

Dear Friends,

The days leading up to big field trips and events are so full of details, last minute adjustments and questions, I usually have some moments of wondering if they are worth it. Then we enter into the day and are swept up, fully there, making full use of all our senses, developing relationships through shared experiences (planned and surprising), and I quickly remember why we do what we do. When grades 5-8 returned from our two days on Cape Cod, Mrs. Cleveland posted large sheets of paper on the hall walls for quick comments from the kids about the different places we visited. Here are just a few of their responses:

The Salt Marsh (at the Salt Pond Visitor's Center in Eastham)

"I liked the crabs and the smell of the ocean breeze and I can't imagine not knowing that God created all the grains of sand and the patterns on the rocks! I had a great time." Jacob

"I liked the alone time together."

"Mr. Huffman guiding us through it all."

"The horse shoe crab was my favorite part of the walk."

"Shoes getting stuck!"



First Encounter Beach (Eastham)

"On First Encounter Beach I liked seeing where the Pilgrims met the Indians."

"The water was awesome."

"SUPER WINDY"

"I liked that the beach had little islands connected to it."

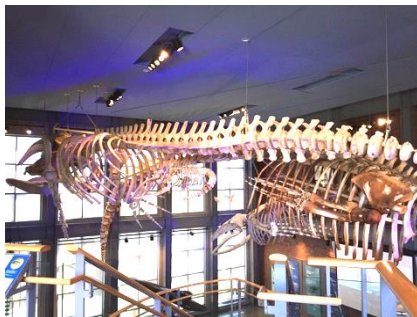
"I liked the beautiful water."



New Bedford Whaling Museum.

"I liked walking on the miniature ship."

"I loved the scrimshaw!"



"I liked holding the Sperm Whale tooth and also feeling the baleen."

"I like the old Bible."

"I loved to learn so much about all kinds of whales."

"I liked the museum because I learned a lot and got to see real whale skeletons and learned how they used to go whaling."



The Whydah Pirate Museum (Yarmouth)

"I liked the actual gold chest and gift shop."

"I liked John King's socks and shoes."

"I liked the Jolly Roger."

"I loved the Whydah Museum because the lab was very cool with all the artifacts."

"I liked the pirates on the building."

"The bell was pretty cool." "The bell told that they found the Whydah."

"I liked the cannons."

"I liked the bracelet (artifacts) that showed if you were rich or not."

"I loved the Whydah Museum."



Cape Codder Hotel & Water Park

"The water park was very fun. Mr. Shea and Mr. Curtis went down the water slide."

"I liked the wave pool. I got to jump over the waves."

"I also liked eating pizza and eating breakfast in the Crystal Room."

"I loved having Mr. Huffman (speak to us) for the first time."

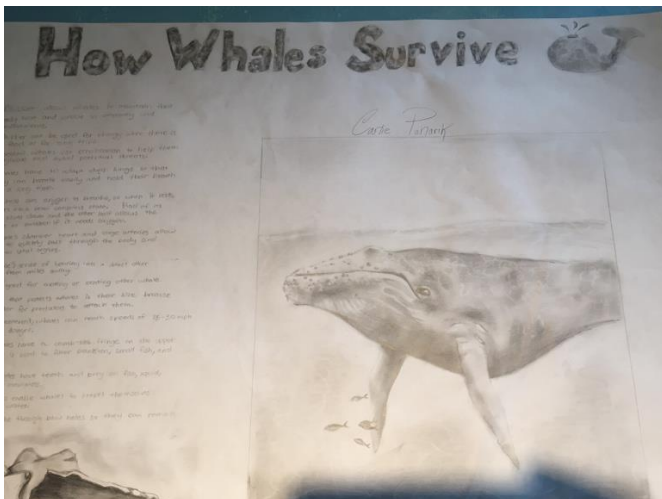
"If you want to have the best time ever, go to the Cape Codder Hotel!"

"The devotions was one my favorite parts. I grew spiritually and the devotions spoke to me. My relationships with my friends grew and I had fun."

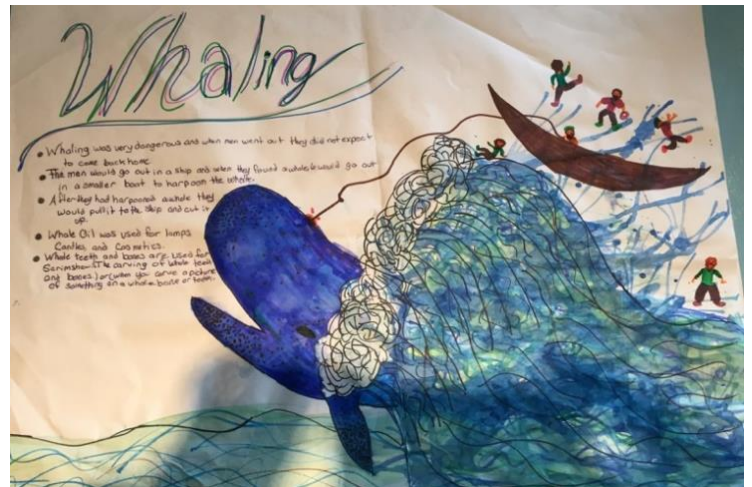
"My relationships with my friends definitely got stronger, and I had a great time with them. I loved getting to know everyone outside of school. I learned so much, and it was a great bonding time for me and for everyone. I wish I could go again!"

"The trip impacted my relationship with God because I learned what being on God's team really means."

When we returned Mr. Shea gave his students a chance to respond to something they learned. Here are just two phenomenal pieces of artistic work.



By Carlie Paharik



By Arianna Perry

And lastly a word from a new parent who emailed me right after we returned.

Mrs. Hayward,

I want to thank you for the opportunity that I had to chaperone the Cape Cod trip. I was nervous going in to it due to the fact I didn't really know anyone. Everyone was friendly and inviting. I loved seeing the kids interact with all the grades and include everyone. It showed me that (my daughter) is not only in good hands but that she is definitely where God wants her to be.

Praise God! The staff spend a long time debriefing as well but time/space don't allow for more. I can sum it up by saying that we unanimously agreed that the multisensory learning and relationship building that happens on a field trip, when the kids have been prepared in advance and have a chance to reflect at the end, is worth it. Memories are made on a deep level and the time and space to fully delve into one subject at such a great depth is a gift. Thank you all who came, drove, sent food, and participated in any way. May God bless you for your efforts.

In Him who provided this amazing world to explore,

Susan Hayward, Principal