Our Memories ............... 
By Lindsay Lam

The Shanghai trip was a journey that helped me have a deeper understanding about the personality of my classmates and the development of Shanghai.

There was one day that all of us had to visit the Shanghai Secondary School. It was a memorable experience as I got to know more about the culture of Shanghai and the lives of the Shanghai students. Although I am not good at speaking Mandarin, I spoke slowly and tried to interact more with them. Fortunately, they grasped the meaning of my words. I always wish we could have spent more time communicating with those students so that both sides could learn more about each other's lifestyle and culture. I wonder if I will ever meet them again in the future and whether we can recognize each other.

Also, it was a privilege that we could visit the Shanghai Volkswagen. It enabled me to witness the manufacturing process of cars in which a lot of high-tech equipments were utilized to put the different components of the cars together. Yet, we saw many skilled labor workers checking whether the cars were safe and qualified to be sent into the market. It was exciting gaining the first-hand experience of manufacturing a car, and I have never thought about that there were so many complicated steps throughout the processes. When I was walking through the car factory with my classmates, I felt like I was in an action movie and the movies named Transformers and Terminator suddenly came into my mind. I would never doubt about whether the movie producers were inspired by the car manufacturing process.

Most of the pavilions in the World Expo were magnificent. The design of the China Pavilion was very sharp and unique. The Qingming Riverside was one of the most attractive displays as it was in motion and its technological input could never be underestimated. Also, there were many pictures drawn by some Chinese children; the theme and style of the pictures were interesting. The lighting effect in the China Pavilion is subjected to changes which created different kinds of atmosphere. I am absolutely certain that the China Pavilion is one of the pavilions that people must visit. No regrets even though I had to queue up on such a blazing hot day!

Another pavilion that I strongly recommend people to visit is the Italy Pavilion. The architectural design is definitely amazing and I was awestruck when I found out that there was more to it. In particular, I fell in love with all the high heels, the couture and Red Ferrari. These items formed a good representation of Italy. The Pavilion was filled with a strong sense of romance and I could understand the reason behind the relaxing and enjoyable lifestyle of most of the Italians. The force that pushed me
to visit the France and Italy Pavilions is that I cannot live without art and I want to learn more about the art of design in European countries.

The most disappointing part during the World Expo trip was the visit to the Saudi Arabia Pavilion. When we were waiting, some Chinese people jumped the queue. They did not feel ashamed of their wrong doing, and they even scolded my classmates for being in their way. What was worse was that the staff there did not even make an attempt to settle down the conflict. In addition, there was rubbish everywhere on the floor. Most Chinese people just threw rubbish wherever they like, even though there were rubbish bins around. Even though the Chinese government has obtained enough resources to hold such a great event like the World Expo, I doubted whether the people in China are ready for it. Most Chinese citizens have created a very poor image for themselves, and some tourists were aghast at the sight of the chaotic scene. From our conversation, I discovered that two tourists from Iran were also disappointed with the Chinese citizens as they were impolite and undisciplined. After all, the World Expo was not a complete success as I seldom spotted tourists around; the event mainly attracted Chinese people.

I would like to thank the teachers and the tour guides for arranging the visit to the Bank Museum. It was a great opportunity for me to learn more about the Chinese history, as well as to witness the evolution of the Chinese currency.

More importantly, the trip provided a wonderful opportunity for me to spend more time with my classmates so that I got to know more about their personalities and lifestyles. I hope that my delightful memories will never fade away.

At first, I thought that the 5-day Shanghai trip would be a bit too long. Now, I wish the trip could last longer so that I could spend more time with my class, teachers and the tour guides. There is a Chinese proverb that “you can experience more by traveling thousands of miles than by reading thousands of books”, and now I really understand the meaning behind it.