PRINCIPAL’S COMMENTS ON HIS TRIP TO CHINA …….. Paul Jorgensen (Principal)

I had a great trip to China and I thank Kurnai College for allowing me the opportunity to travel with them. Their organisation was terrific and in particular Geoff Block and Cathy Tan were fantastic as leaders, but also the Kurnai and other children on the trip also made it a very enjoyable experience.

It was a very busy trip, particularly with the visit to the Jiyun Experimental School in Rui’an. They were terrific in looking after us and ensuring we had lots to do. The school has around 3,500 students and range from Prep to Year 9 students. Because there are so many students, their Monday morning assembly is held in two stages with secondary first followed by primary students.

Class sizes were around 40 students per class, depending on the class, most Primary rooms I visited were between 40 and 45 students.

The only computer I saw in any classroom was connected to their Interactive Whiteboards. Many of the students lived at the school and only went home on weekends. This was also the case for the Kindergarten that we visited. The children that ranged from 3 to 6 years olds also lived at the Kinder with their beds (Triple bunks) in a room across from their classroom.
The area of Rui’an where these schools were is a small city in China with a population of 1.4 million. It was also a very affluent area so the Jiyun Experimental School is a private school where parents paid considerable money for their children to attend.

Our trip also included visits to Shanghai and Beijing. Both areas but in particular Shanghai had a mix of traditional and new buildings. There is a great amount of construction occurring all over China particularly the building of high rise apartments.

The streets were kept very clean but every day there was air pollution which is a big problem in China and many people wear face masks when walking outside.

The food was fabulous and we ate plenty of it. We were taken to quite a few official meetings in Rui’an and each was followed by a banquet, usually of their local traditional food. This food did take in many things that I had not eaten before but most of it was delicious.

I will give a short talk and show more pictures to the children at assembly this Monday morning to tell a bit about my experiences. Parents are most welcome to come along if they wish.

We do hope to develop further interaction with Jiyun Experimental School, however, it will be difficult as their curriculum is very rigid and there is little flexibility in their school day. We are currently looking into beginning with email communication from students and also hope to further expand on this if able to do so in the future.