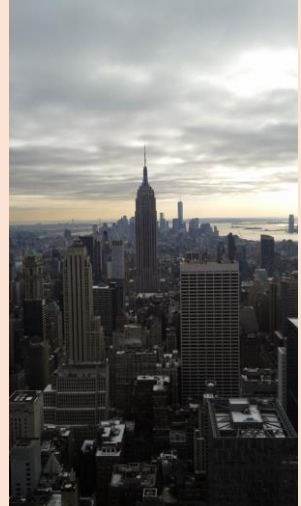


SCHOOL TRIP TO NEW YORK

February 7th – 14th, 2015



TES 1 + TSTMG 1

With Mrs Nasser, Mrs Scheuermann and Mr Turquin

Guillaume Apollinaire High School



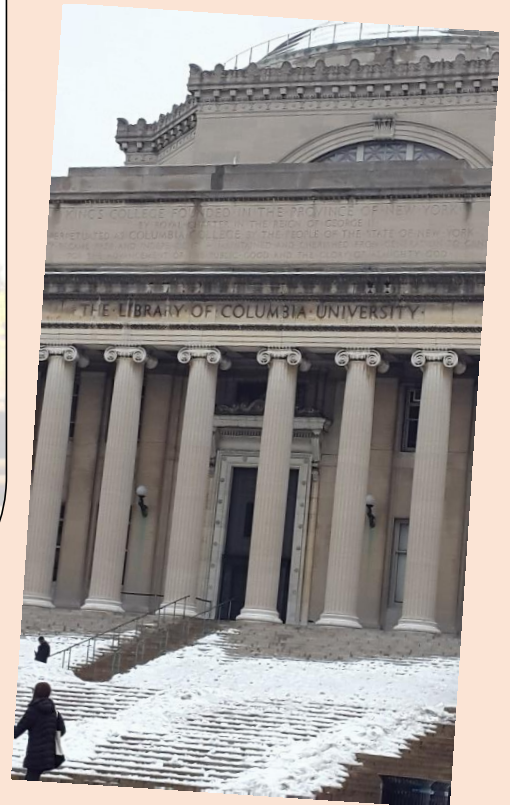
Sunday, February 8th

After a long first day traveling, we started our visits. Our program for the day: a gospel mass in the morning, Columbia University, a walk in Central Park and a self-guided tour in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The gospel mass

The gospel is a US tradition. We saw a lot of black people all morning. I found that watching the gospel was beautiful. I thought that the song at the beginning was wonderful and hearing many voices at the same time too. Then when the priest made his speech, I found it interesting because he tells the whole religion in detail. Then, the people in the room are emotional, they often raise their hands in the air and move a lot. In this room, there were large screens where you could see people singing and the priest talking. And in the end, we could also give money to help develop this place. (Aurélië)

On this trip to New York, we attended a gospel mass. I liked it. I observed that when the priest was quoting a passage from the Bible, he not only read a passage, but also interpreted it in a way. But I'm not sure to have properly understood the reason why the public raised their hands. Also, I liked the fact that our group acted like the public when we took each other's hands and applauded. (Lorène)



Columbia University

Columbia University is one of the most famous universities in the US, and has one of the biggest campus.

The architecture is original, a little old, and really pretty: for example, the library looks like a pantheon. The outside is like a huge park, and has a relaxing aspect. It seems sometimes like a little town on its own, and it is imposing. You can see some sculptures in one part of the campus. There is a place of the campus where you can have a beautiful, stunning view on New York.

