



# ECI/ACE Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 3

Spring 2010

## TRIP TO CALIFORNIA

A group of students took a trip to Los Angeles, CA from March 15-18, 2010. They were chaperoned by Coordinator Leona Gibson and Regional Director Sonia Delgado from California. They visited Disneyland, Universal Studios, and toured Hollywood/Beverly Hills. The students had a great time. The coordinators were very pleased with the students' behavior and their responsibility throughout the trip.



Downtown LA



Universal Studios



Disneyland

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL

On March 29, 2010, the students in Oklahoma will participate in International Student Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol. The students will be introduced to the legislators of the state of Oklahoma, treated to lunch, and intermingle with many international students from high schools and local universities. Last year, over 85 countries were represented at the statewide event and we are expecting even more this year.

After the event at the State Capitol, ECI/ACE has organized a city tour for the students and a museum tour at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Museum. The students are really looking forward to the event.

## CELEBRATING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

This year the Chinese New Year was on February 13, 2009. This year is the year of the tiger symbolizing sensitivity, deep thinking, and capable of great sympathy. The Chinese motto is “I will”. The Chinese New Year tradition is a great way to reconcile; forgetting all grudges, and sincerely wish peace and happiness for everyone.

ECI/ACE Chinese students all celebrated the New Year. The Chinese students in Oklahoma and the rest of the exchange students in Oklahoma celebrated the New Year and new semester at the house of the Pickens family. There was swimming, food, soft drinks, and Nintendo Wii game competitions.



Students swimming at the home of host family Pickens.



Happy New Year!



Students involved in a Nintendo Wii game.

Other states also celebrated the Chinese New Year with the host families and exchange students in the surrounding areas.

## CALIFORNIA

The students in California also celebrated the Chinese New Year three times at the homes of the following host families: Burruel, Anderson, and Guisa.

The Regional Director, Sonia Delgado, reported that the California students are doing well. They are preparing for the farewell party in May. The students are busy taking TOEFL and ACT/SAT tests.

## ANNOUNCEMENT FOR JANUARY 2010 STUDENTS

For the students that started their Program January 2010 – December 2010, you will all attend the English Language Summer Program in Oklahoma City, OK. There will be two (2) session start dates: June 7 and June 28, 2010. All students need to call the main office with their flight information at 1-888-446-5437 or e-mail to [eci@ionet.net](mailto:eci@ionet.net).

## END OF THE YEAR PREPARATION

Dear Host Family and Students:

The school year will quickly approach its end and we all need to finalize the completion of the Program. It is now the right time to point out some of the policies of the Program as well as to give instructions to the students so that they can start preparing themselves for their return home.

We would like to point out to the students the important reminders and obligations to make the preparation process for ending the Program and going home smoother and more structured one.

1. **All students should plan to leave the country within one week after the end of the school year.** All the students should have their return tickets with them. Since ACE/ECI office was not involved in your airline ticket arrangements please communicate with your parents and your agencies in your country to book your return tickets. The health insurance coverage will stop at the end of one week after the school year finishes.
2. Make sure that you have your **passport and the I-94 form.** (I-94 form is a small cardboard document that was stapled to your passport when you arrived in the USA). When you go to the airport, you will need to show your ticket, passport, and I-94.
3. You are allowed only **two (2) suitcases** to check in. Each suitcase cannot be heavier than **50 pounds**. You can have one small carry-on bag with you as well as a purse or backpack. You have to have **at least \$150** with you before you travel (you

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may need to pay for each bag about \$20-\$30 and you will need money for meals and drinks at the airports. You have to pack some of your clothes and other belongings and mail them home as soon as possible).

4. You have to take your **Grade Report** from school for the Fall Semester and the **Final Transcript** at the end of the school year. You may need to **talk to your counselors** asking them if you could have the final transcript at the end of the school year or within 2-3 days after that day. The counselors are usually very helpful because they know that the exchange students will be going home. **Macedonian and Kosovo students** have to have the Fall Semester grade report stamped and signed and they need to mail the grade reports to our office with \$25, so that we can get the Apostilles. At the end of school year they have to do the same with the Final Transcript.

We would like you to enjoy the rest of your stay: bond even more with your host family, improve your grades, and get involved in school. This is an experience you will always remember.

We thank the host families for giving such a good care to the students and ask you to help your student/s in preparation for their departure.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!!

As you all know, the school year is nearing an end and the students have to prepare to return home. **You will have to leave the country one week after finishing your school.** Please book your tickets if you have not booked them by now, so there will be no problem with space later. Please send your flight itinerary to [eci@ionet.net](mailto:eci@ionet.net).

**Please remember:**

1. You are allowed to check-in only two (2) suitcases.
2. You can have one small carry-on bag with you as well as a purse or backpack.
3. Each suitcase has to weigh less than 50 lbs. You may be asked to pay \$20-\$30 per suitcase if it is too heavy.
4. Please have cash money with you for your travels. We suggest to have at least \$150 with you before you travel (you may need to pay for each bag about \$20-\$30 and you will need money for meals/drinks at the airports).
5. It is good to pack some of your clothes and other belongings and mail them home as soon as possible. Therefore, anything extra you have (such as clothing, books, etc.) needs to be packed in boxes and shipped back to your home.

**STUDENT GRADES**

**We would like to congratulate those students that have maintained a 4.0 GPA for the entire year. Congratulations to all those students that maintained at least a 3.0 GPA. Keep up the good work!**

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We have been receiving calls with questions regarding whether students can extend their stay one more year and not go home – this cannot happen. By Law, the students coming on J-1 exchange visitor visa may only study one school year in a publicly funded institution and they have to go home after the Program finishes. Therefore, we urge and say to all the students that after the school year finishes, all of you must go home within one week.

We hope you understand these Regulations seriously and will abide accordingly.

**Students and Host Families**

**Remember to contact us anytime you need us! We are here to help you!**

**Local: (405) 810-8314**

**Toll-Free: (888) 446-5437**

**24 hours a day, 7 days a week!**

**E-mail: [eci@ionet.net](mailto:eci@ionet.net) or [ace@ionet.net](mailto:ace@ionet.net)**

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**THANK YOU!**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO OUR STUDENTS AND HOST FAMILIES FOR MAKING THIS SUCH A WONDERFUL YEAR. THANK YOU HOST FAMILIES FOR OPENING UP YOUR HOMES AND LIVES TO THE EXCHANGE STUDENTS. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE ALL YOUR HELP. THANK YOU STUDENTS FOR MAKING THIS YEAR A SUCCESS AND WE WISH YOU WELL IN YOUR FUTURE EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVORS.**