

Miramonte Students Embark on Europe Summer Trip



Photos Annie Strickler

Budapest's Margaret Bridge.

... continued from Page 1

With a roster of nearly 40 people, students learned discipline when traveling in groups. Should they choose to split up, teens were trusted to be responsible for everything, from their belongings to their time. "We had to rely on ourselves to navigate and find food or entertainment," rising junior Annie Strickler said. "It developed our independence."

"I found the group to be very respectful of the adult chaperones and places we visited," Frippiat said. "I had the graduated seniors as former students, so I trusted them a great deal."

With most students unable to speak German, Polish, Hungarian, or Czech, language barriers posed challenges when interacting with locals. Still, the spirit of travel prevailed, teaching students how to adapt. "Being somewhere where people don't share your language gives you a new per-

spective," Strickler said. "It can help you understand people in your own country once you return home."

Each walking tour promised something new. Students toured Germany's magnificent Dresden Castle, admired the Saints Peter and Paul Church in Kraków, and snapped photos of Budapest's Margaret Bridge at night. For those who had taken AP European History, this trip made the images they'd only seen in textbooks spring to life. Being able to physically touch the Berlin Wall was a highlight for many. "I'm grateful I got this opportunity to tour the Berlin Wall remains, Brandenburg Gate, and St. Mary's Basilica," graduated senior Olivia Lee said.

Yet amid exciting learning experiences, students also grappled with heavy historical legacies, particularly those of the Holocaust and Nazi occupation. Upon arriving in Berlin, students visited the Topography of Terror Museum, the former headquarters of the Nazis' Schutzstaffel (SS) military group during World War II. A week in, the group traveled to Kraków and took a guided tour of the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps. "I found the Auschwitz tour most memorable: the exhibits were filled with prisoners' old clothes, shoes, and briefcases," Lee said. "Seeing the sheer amount of items left behind put the scale of the Holocaust into perspective."

The gravity of such experiences

proved eye-opening to every student. "It's critical for young people to be exposed to the failures of the past so we ensure history doesn't repeat itself," Lee said.

With these lessons in mind, students experienced each country's vibrant diversity and heritage. "Through Krakow's Kazimierz district, we learned a lot about Jewish history: not just as in World War II, but also everyday life there," graduated senior Mika Strickler said.

Moreover, current events charged cities full of vigor, like in Berlin. "I'd pick Berlin as my favorite because of its bike friendliness, many public parks, and the energy of the Euro Cup Final happening then," Frippiat said. "It had countless cafés and beer gardens at every turn."

Of course, the cuisine was delectable. In fact, some students tasted a crossroads of cultures. "To be honest, my favorite food we had in Europe was this sushi pizza in Dresden, Germany. I loved the crispy rice crust," Mika Strickler said.

These nine dynamic days have shaped a summer to remember, especially for seniors capping off their high school years. "I loved watching the sunset over the Prague skyline while sipping on cider and zooming around the city on Lime scooters," Lee said.

"My friends and I visited an amusement park in Krakow, where we rode a Ferris wheel and got a beautiful view of the city and the Danube River,"

Mika Strickler said. "It was unforgettable."

The beauty of Europe, and the memories made there, will be cherished by these students, especially because they've shared this adventure together.

"When young adults travel abroad, they are given a different perspective of the world and a broader array of what is possible," Frippiat said. "Traveling abroad sets the groundwork for many more adventures and explorations in their lifetime."



Saints Peter and Paul Church in Kraków.

Love Lafayette

2024 LAFAYETTE RES RUN
for education

RACE DAY IS SUNDAY
OCTOBER 20 2024

RESERVOIR CHALLENGE
OCTOBER 12-19, 2024

5k, 10k, 2 mile

A C M
ACALANES CAMPOLINDO MIRAMONTE

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS! REGISTER NOW!

LAFAYETTECHAMBER.ORG/RESRUN

MARK BELLINGHAM PAINTING

HIRE A LOCAL NAME YOU CAN TRUST

925-247-0092

MarkBellinghamPainting.com

Interior & Exterior Painting Deck & Fence Restoration
Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinet Painting Dry Rot Repair
Light Carpentry Drywall Repair Stucco Repair

For a Quick Preliminary Estimate
Email Photos of Project to:
Office@MarkBellinghamPainting.com

See our Reviews on NextDoor, GOOGLE & YELP

Local Business Owner - Since 1985 - Licensed & Insured

Lafayette Glass Co. Inc.

- Frameless Shower Glass
- Shower Enclosures
- Custom Mirrors
- New Windows/Patio Doors
- Replacement & Installation

3375 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
next to Premier Kitchens, USE DYER STREET TO ENTER

925-284-9510

www.lafayetteglasscompany.com | CSLB # 489426, CSLB # 795837

Piano Studio
Keys to success

Piano Lessons in Lafayette with professional instructor MIAC member Competition, CM exam Preparation

Rita Yegiazaryan
925-323-8969
ryegiazaryan@yahoo.com

1060 Sierra Vista Way, Lafayette

EAST BAY TREE SERVICE INC.

- Tree removal,
- Stump removal,
- Juniper removal to meet fire regulations.

Call 925-377-8733 for FREE Estimate
Serving Lamorinda for over 30 years.

Anthony's
Custom Picture Framers

After 30 years of service, we are proud to reintroduce ourselves as Anthony's Custom Picture Framers. Family owned and operated since 1991. Anthony and Tony look forward to seeing you soon and assisting you with all your framing needs.

1020 Brown Ave, Suite A Monday by Appointment Only
Lafayette, CA 94549 Tues-Sat 10:30 am to 6:00 pm
925-283-7620 By Appointment Only

anthony'sCPF.com

\$30 off your next order with this ad!

Making Bay Area Homes Beautiful Since 1946

Blodgett's FLOOR COVERING

Quality and Service Since 1946! Boby Carpet

Larry Blodgett Owner

3291 Mt. Diablo Ct., Lafayette 925.284.4807

Lafayette Physical Therapy
Moved to:

3658 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 100
Lafayette, CA 94549

925-284-6150 www.LafayettePT.com

Come see our beautiful new location!

Reasonable Books
New * Used * Vintage

A collection of carefully curated selections, classic and contemporary.

3645 Mt Diablo Blvd
Lafayette
(925) 385-3026
www.reasonable.online

Rat proofing
Ratman Pest and Termite Control
Local family-owned business.

All pests & termites. Mice, rats, raccoons, skunks, and squirrel-proofing. Attic/Subarea clean up. Duct/Insulation repair.

Customer service is my #1 priority.

Serving the LaMorinda area for 10 years as former branch manager of Coulson-Moseley/ Detailed Pest Control.

1044 Stuart St., Lafayette
(925) 338-9304
877-7RATMAN

Free inspections schedule TODAY

RATMAN
PEST AND TERMITE CONTROL

Ware Designs
Fine Jewelry since 1977

- Custom Designs
- Appraisals
- Expert Repairs
- Pearl Restringing
- Free Ring cleaning

All your jewelry is insured with Jeweler's Block Insurance.

\$5 off Watch Battery
Reg \$15, Now \$10
1 watch battery per person. Exp. 9/25/24. Usually installed while you wait. W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette between Trader Joes & the Post Office
283-2988 www.waredesigns.com Tues-Sat 10-5