We didn't go inside the buildings, but it still was a nice visit to do to discover the university in New York and comparing it with our French universities. (Eléanore and Raphaël)

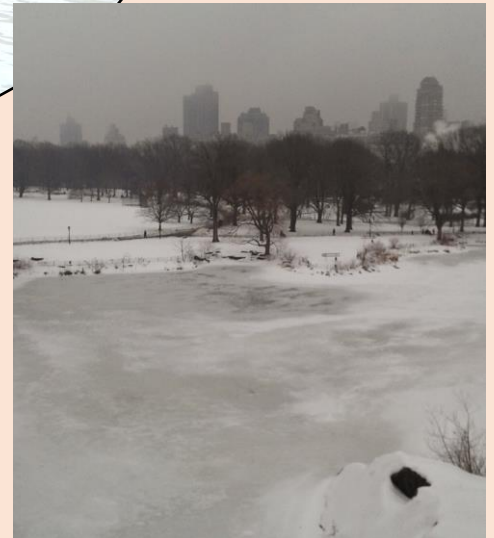


Central Park

During our stay in New York, we went to one of the largest US parks: Central Park. We walked several times around this huge park and beautiful at the same time.

There were a lot of people doing sport and also a lot of cute little squirrels. Because of the relatively cool weather, we could see the frozen lake.

It was a great experience to share with the class. (Cidalia)



The Metropolitan Museum of Art

This museum was impressive because it was huge. It seems bigger than the French museums.

The best part for us was the Egyptian collection. Other collections interested us like the knights' armours or the big room where there is a fountain.

We wanted to visit all of the museum but it was too large.

(Charles and Pauline)



Monday, February 9th

On our second day of visits, we took the ferry around the Statue of Liberty and visited Ellis Island, the museum of immigration. In the afternoon, we walked across Downtown Manhattan (Wall Street, 9/11 memorial, Chinatown, Little Italy).

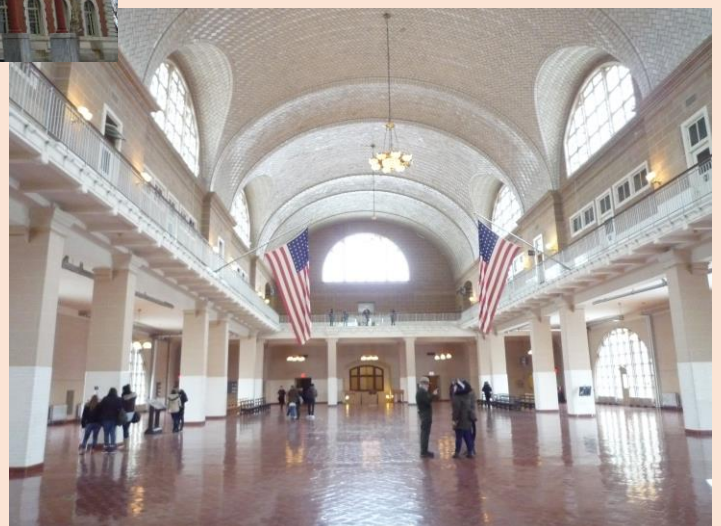


Ellis Island

Ellis Island was very impressive! It was a huge building! It hurt to imagine that so many people came there and went through so many tests! They were treated like animals and not like human beings.

It felt weird to walk into a place where so many immigrants were before us. We were here like tourists whereas they were here just to get a better life. They were so afraid to go back home.

The immigrant records touched me, it was a real proof of their presence one century before!
(Celia N and Auriane)



Ground Zero and the 9/11 memorial

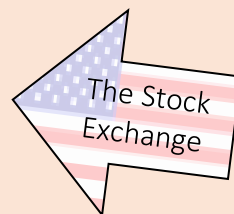
At the 9/11 memorial, there are two big fountains where the Twin Towers were situated. The water of the fountains falls into a hole. There are the victims' names all around the fountains with sometimes some white roses.

They built a new tower, higher than the Twin Towers, to replace them. The memorial is very large and impressive with a strange atmosphere of death, the place is very quiet and calm.

(Axel and Célia B)

This place is an indispensable visit in New York. It represents a part of New York City history. We can feel a lot of sensations, when we remember that a lot of people were killed in the attacks. We are in full immersion, we relive the events that really happened.

(Fauvette)



Tuesday, February 10th

On Tuesday, we had a guided tour of the United Nations headquarters, then we went for a walk in Midtown Manhattan and saw famous buildings (Grand Central Station, Chrysler Building) and Times Square. We ended up at the Rockefeller center with a wonderful view from the Top of the Rock. Finally, shopping on Fifth Avenue! At night, we went to the top of the Empire State Building.



