

CHINESE CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Hosting a Chinese exchange student for a week...

St Joseph's College collaborated with Trinity Lutheran College to host 10 Chinese exchange students in Sunraysia from August 10 to 18. It was an amazing week and one I will never forget! Hosting a Chinese exchange student was a great opportunity and one I recommend. You learn more about a different culture and their ways of living. You get to try different foods and learn how to cook them as well. In addition, you get to know an amazing person who will improve your life.

The student my family hosted was Suleyman. He was very polite and had such a fun loving character. He loved everything we did and was always willing to learn more. He found Lock 11 and the Weir exciting and had a lot of fun in the Woodsies Gem Shop Maze! He loved Laser Force and going to Scout Venturers and playing Putt Putt. He loved meeting my grandparents who all loved him as well. He ate everything we gave him and he enjoyed making sausage rolls with my family, but the thing that he enjoyed most was the Perry Sand Hills! He loved rolling down the hills and being buried. He loved having races up to the top and then jumping all the way back down again.

During the week, we did many fun activities such as going on the Paddle Steamer Melbourne along the Murray River, doing some Aboriginal dot painting, dance lessons, sport and seeing the lives of Australian kids during school. The Chinese exchange students were thrilled to have only 6 ½ hours at school because their school days start at 7:00am and finishes at 10:30pm. Their classes have 60 students or more in each classroom and they do not get one to one time with the teachers. They loved playing with the preps at Trinity Lutheran College and helping them learn how to read and write! All the Chinese Exchange students knew really good English and we barely needed to get out a translator.

Overall, this experience was one that should be shared by more. All the students who took part had a wonderful time and were sad to see their exchange students leave. We have forged amazing friendships that will never be lost. We are keeping in contact and love talking to them. We cannot wait to do it all again next year!

Olivia Nichols
Year 9 Student