

SCHOOL STUDENTS INVADE PERTH ZOO AFTER HOURS.

6th April 2018

On Thursday afternoon, thirty school students and their teachers from John XXIII College were seen entering the Perth Zoo after the gates had been closed to the general public.

The students were seen to be lugging an overnight bag and some sleeping bags and pillows into the Zoo as they were accompanied by three Zoo guides named Bob, Claire and Steve. It was apparent by the looks of excitement on the children's faces that they were keen to find out their sleeping arrangements for the night and what exciting adventures lay ahead.

The first activity the children were seen participating in was called "Race to Save." Children were put into small groups to find their way around the Zoo following clues and learning some interesting facts about a variety of different animals. One group was seen spying on the Painted Dogs and filling in a crossword with some scientific vocabulary.

After all the children returned from their fact-finding journey, they needed to refuel with a delicious dinner of chicken and chips. What a treat! The large group were spotted on the main lawn enjoying their meal.

Next, the group made their way up to the sleeping quarters where the students established their sleeping arrangements and sleeping bags and pillows were strategically placed on mattresses.

After that, the Zoo guides Bob and Steve were sighted debriefing everyone about the rules and regulations of the much-anticipated Night Tour. Children were split up into two groups and as it became dark, torches were on and eyes peeled ready to spot some animals in the African Savannah.



The groups were in stealth mode and due to their extreme quietness, they were able to come up close to the Southern White Rhino, the Painted Dogs, the Zebras and two Cape Porcupines.

The knowledgeable tour guides then took the children into a quiet Education Centre where they learnt all about "enrichment" and how the zoo keepers provided stimulating games and equipment to keep the animals occupied and to keep them "mentally fit and healthy." Did you know the Dingoes get walked on a leash around different parts of the zoo?

Outside of the Education Centre the children were sighted making their own enrichment equipment for the Painted Dogs and the zoo guides were overheard telling the children that they would have the chance to watch the Painted Dogs playing with their newly made equipment in the morning.



It came to the end of the night activities and the children were well and truly ready for bed. All was calm and quiet and a few snores could be heard in the early hours of the morning.

At 6am the group started to wake and murmurs could be heard. They were very efficient at getting dressed and enjoying a hearty breakfast of cereal, toast and juice.

Bob, Claire and Steve were there to greet the group and to get the students prepped for the morning schedule. They even had time for a quick group work game. It was then back to the main lawn for some morning tea and a quick play in the playground.



John XXIII students headed off in small groups, accompanied by their teachers, to discover more of the amazing animals in the different areas. One group was spotted in the Australian Wetlands spending time viewing the Penguins and the gigantic crocodile. Another group was also spotted meandering through the Australian bushwalk area and loving the Numbat and Koala enclosures. It is hard to believe, but these lucky kids were even able to get up close with the giraffes and got to feed them!



To end this amazing adventure at the Zoo, the group gathered for a great gourmet lunch of a Subway sandwich. It was obvious that everyone involved had experienced an awesome time and were well and truly ready for home.

Students calmly hopped on the bus back to school for a peaceful, (maybe even sleepy) ride back. Who know who we will see back at the Zoo next week?



Editor's note:

The Head of Primary, Miss DePinto, is still recovering from the 'Roar and Snore' sleepover at the Zoo.