The United Nations

The visit to the UN was one of the best experiences I've had in New York.

It was really impressive to be in the room where the greatest leaders stood. We even crossed Christiane Taubira's path before entering the building.

Knowing that we were in international territory and where all the meetings to fix world's troubles take place, you want to work there one day. With this visit, the mission of the UN is more concrete for us now.

Pieces of art offered by each country were beautiful and meaningful.

(Mathilde)



Times Square (by day and by night)

Times Square is swarming with people at all hours of the day but it especially awakens in the late afternoon and evening with many events and the lights that are highlighted.

It's an amazing place, amazing must-see because there is no other place like this. It's really breath-taking! Plenty of choice for all kinds of shops and restaurants abound!

(Zoé)



Top of the Rock

I choose this monument because it was created by Rockefeller and it was for me one of the most impressive monuments in New York. Indeed, from the top we can see all the city, its neighborhood and all the others monument of NYC (like the Empire State building for instance)! It was very amazing! I had never seen somewhere like that.

Moreover, with the sun and the snow in Central Park, the weather was perfect to see Manhattan and to take pictures.

To finish, the elevator of the Top of the Rock was a great experience because it one of the fastest elevator in the world! It was like a rollercoaster.

Anyway, I will never forget this trip.

(Christophe)



Shopping in New York

Like every girl, I love shopping, and especially when it is in big cities like New York!

There were so much choices, it was really amazing. The 5th avenue is huge and just made me crazy. All I was wondering was "How will I do to visit all these shops? I won't have the time!"

I really loved all the specific things that the shops in New York sell, and I enjoyed it a lot more because for some of them it was less expensive than in France. I really hope I will have another occasion to enjoy shopping in New York again.

(Eve)



The Empire State Building

We went to this big building at night. The building was really awesome.

The view was fantastic, we could see "all of the lights" of the city, like the song! From the Chrysler Building to the Freedom Tower, the view was like in a dream but that was real!

At the top of the building, it was very cold but I was so excited and I stayed to take some photos... but my camera made bad photos in night mode and I was really disgusted.

I'll remember that moment all my life in my heart. (Gédéon)



Wednesday, February 11th

We started with a visit of Brooklyn and a bit of shopping. In the afternoon we went to the High Line Park for some fresh air and at night we went back to Times Square for some shopping.



Brooklyn

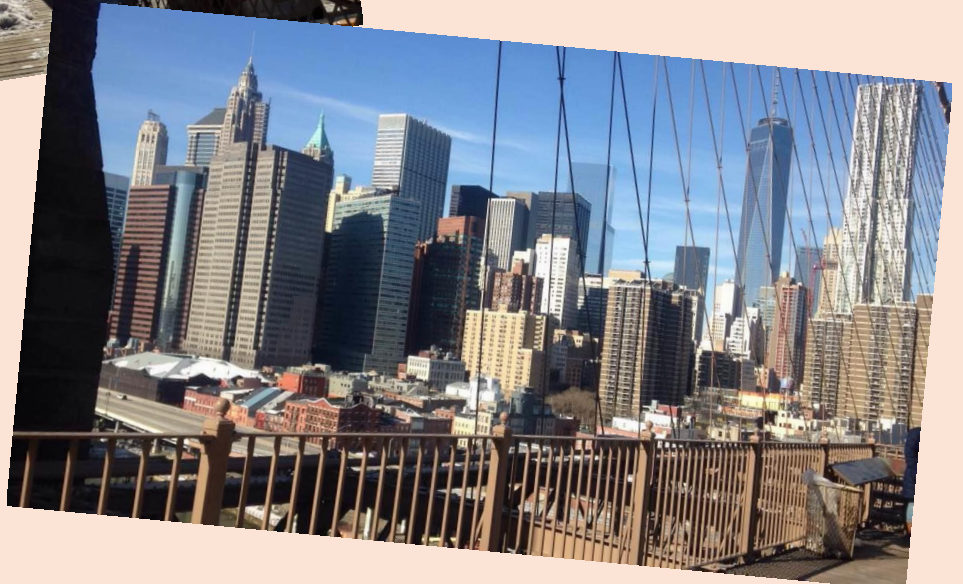
One morning, we went to Brooklyn.

