

Visiting Local Migrant English School

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On Saturday, the 27th of September, we visited a local Migrant English School in Tongzhou District, Beijing. When we arrived there, children greeted us with great enthusiasm. They were small and adorable looking up at us with curiosity and joy. Under Mr. Bourne's instruction, we lined up with the kids facing each other. We introduced ourselves saying our name and our nationality in Chinese. The students also introduced themselves telling their names, their year grades and where they came from. They were all young most being Year 4 and 5 and were from different places of China. We then paired up; boys with boys and girls with girls. My partner was a shy 11 year old girl named Li Shan. I held her small hands. After everyone had a partner, we went into the classroom to make Christmas cards.



After we sat down, each pair brought colored papers, scissors, glues and colour pens to decorate our Christmas cards. When everyone was ready, Nnaemeka and Diana taught local students how to spell "Merry Christmas" in English by writing it on the board. They also showed the students how to design the Christmas card by drawing exemplar pictures of a present box, a Santa Claus, a mistle toe, a christmas tree and a christmas cane. The team with the best decorated Christmas card was to get the prize. All the kid's eyes twinkled with eagerness to win the prize. Each team worked hard to make the best cards by colouring and drawing. Everyone was busy. Decorating the card was not an easy process as I thought. It required creativity to design uniquely. Also, I had to use Chinese to help my teammates. As I'm not a fluent Chinese speaker, I had some difficulties communicating with the kids. It was my first time to teach students with Chinese. I explained things that I didn't know using only words and using body language. Surprisingly, the kids understood me and laughed. Although it was challenging, I had fun talking and making cards together. We had an enjoyable time. Time was up before we knew. We tidied our seats and moved to the next classroom to learn Chemistry.



The lesson began with a Chemistry teacher teaching children about basic chemistry by doing different experiments. The teacher showed various colour changes by mixing different solutions. It was like magic. The children watched the amazing scenes in front of their eyes in wonder. Their curiosity and pureness were very heartwarming. After the lesson, it was time for the kids to do the experiment themselves. Their mission was to make red, yellow, and green mixing various substances and solutions. They gathered in groups of two and started the experiment. I helped my partners telling each step of the reaction, also some safety rules. Every student focused on the experiment writing down the results. Each team successfully made colours of traffic light and we went out and took photos together. Then we went back into the classroom where we made christmas cards to find out who the winner was.



Everyone was nervous waiting for the announcement. Eight students won prizes and took photos with each of their partners. Sadly, my partner didn't receive the prize. I felt so sorry for her. After the prize giving, it was already time for us to go. I took photos with my partners. My partners quickly went back in the classroom and gave me their cards. They had wrote me a letter. I was moved by them. I also gave my card to them and promised them I would come back next month with their presents. After we said goodbye and everyone was on the bus, we headed back to school.



Helping children at Migrant English School was a meaningful experience for me. There were some difficulties as it was my first time to teach children and take care of them. However, I had a fantastic time talking and working together with migrant kids. I learned a lot of things such as leadership, co-operation, and consideration. I won't forget this valuable experience. I hope we could visit there again.