art lesson | * PE and Art lessons were fantastic! | * Music could’ve been better but hard to ask for them to cater for us. | * Hands on, tactile activities |
| Lunch in class then chilling in the library |  |  | * Remind kids that this is a chill time – take a book/colouring stuff and have some time out before the afternoon |
| Making Chinese food | * Dumplings and mooncakes – interesting and fun | * They had invited their own students along so it was quite crowded and girls had to compete for space etc. – need to ask if we can have this exclusively |  |
| Back to classes for 2 blocks |  | * Children were *very* tired by this stage – but they survived |  |
| Dinner at school | * Fantastic (attended by DP, Crystal, 2 teachers from the English department, host girls, and 1 other teacher) * Good to have this on the second night as a fallback for kids who freak out at the homestay family |  |  |
| Kung Fu show | * Presented by children from the school. Our girls got to have a go too. * This was followed by table tennis and badminton |  |  |
| **Wednesday 23rd September** | | | |
| Mix of home classes and observing/participating in English and specialty lessons (every Wednesday) | * The hands on element (calligraphy, papercutting, dance) was great, heaps better for the girls | * Need to organise a space for our kids to go to at the end of each lunchtime. They need some chill time. |  |
| Dinner with host families |  |  |  |
| **Thursday 24th September** | | | |
| Graduation ceremony | * The hands on element was great, heaps better for the girls * Time for students to go back to home classes and be farewelled by students + class photo + gifts from other students | * Had lunch at school – no need for this…train station would’ve been better |  |
| Train station | * Good experience for the kids | * Left at the ticket entrance – need teachers who are aware and can handle these sorts of situations well |  |
| Rest at hotel | * Nice to have some chill time and for kids to be together again |  |  |
| Dinner and Massage | * Kids loved the massage option in the evening and were willing to pay for it themselves – something to factor in next time aprox. 120RMB | * Western food options seem to be limited to fast food | * Request better western food options to be factored in for next trip |
| Friday 25th September | | | |
| Yuyuan garden and Chenghuanmiao Temple | * Shopping was great | * Kids not so interested in the garden but good to do it | * Prep the kids more on what we will be seeing ahead of time. Give them things to look out for * Could have a bit more time for this experience |
| Shanghai Financial Tower and Nanjing Road | * Very worthwhile experience – view of the city is fantastic |  | * Could be more of a learning opportunity – take a city map up? Or create a page in trip book with questions to answer about the tower |
| River Cruise | * Amazing night views of the city | * Very crowded and a bit overwhelming for the kids at this time of night. | * Go straight to the top floor and try and get a side or back position along the rails for best view. * Get down onto the bottom floor before the boat arrives at dock |
| Teachers releasing each other | * Definitely needed some “me” time away from the kids |  |  |
| Saturday 26th September | | | |
| Science and Technology Museum | * Well designed museum with lots of hands on displays |  |  |
| Imitation Market | * Great bartering and money handling experience for the kids |  | * Allow for at least 2 hours of shopping |
| Shanghai Ocean Aquarium |  | * Very similar to Kelly Tarlton’s |  |
| Dinner |  | * Same sort of food – obviously a restaurant that is jacked up with the tour company | * A dinner allowance would’ve been better to accommodate for everyone’s choices. |
| Acrobatics Show | * Highlight of the trip!!! Definitely worth watching. |  |  |
| Sunday 27th September | | | |
| Late check-out 12pm | * Really needed this sleep in |  |  |
| Urban planning museum | * Worthwhile – really cool to have this on the last day as you could spot places you had visited | * Didn’t know about the cool underground shopping street – needed more time and money |  |
| China Pavilion for the 2010 Expo | * Cool to see – but could’ve left it off the itinerary |  |  |
| Dinner |  |  | * Again, an allowance would’ve been better to accommodate for everyone’s choices. |
| Depart for home at 22:10 | * Good time for flight |  |  |