First, we walked on the Brooklyn Bridge. The view was really wonderful and we could see a lot of buildings, it was amazing.

Secondly, we walked in the streets of this city a long time.

When we arrived we saw the Barclay's Center which is the basketball stadium the most popular in the USA. That was impressive to see this stadium in reality.

To finish our Brooklyn visit we went to a shopping center. (Morgane)



The High Line Park

I liked visiting the High Line Park very much because this place creates a contrast between the urban vastness of New York and a completely natural place. This park built from scratch on a former railway line reflects the American eccentricity.

I loved walking in the countryside in the middle of New York; it's very impressive to experience that because we were in a park in the middle of the buildings. It's pretty similar to Central Park but it's not really the same effect, as Central Park is really huge. (Fabien)



My favorite visit

I'm going to talk about in my favorite visit: Time Square.

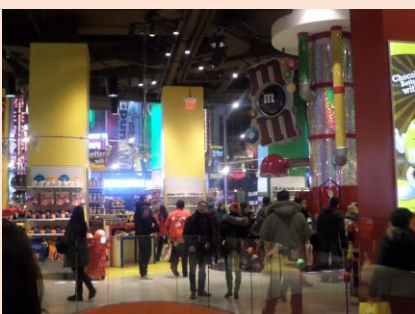
The first time we went there, it was the evening and I was so amazed that I was speechless. We took a lot of photos.

Toys'r'us was big and it was beautifully impressive. In addition there was a big wheel!

Prices there were cheap: a new collection in France must cost more than 100 euros, while there's a new collection Huarache was 90 dollars.

Speaking of food, seriously it was so good and cheap if you knew all I ate! I already eat a lot in France but while there I really enjoyed myself! The Starbuck was so good.

I also loved the big advertising signs, and the stairs, that reminded me of "The Amazing Spider-Man". (Radowa)



Thursday, February 12th

Last day in New York (almost !): museums in the morning (Museum of Modern Art or Museum of Natural History) and last shopping in the afternoon around Macy's. Then, we went to the airport but our flight was cancelled and we stayed one more day at the hotel.

Actual last day: Friday, February 13th

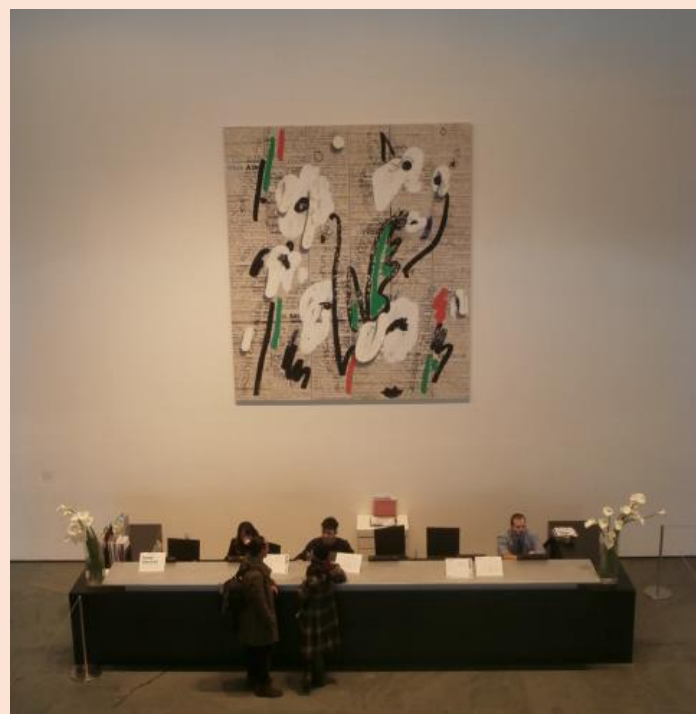


The Museum of Natural History

In this museum we watched a film about animal life, after this documentary we went around the museum by ourselves. We saw many different dinosaurs. This made me feel strange to find myself where the film 'Night at the Museum' was shot. This is better in the movie but it's a good place. (Yanis)

