USA Study Tour

Hosted by Lisa Burman

9th– 20th April 2016

Powerful Learners – Young Children’s Innate Capacities for Learning

Highlights

• Study Tour to Boulder Journey School, Boulder, Colorado
• Opportunity to tailor your study tour to your own research questions and interests
• Opportunities to observe Boulder Journey School educators and children learning together
• Facilitated dialogue with BJS educators, based on the group’s research questions, interests and observations
• Site visit to The Blue School, Manhattan, NY with opportunities to talk with Blue School educators (to be confirmed)
• Site Visit to a New York City Public Elementary School (site to be confirmed)
• Facilitated dialogue that explores ideas observed and ways to relate them to the Australian context

Any questions email Lisa Burman

info@lisaburman.com.au
Study Tour Theme: Powerful Learners – Young Children’s Innate Capacities for Learning

Australian early childhood education has long embraced and advocated for a strength-based view of the child. The need to re-examine and critically reflect on this view has recently emerged with the introduction of new curriculum documents that speak of the competent child (Early Years Learning Framework and Australian Curriculum). Unfortunately, this view of children's innate competencies is too often blurred by competing and mixed messages about learning and pedagogy. 2012-13 also brought an important milestone to Australian education with the Thinker in Residence in SA – Carla Rinaldi from Reggio Emilia. Rinaldi reminded and challenged Australian educators to think carefully and deeply about the whole child and not to narrow learning into compartmentalized arbitrary boxes.

**Boulder Journey School** has been selected, with much consideration, as the main venue for our learning on this USA Study Tour. BJS has a long and rich relationship with Reggio Emilia. The work of Boulder-based educators, Frances and David Hawkins, has also informed their educational approaches and ideas. For those interested in teacher education, BJS has a strong professional learning arm and also partners with the University of Colorado Denver to offer an accelerated, one-year Master’s Degree as students work as a co-teacher at BJS. Children from 6 weeks to 6 years of age and their families are welcomed to BJS.

The 2015 Study Group enjoyed a richly satisfying and rewarding experience at BJS. We felt a connection to the vision and values of the educators, who all showed great integrity between their beliefs and practices. The three days were tailored to our research questions and interests. We were given great freedom and time to be in learning spaces with the children and educators, where we witnessed respectful, warm interactions, much joyful learning and experiences rich with the children’s thinking.

** NYC Schools to be confirmed as they are on Summer Vacation at time of publishing itinerary **

**The Blue School** is a progressive independent school located in lower Manhattan (2 year olds to Grade 8). Its vision is to create communities of creative, joyful, compassionate learners who use courageous and innovative thinking to build a harmonious and sustainable world. It aims to develop and share an inquiry-based approach to education that fosters creativity, promotes academic excellence, nurtures human relationships and inspires a growing passion for learning.

The 2015 Study Tour was inspired at The Blue School! On our too-short visit, we saw a school filled with exciting, engaging, interesting learning and relationships where educators and children truly co-constructed their understandings. It felt like ‘true inquiry’, not a watered-down version that really leads children through a series of activities. Group members commented on the connection between Boulder Journey School and The Blue School – although not at all related, The Blue School showed us ways the rich early childhood pedagogies at BJS could be lived out in an elementary and middle school context.

**The Brooklyn New School**, PS 146, is a public elementary school (Pre-K to Grade 5) located in the borough of Brooklyn. The school sees children as naturally thoughtful and curious, and that they work to gain understanding of the world they inhabit. Their inquiry based curriculum enables students to problem solve and to effect change. Children are supported to apply knowledge gained in school to real life situations, mastering concepts as active thinkers and doers.

Brooklyn New School provides the essential opportunity to see a little of what life is like for public schools in New York City. The principal and educators warmly and openly welcomed us in 2015 and shared their struggles with things like a culture of testing and academic push-down. BNS is inspirational in how they collaborate with families and stay true to their values of inquiry within a system that, like in Australia, often feels that it values the opposite kind of learning and childhood.
Saturday 9th April 2015 – Boulder, Colorado
Fly Adelaide to Boulder (own arrangements)
Boulder is approximately 40 minute drive from Denver International Airport
Accommodation in Boulder: Best Western Boulder Inn (4 star – Breakfast included each day)

