

6th Grade Fall Overnight: Deception Pass



The class of 2029 made it through a fun, busy, and very wet Deception Pass trip last month! The steady rain was not ideal; we all would have preferred sunny skies and a dry night... but the wet conditions definitely gave students an early chance to adapt to challenging conditions in the PNW wilderness and this will serve them well on future Billings Exped trips.



We were pleased to greet such well-prepared students on Thursday morning. Vehicles were packed efficiently and we arrived at Bowman Bay Campground on schedule. Our first main event was hiking to Rosario Beach and enjoying its dynamic landscape. Students built driftwood forts, skipped rocks, hiked Rosario Head (a tiny peninsula with cliffs and amazing views; see attached map photo), and spotted various birds, crabs, and other wildlife. We returned to our campground to set up tents and students, again,

impressed us with their cooperation and efficiency.

Ian's advisory group took charge of preparing and cooking dinner: pasta with meat and vegetarian sauce options, along with sliced vegetables. Rob's advisory led the clean up after dinner. As the rain came down, we enjoyed hot cocoa with toppings for dessert, before settling into our soaked-on-the outside and *mostly*-dry-on-the inside tents.

Emily's advisory prepared breakfast Friday morning. (All students had a chance to help prepare meals and clean up afterwards; ask your child which meal they helped prepare and when they were on clean-up duty.) 6th graders did a fantastic job packing up tents

and supplies and sweeping our campground for any remaining equipment, personal items, and litter. We have high standards for "leave no trace" and we met this standard thoroughly.

By mid-morning we were on our way to Fort Casey, with a coyote sighting along the way. We explored the entire fort, with its decommissioned cannons, ladders to different levels, and dark, echoey spaces. After a quick lunch, we made the 2pm ferry and enjoyed a scenic ride across the Puget Sound.

We're very proud of our 6th graders for their individual and group contributions throughout this formative trip! They all rose to the challenge and are ready for their next adventure!!



A few favorite student quotes:

"To pee or not to pee... that is the question."

"Doing dishes like this makes me feel like an old person."

"Am I allowed to write an anonymous letter thanking someone for an act of kindness?"

"Oh hey, let me help you with that." (to an adult picking up pasta off the ground)

Please check out our [SmugMug gallery](#) of trip photos.

password: Billings!