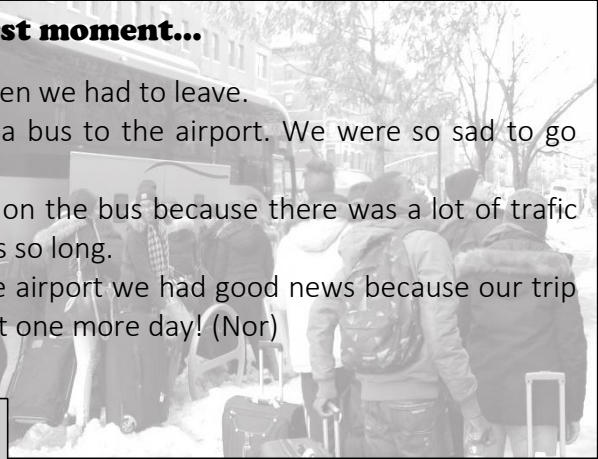


**The
MoMA**



My worst moment...

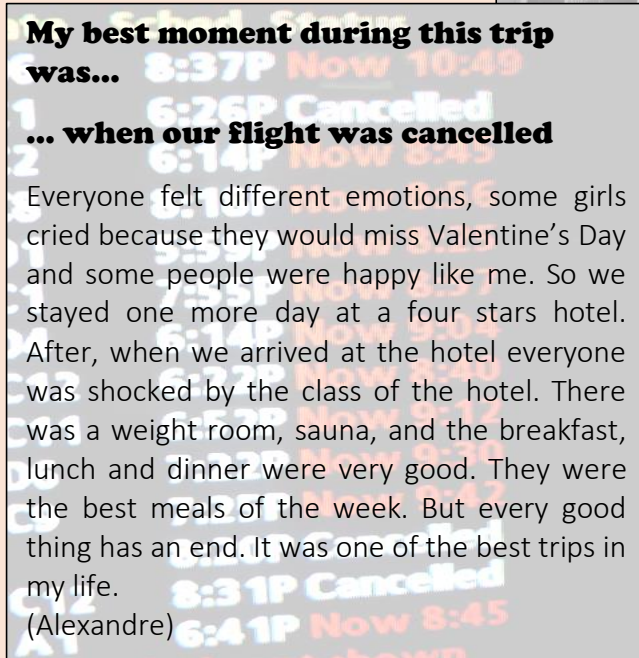
It was when we had to leave.
We took a bus to the airport. We were so sad to go home.
We slept on the bus because there was a lot of traffic and it was so long.
But at the airport we had good news because our trip would last one more day! (Nor)



My best moment during this trip was...

... when our flight was cancelled

Everyone felt different emotions, some girls cried because they would miss Valentine's Day and some people were happy like me. So we stayed one more day at a four stars hotel. After, when we arrived at the hotel everyone was shocked by the class of the hotel. There was a weight room, sauna, and the breakfast, lunch and dinner were very good. They were the best meals of the week. But every good thing has an end. It was one of the best trips in my life.
(Alexandre)