Sunday 10th April – Boulder
Day at leisure (to get over the jetlag!)
Welcome Dinner (included)

Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th, Thursday 14th April – Boulder Journey School
Three days imbedded with BJS educators, observing, in dialogue, researching our ideas and personal theories about childhood and learning
Transfers between hotel and BJS included
Lunch each day included
Dinner on Mon, Tues, Wed at own expense

Wednesday 13th April – Boulder
Day at leisure to explore Boulder’s many natural beauties.
Optional tours will be available (at own expense)
Meals, sight-seeing and transportation at own expense

Thursday 14th April – Group Farewell to Boulder Dinner (included)
**Itinerary**

*subject to change*

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<tr>
<th><strong>Friday 15th April – New York, New York</strong></th>
<th>Study Tour Fee per Person:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fly to NYC (transfer from Boulder to Denver airport included)</td>
<td><strong>$3,600.00 incl. GST (approx.)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer to hotel in NYC (included)</td>
<td><em>(based on 15 participants twin share and subject to change due to final numbers)</em></td>
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<td>Accommodation in 4-star Midtown Hotel <em>(to be confirmed)</em></td>
<td><strong>Limited Single supplement available</strong></td>
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<td>Optional orientation session for those new to NYC</td>
<td>Includes 11 night’s accommodation (twin share) in 4 star hotels, site transfers in Boulder, meals as per itinerary, domestic flight Boulder to New York City, transfer to hotel in NYC, all professional learning sessions, site visits and facilitated dialogue as per itinerary.</td>
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**Dinner at own expense**

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<th><strong>Sat 16th &amp; Sun 17th April – New York City</strong></th>
<th><strong>Does not include international airfares</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At leisure – enjoy the magic of New York City!</td>
<td><strong>Saturday, April 16th and Sunday, April 17th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>You won’t be short of things to do. Optional tours and lots of tips (from an ex-local!) will be included for those new to NYC</td>
<td><strong>Will be confirmed for the next selected destinations</strong></td>
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<td>All meals, sight-seeing and transportation at own expense</td>
<td><strong>to be confirmed</strong></td>
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<th><strong>Monday 18th April – New York City</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Site Visit to <strong>The Blue School</strong> <em>(full day)</em></td>
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<td><em>To be confirmed</em></td>
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<td>Lunch and Chat” at neighbouring café <em>(at own expense)</em></td>
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<td>Evening at leisure</td>
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<th><strong>Tuesday 19th April – New York City</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Site Visit to <strong>The Brooklyn New School</strong> <em>(half day)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>to be confirmed</em></td>
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<td>Afternoon at leisure</td>
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<th><strong>Wednesday 20th April – own arrangements</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Check out of hotel</td>
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<td>Tour ends</td>
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Registration for Study Tour – Programme Fee to Lisa Burman Consultants

Programme Fee - $1,800.00 (incl GST) per person

Deposit of A$1,000 is required at registration
(non-refundable if cancelled after 11th December 2015)

Balance is due no later than 11th December 2015

100% cancellation fee will apply after 11th January 2016 (may be waived if the cancelled place is filled by another participant.)

Register with following form and email to:

Lisa Burman
info@lisaburman.com.au

You will then be emailed an invoice for the deposit. Registration confirmed upon payment of deposit

**Registrations close Friday 25th September (week 10 Term 3)**

Remaining costs for accommodation and transport to be arranged through:

Kerrie Kaesler

*Travel Advisor MTA Travel*

Mobile: +61 438 880 115 |
Phone: +61 7 5593 3322
Fax: +61 (0) 7 5597 3700
Email: kkaesler@mtatravel.com.au

*Please contact Kerrie once your registration has been confirmed by Lisa Burman*

*All participants must take out individual travel insurance policy for illness, accidents or loss. Kerrie Kaesler can advise on travel insurance at the time of booking.*
Complete and email to info@lisaburman.com.au
A tax invoice for the deposit will be then be emailed to you

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________ State: __________ Postcode: ________

Place of Employment: __________________________________________________________________

Position: ________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: (W) ____________________________ (H) _________________________________

(M) ____________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________________________________

All correspondence (including tax invoice) will be via email so please provide the most convenient email address.

Registration is confirmed upon receipt of $1,000.00 deposit.

Interests, questions and/or research areas relevant to Study Tour which you intend to explore:

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