

## **Year 6 Canberra Educational Tour: A Journey Through Democracy and History**

In Term 4, our Year 6 students embarked on an exciting and educational adventure to Canberra, Australia's capital city. Over the course of this immersive 4-day tour, students not only explored some of the nation's most iconic landmarks but also deepened their understanding of Australia's democratic systems, history, and civic responsibilities.

### **Exploring Democracy in Action**

The tour included a visit to **Old Parliament House**, where students stepped back in time to experience how Australia's government operated before the opening of the new Parliament House in 1988. The visit included interactive exhibits and engaging discussions on the significance of this historic building, giving students a firsthand look at the origins of the country's parliamentary system.

They also visited **new Parliament House**, a modern architectural marvel, where students participated in a guided tour and learned about the current workings of the Australian Parliament. They observed where the Senate and House of Representatives meet, gaining valuable insight into the country's law-making process and the importance of active citizenship.

One of the highlights was a visit to the **Australian Electoral Commission**, where students discovered how elections work in Australia. They learned about the compulsory voting system, the role of the Electoral Commission in overseeing fair elections, and the responsibilities of voters. It was a perfect opportunity to discuss democracy in action and the power citizens have in shaping the nation's future.

### **Exploring History and Sacrifice**

The students then turned their attention to Australia's rich history with visits to some of the nation's most significant war memorials. At the **Australian War Memorial**, they explored exhibits that commemorated the courage and sacrifices of Australian soldiers in past conflicts, including World War I and World War II. The Memorial's Commemorative Courtyard, was a poignant reminder of the cost of freedom as students viewed the walls covered in thousands of names in memory of the fallen.

Walking along **ANZAC Parade**, students reflected on the stories of bravery and loss associated with each of the war memorials, while also gaining an understanding of how ANZAC Day is observed and its lasting significance to the nation's identity.

### **Learning Through Fun and Exploration**

While the tour was certainly rich in history and civic education, there was also plenty of fun! The students enjoyed a session of **tenpin bowling**, offering a light-hearted break from the more serious educational experiences. It was a chance for them to bond as a group and unwind after absorbing so much new knowledge.

At **Questacon**, the National Science and Technology Centre, students engaged with interactive exhibits that sparked their curiosity about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). They participated in hands-on activities that connected scientific principles to the everyday world, making learning engaging and memorable.

### **High Court and the Japanese Embassy**

The tour also included a visit to the **High Court of Australia**, where students learned about the judicial branch of government and how it interprets and applies the law.

The final stop on the tour was a visit to the **Japanese Embassy**, where students learned about Australia's international relationships and diplomacy. The tour offered valuable insight into Australia's role on the world stage and the importance of cultural understanding in global politics.

### **A Deeper Understanding of Civic Responsibility**

Throughout the tour, students were encouraged to reflect on their role in Australia's democratic system. They discussed their rights and responsibilities as future voters and active citizens, gaining a clearer understanding of how their participation in democracy shapes the future of the nation.

The Canberra educational tour provided our Year 6 students with a unique opportunity to experience Australian history and democracy in action. By visiting key institutions, museums, and landmarks, students have gained a deeper appreciation for the history, values, and responsibilities that define our nation.

We are confident that the knowledge and experiences gained during this tour will leave a lasting impression on our students, equipping them to be informed, engaged, and responsible citizens in the future.

We would like to thank all the teachers and guides who helped make this educational experience possible. It was truly an unforgettable adventure, and one that will inspire our students for years to come.