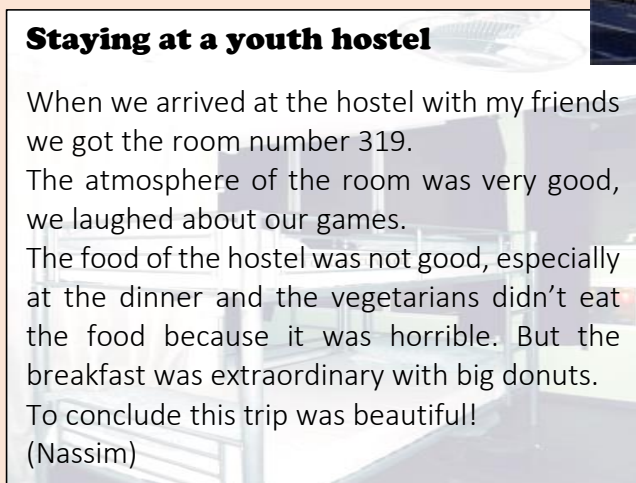


Our hostel



Staying at a youth hostel

When we arrived at the hostel with my friends we got the room number 319.
The atmosphere of the room was very good, we laughed about our games.
The food of the hostel was not good, especially at the dinner and the vegetarians didn't eat the food because it was horrible. But the breakfast was extraordinary with big donuts.
To conclude this trip was beautiful!
(Nassim)



A few final thoughts...



My favourite visit

My favorite visit is everything, this trip was for me very amazing. But the visit I liked the most is when I went up to the Top of the rock, and I saw the incredible view of the entire city of New York. At this moment I felt very small, like when I went up to the Empire Building. I don't know why but I liked this building a lot, and I went up at night, the city was very beautiful with lights and buildings, I couldn't stop watching and I realized New York is one of the best city in the world.

The other visit I very liked the most, is Times Squares. Just when I got out of the subway, I saw a lot of lights whereas it was the night, everybody was shocked, took photos, and nobody was speaking so it was amazing. Everything in Times Squares is cool: hot dog, the shops, lights and people. I spoke with many people in Times Squares, they were very nice, I loved them, and if I could I would have spoken with them all night. (Sarah)



Were Americans the way you imagined?

When I arrived at the airport I was too excited because it was my first time in the USA!!

I imagined the Americans big and not very frindly but when we were walking in the streets or in the subway I realized that it was the opposite. People are like in Paris it's a dynamic city where people work a lot and they are thin! And when we asked for information to Americans in the street they were not very friendly with us... But at the hostel we were very well received and it was amazing!

I noticed there were not as many fast food restaurants as I thought in New York and people take care of their bodies, they run a lot in Central Park. I also noticed that there were many Mexican businesses. And Americans are very attached and protective of their country. (Cassandre)

During our trip we met lots of people. Some were very nice like Odalys, the manager of the International Hostelling, he was very welcoming and helpful like I imagined Americans. However some were disagreeable, for example in the street when we asked for information they were annoyed and responded dryly. I did not imagine them like this I thought they were nicer. But the city was like in my thoughts, huge buildings everywhere, junk food with cookies every dinner and big stores, but there's no fast food all over like people think. (Laura)

3 things I learnt about New York

I went to New York with my class and it was the best trip in my life. This is a great destination and I'll remember it forever. I'll tell you 3 things I learnt during this trip.

First of all, I learnt something about people. In the streets, there are a lot of people, more than in France, some people are polite, they communicate with you, they are happy but a lot of people are so rude; they don't talk with you.

Apart from people, I also learnt about their living conditions; some people are rich, but I've never seen so many homeless people in the street; you can see them in the street and the subway. But people are generous and they give them money.

Another thing which surprised me, the atmosphere in the street and also in the subway, you can see a lot of artists, you can hear music, see men imitating statues, when you give them money they touch you, they move so quickly.

To conclude, I would say that New York is "another world" compared to France and Europe, for the people's mind and also by the bright city and many buildings. (Mehdi)



The food in New York

The food in New York was exactly as we thought. On the one hand, we ate "healthy food", like fruits, but for example, apples were filled with water and didn't taste good. Also, we didn't find bread, while bread is essential for a good French person!

On the other hand, we ate junk food. The famous hot dog was good at an interesting price. Also, the American McDonalds was more generous. American give one liter of soda for one person! (Samy)

Is it easy to talk to New Yorkers?

The New Yorkers are very understanding, friendly and happy. But their accents are very strong and they speak very quickly. So the comprehension was difficult. But it was funny to be in this very patriotic culture. They are always ready for help us. However in the airport, the customs officials weren't kidding. It's easy to talk to American people compared to English people. (Léa)



Finally, the group in front of a wonderful view of Manhattan and the blue sky!