**Future Trips**

**School Planning**

* Possibility of Fab4 returning to China again as leaders?
* 8 students? 1:4 ratio or less is ideal – definitely in pairs – definitely with teachers **not** parents
* All students required to attend kapa haka – this made the item rehearsal a lot easier!
* Trip book is a must! Perhaps add extra activity pages that relate to the sightseeing part of the trip.
* Parents need to opt in to fundraising (time and money equally split) or opt out and pay up front – ask this year’s group to let 2016 group know which fundraising events worked the best.
* Keep it in the last week of school – we used it as a reasoning tool in a pep talk – exchange of school time
* Kids need to be warned that part of the trip is fun/shopping/sightseeing and part of it **IS** hard work in school - 6 Blocks a day at school (40mins each with a 10min break) • 8:00-4:15 • lunch at 11:20

**Pre-Trip**

* Gift buying and dinner out with Teachers was a great bonding time – keep this in – etiquette lesson was great
* Practice using chopsticks before coming, etiquette around bartering and purchases
* Trip uniforms (2 shirts plus school pants) – huge plus – print first names next time
* More prep with what to expect – especially around food/toilet/heat
* Gift for principal, Crystal, department (4 ppl), Xi Dan?, home classrooms
* Students to create a QQ account and bring ID
* NZ parents to download WeChat
* More guidance around international travel regulations eg. 100ml liquids, plastic snaplock bag
* More guidance around what/how much to pack!
  + 4 wheeled suitcase is a must (65L -72L recommended)
  + Toiletries – no shampoo or conditioner
  + Trip uniform
  + 1 weeks’ worth of clothing for hot weather
  + 1 smart-casual wear
  + 2 shoes (sports/casual) lots of walking involved
  + No need for first aid kit – just personal medication
  + Snack food packed in plastic bags/snaplock bags (1 pack of muesli bars, 1 bag of snack chips, 1 other snack eg. salami sticks) **no lollies**
  + **Pack light –** kids have to lug their own things around and have room for extra gifts and bought items
  + Day pack – 1 of each snack, 1 water bottle, 1 change of clothes, wet wipes, tissues, hand sanitiser, hat, personal medication, something to do on the plane, camera, trip book, pencil case
* Camera (1 between 2) – just for the home stay nights
* Spending money $250 – take time to explain how to make this last across the shopping opportunities (teachers hold onto money) – having a check list of people to buy gifts for
* 4 items - 2 kapa haka, 1 Chinese, 1-2 individual would be good
* Students to know how to introduce themselves in Mandarin – 1 or 2 to learn a speech for opening and closing ceremonies

**Itinerary Planning**

* At school - ask for an area where the children can chill after lunch or be by themselves eg. library
* Definitely request for PE, English and Arts classes
* See if the cooking classes could be attended just by our kids
* Ask for better western food eating options (1-2 nights – especially the night after leaving school)
* Ask about possibility of being given a set amount to buy own lunch (eg. at the train station, markets) during the day or being reimbursed
* Possibility of including a cultural show (eg. music/dance/opera/kung fu)
* Possibility of including a cooking class
* Possibility of including Shanghai Disneyland

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**Chinese Kids visiting us:**

* Ask for fewer students
* Cut down their time at school – 3 nights 4 days is plenty
* Responsibilities need to be outlined for our parents – creating welcoming and stimulating cultural experiences, effort, gifts
* Skim money off the homestay cost so that we can use it to provide activities in school
* Reciprocate the generosity - lots of gift giving from students within the school and classes we attended
* Ask for an area where the children can chill after lunch or be by themselves eg. PAC foyer as chill place?/ICT lunchtime/Library lunchtime/Play
* Items from student groups eg. kapa haka – authentic opportunity to perform
* Put more of our different cultures into our graduation ceremony – PowerPoint of kids doing activities was a nice touch
* Gift exchange – individual gifts and school gift
* Students need to be in the same classrooms as their homestay student
* Classroom teachers need to make more effort to involve/welcome/farewell them