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Proctor Academy's Chamber Choir gathered before the Meridian Gate on the north edge of Tiananmen Square before heading into the Forbidden City in Beijing, China. Photo: Alan Hanscom

Proctor's Chamber Choir Performs In China

By Alan Hanscom
Proctor parent

Proctor Academy's Chamber Choir is taking a performance tour of China. The 24-member group is being accompanied by six Proctor staff members and 13 family members and students. Andover students Haley Peters, Canon Brownell, and Megan Hanscom and parent Alan Hanscom are among the travelers.

Proctor staff members leading the group are choir director Kristopher Johnson and his wife Janine, Michaela Bolduc, Ian Hamlet, Sarah Will, and Kayden Will.

As I write this article, the group is soon to be awakened for a tour of the Great Wall of China before heading for the railroad station for an overnight trip to Xi-an in west-central China. The group will visit five cities on this 12-day tour, including Beijing, Xi-an, Ningbo, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, giving a choir performance in each of the cities.

Sightseeing is also an important part of the trip. Travelers have visited Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, home of the Chinese emperor for many years. The group experienced a rickshaw ride where pairs were peddled

through the ancient Hutong region of the city to the home of a local family who shared a tour and discussion of their courtyard home.

The choir gave its first performance last night to a nearly full house at the Beijing Central Conservatory Chamber Music Hall. It was an appreciative and attentive audience that included a number of youths who were very engaged in the performance. Following the show, the choir and audience members mingled to pose for photographs. The children joined choir members for an impromptu rendition of *You and Me*, the official theme song of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, which is part of the choir's performance.

Today's visit to the Great Wall will be followed by a stop at a jade factory. In Xi-an we will visit the Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses before heading to the city of Ningbo near Shanghai for a cultural exchange with the Ningbo Xiaoshi Middle School. Choir members have been communicating with pen pals in Ningbo for several years and will be able to share a joint concert with their choir and orchestra.

Proctor Academy's travelers are en-
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Logan Marcus and Miles Hurlbutt prepare to encase their "magma chamber" in clay. Photo: Doreen Perreault

Seventh Graders Teach Preschoolers About Volcanoes

By Ryan Murphy
AE/MS Science Teacher

L is for Lava, M is for Magma, and V is for Volcano. Preschool students last month got to skip the lower grades and head straight to the Middle School to learn some geology basics. These young scientists first learned that many miles beneath their feet is a hot molten planet.

Students then learned about some key vocabulary associated with volcanoes. With the help of some seventh grade expert vulcanologists, students constructed clay volcanoes complete with magma chamber, main vent, and crater. Some baking soda, a bit of dish

soap, and some lava-inspired food coloring were added to the magma chamber. With the aid of some vinegar, students got to see a volcanic eruption up close without the dangers of pyroclastic flows, lahars, seismic events, ash clouds, and dangerous lava flows.

Students also created miniature clay dinosaurs that roamed along at the base of the volcano. A quick song about dinosaurs, volcanoes, and the Cretaceous-Tertiary (or K-T) mass extinction event capped off a great lesson.

Thanks to the preschoolers for being such great scientists, and to the seventh grade vulcanologists for your assistance.

AE/MS Eighth Graders Visit Colby-Sawyer College

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

On March 28, the eighth grade students spent the day on the campus of Colby-Sawyer College as part of the Discover U Program offered through the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF).

Discover U, an interactive early college planning program, is designed to get young students excited about the opportunities higher education holds for them, as well as teach the students what is expected of them in the next all-important four years of high school. The information and tips they received

in this day-long event will act as a guide for them towards success in meeting their educational goals.

Students had the opportunity to tour the Colby-Sawyer College campus, heard from a panel of college students about their college experiences, and attended a career fair to learn first-hand the opportunities a college education affords.

Students received NHCollegeClub.com backpacks filled with information on how to get a head start on planning for college. Also included was an Early College Planning Guide, created for parents planning for their child's future

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The first graders built leprechaun traps this year. They were creative and clever, but nobody was able to capture a leprechaun. The leprechauns, however, celebrated in the classrooms and left a bit of a mess. They also wrote letters and gave golden coins to the students. Pictured are Mrs. Bent's first graders posing with their traps. Photo and caption: Jen Bent