



NASA TRIP 2016 (ASTRO TOUR)

Crossing geographical boundaries has always been a source of hands on learning. To add meaning to the statement, ITL Public School took on the **10 day trip to NASA**, the United States of America organised by AstroTourism from **13 to 23 June 2016**. Headed by Ms Ritu Sharma and Ms. Vaishali Mishra, as teachers in charge ,a group of 21 students ranging from class 8-11, visited the **Kennedy Space Centre Visitors Complex, New York, Disney Magic World (Florida), Universal Studio and Niagra Falls** within a span of 11 days from 13to 23 June 2016. With an extraordinary statistics of only 600 astronauts all over the world, an experience of meeting and interacting with the astronaut **Wendy Lawrence** was unique, highly informative and unforgettable...! Visiting **Astronaut Hall of Fame, Astronaut Training Centre** kept the scientific and space temper ignited and sustained. **Multi Axis Trainer, Simulation on Orbiter landing, life in space shuttle, live demonstrations** of challenges faced were the activities minutely explained and demonstrated. Kennedy Space Centre opened avenues for observation for live shuttle experiences like **Atlantis, IMAX Theatre, Shuttle Launch Experience, KSC Bus Route, Rocket Garden, virtual documentaries**, as few of the life time experiences...! With so much to reflect in the offing, the only next awaited activity was **Disney's Magic World** followed by **Universal Studios**. Soaring adrenaline rush on rides and Live Shows gave the much required impetus to the visit. Ferrying to **Liberty Island** and marvel at the magnificence of the **Statue of Liberty** was another high point that oversaw the New York skyline against the calm Atlantic. With the most magnifying aura as its halo, visit to **Times Square** and its associated shopping spree added thrill and glory to the stay. Food habits too were a source of value addition. Pristine **Niagra Falls** catapulted the trip to a realisation of splendour of nature. Politically the fall distinctly divides Canada and the United States of America. The boat ride, the **Maid of Mist** transported the students on the foot of the falls... a truly mesmerising experience for all which transported us in a state of trance. It was a unique amalgamation of deep rooted education and sky rocketing fun. The tour manager **Mr Neetin Gosain**, from **Astro Tour** planned commanded and navigated the trip with intelligence, knowledge and excitement which had a ripple effect on all of us. His unconditional gestures of responsiveness, care and wellbeing was unanimously appreciated by all. Armed with wit, sensibility and intelligent verbatim, he was able to motivate all. It was a pleasure having Mr. Neetin Gosain as a tour operator. Though the itinerary had clarity of plan of action, he was flexible and receptive to the needs and excitement of the students. Looking back though, in the pre departure meeting, parents were apprehensive about having an Indian meal on daily basis. However it was a well thoughtful decision taken by astro tour. With perpetual traveling and disciplined time schedule, students not only got a well-planned and conclusive programme but also ended up learning life skills of adjusting to the provisions .Gradually they developed a wonderful bonding with Neetin sir so much so that by the end of the trip , they started missing his guidance . Beautifully said all we need to acclimatise into the ever changing scenario is to realise a sincere heart and develop trust. The trip was yet another forum to build the same .This unending excitement of the trip not only added knowledge on celestial world but also provided a powerful platform of interaction with G D Goenka School as other partner schools thereby fostering friendship and wellbeing .! What we carried home is not a mere visit to foreign land but an added value to our perception of a progressive citizen working towards global harmony and development... hence a paradigm shift. After all this... all I can say is.... **Good to go ITL..!**

(RITU SHARMA)
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