

Hi Parents

Since pictures are worth a 1000 words, I thought I would send them and accompany them with my 1000 words while they were fresh!

We visited the amphitheater, learning about history of the amphitheater from the Greek time on. On the way, we learned about the native and non-native foliage including Buckeye, used to stun the fish in rivers by the Ohlone Indians. We also saw a few cool spiders and insects.



In the Stanford Amphitheatre

We continued learning about the world's first University, in Bologna, during the Dark Ages. It struck me when we heard that the University was the first one to allow the students to run the school and decide what they wanted to learn and how it was a center for enlightenment during such a dark time.

According to Nate, we still use the University of Bologna's Aristotelian model today in the majority of our Universities and Stanford is a great example. Nate continued to explain the history of Stanford in relation to the Gold Rush and how the University was founded so that "all the children of California" could be Leland Stanford's children after he lost his son, Leland Jr.

Our discussion was extremely interactive, with Hannah and Abe sharing about the Magna Carta and Elijah instructing us with insightful comments and even correcting grammar on our map sheet with treasure hunt clues.



Discussion Time – talking about Leland Stanford

We saw the Rodin collection indoors and outdoors in the Cantor Museum and the children were so well behaved considering how much we had walked already. A mom with her family commented on how well they were listening, thinking they were my children, and then I confessed that it was a camp so of course, they typically listened better than to their own parents. She immediately requested information so she could sign up her daughter!



Statue Introductions



We continued to Hoover Tower, seeing gifts of gold from the President of Peru and the gift of a perfectly clear view of the Bay Area from San Francisco to the rolling hills of Palo Alto in their greenest finery. I have never been up there and was enchanted with the magic of the pristine beauty of our rolling hills as well as the huge bells and keyboardless piano shaped program center of the bells. We met some of the visitors from around the world and asked them what number was bad luck in their country as we saw there was not a 13th floor in our tower nor most buildings in our country. It's 4 in Korea, and it turns out China has the same unlucky number of 13, but as Elijah put it, you can't always get around it because the Hoover tower had 13 floors after they took the number 13 out so their plan backfired!



Hoover tower



So clear - you can see San Francisco!

> The boys played football, ran around pretending to be warriors and we wrote more versions with Elijah of the Monster Princess and Amalia story, that now includes a description of an ancient war and a carefully averted subsequent war with the descendants of the ancient Barbarians. Alyssa climbed like a monkey and Hannah told us about her interest in Ann Frank, musical theatre and Avogadro's number, ( $6.0221415 \times 10^{23}$ ). It is an important number in chemistry, a measure of the number of atoms or molecules in one mole of the element or compound.

We continued on to the gift of a Totem Pole from Vancouver and learned about sacred archetypes from other cultures. We climbed on more modern sculptures, some generated by mathematic formulas, some inspired by pure beauty.



Mimicking the Totem Pole



Art Climbing



Alyssa's hello with steel art

We then visited Andy Goldworthy's serpentine "river rock sculpture," incorporating more than 6500 rescued building stones hand carved and reflecting the combination of people and art. Catching a student trying to balance on it in his bare feet was a perfect metaphor.



At the museum, we chilled out over a fascinating video on music and creativity collected from excerpts of Hollywood and ethnic film clips and a chocolate fest of hot chocolate and brownies to restore our souls.

As we stood under the arches surrounding "The Thinker" in the rotunda, it was a perfect frame around the day of fascinating exploration and fun!



I want to thank Nate for a fabulous job educating all of us! Thank you! parents for entrusting your charming children to us and thank you children for being such great teachers as well. Donald and Nate and I learned as much from you as you hopefully did from us!

Sincerely,

Chaia and the "Sunday's with Chaia Team"