

# The State Journal

The Capital City's News Source Since 1912



36° Clear

**Bryant's Pic•Pac**  
HOMETOWN  
PROUD that's my store!  
**Grocery  
Specials** **Click  
Here**

ADVERTISEMENT

Search The State Journal...

[HOME](#)[ELECTION 2016](#)[NEWS](#)[SPORTS](#)[OBITS](#)[OPINION](#)[FRANK MAGAZINE](#)[SPECTRUM](#)[COOKING](#)[E-EDITION](#)

## News Main

Football: KSU loses title game to FVSU in 2OT

## local news

The man in red is back

## local news

Frankfort YMCA announces forum

## local news

Sullivan places at World Firefighter Combat Challenge in Alabama

## News

Trump, McConnell and Ryan: Unlikely new power trio for Washington D.C.



Photo by Rosalind Essig/rosalind.essig@state-journal.com Host mom Sandy Hardin says good-bye to Pamela and Venus.

ADVERTISEMENT

# Hong Kong students enjoy life-changing experience at Westridge Elementary School

Published 1:50 am Friday, November 11, 2016

Six 11-year-old students who spent the last two weeks at Westridge Elementary School as part of an exchange went home to Hong Kong Thursday.

The students, one of their teachers and their principal stayed with host families during their visit from Oct. 30 to Thursday. From Po Leung Kuk Wong Wing Shu Primary School in Hong Kong, they participated in an exchange through the International Alliance of Invitational Education, a nonprofit organization that facilitates exchanges between schools in America and Hong Kong.

## Photos by Rosalind Essig



Photo by Rosalind Essig/rosalind.essig@state-journal.com

From left, Elizabeth Gabehart, Principal Christina Tsang, Principal Kimberly Young, Natalie, Sara, Anson, Venus, Pamela and Jason pose for a group photo Thursday.

Both principals — Westridge’s Kimberly Young and visiting principal Christina Tsang — said the exchange was beneficial to both the students from Hong Kong and the Westridge students.

“It’s opened their eyes to more than just Frankfort, Kentucky,” Young said.

Tsang said her students weren’t ready to go back to Hong Kong, and one said she wanted to come study in the U.S. in the future. The education system in the United States is different from what Tsang’s students are used to, and the schools are more spacious.



Photo by Rosalind Essig/rosalind.essig@state-journal.com

Host mom Sandy Hardin says good-bye to Pamela and Venus.



“They enjoy staying here and learning here very much. ... they can explore much more,” she said.

Three Westridge families each hosted two students. The host families took the students to see caves, horse farms and a football game, among other activities.

“The host family took them different places to explore, experience, to open their eyes,” Tsang said.

The host families worked to create “a warm family” for visiting students, Tsang said. Because they were able to stay almost two weeks, the students were able to build a relationship with their host families and

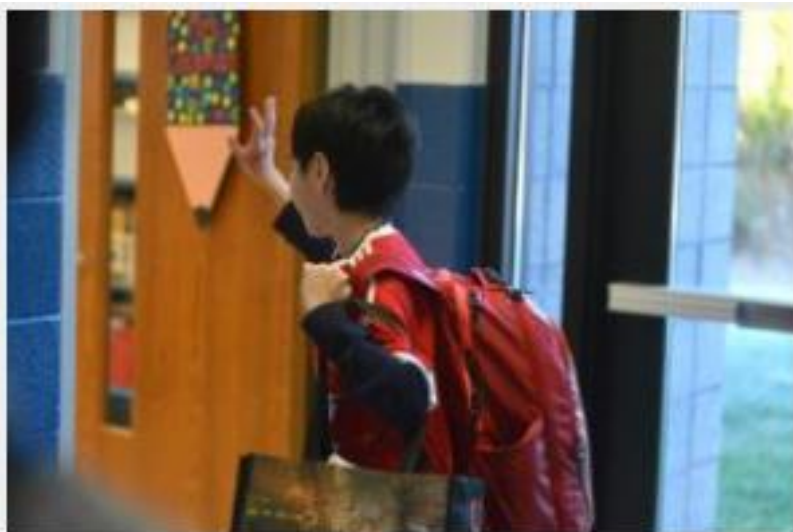


Photo by Rosalind Essig/rosalind.essig@state-journal.com

Jason steps back to the door of his host classroom to wave good-bye one more time.



Photo by Rosalind Essig/rosalind.essig@state-journal.com

Anson holds cards made by his classmates and gives high fives to some of them before leaving for the airport.

experience American culture, something she said was “an invaluable experience” for herself as well as the students.

“We’re going to be sad — when they leave — and it’s going to be hard,” she said while the students gathered to visit their classmates for a few minutes before leaving for the airport.

Tsang is already planning for 10 of her students to come to Frankfort next November.

Young said the exchange was good for more than just Westridge students — it’s been good for the community. Nothing is in place yet for Westridge students to go to Hong Kong, but Young hopes to continue to participate in exchanges.



Photo by Rosalind Essig/rosalind.essig@state-journal.com

Teacher Kelli Coleman said good-bye to Anson and Jason.



Photo by Rosalind Essig/rosalind.essig@state-journal.com

Jason high fives his host classmates on his way out of class.



Photo by Rosalind Essig/[rosalind.essig@state-journal.com](mailto:rosalind.essig@state-journal.com)

Venus hugs one of her classmates Thursday.



Photo by Rosalind Essig/[rosalind.essig@state-journal.com](mailto:rosalind.essig@state-journal.com)

Teacher Britt Lee's class gives Pamela and Venus a group hug.



Photo by Rosalind Essig/[rosalind.essig@state-journal.com](mailto:rosalind.essig@state-journal.com)

Natalie and the other Hong Kong students say good-bye to their host families.



Photo by Rosalind Essig/[rosalind.essig@state-journal.com](mailto:rosalind.essig@state-journal.com)

Principal Kimberly Young said having the exchange students was beneficial to both the students from Hong Kong and the students from Westridge.



Photo by Rosalind Essig/[rosalind.essig@state-journal.com](mailto:rosalind.essig@state-journal.com)

Sara and her principal from Hong Kong Christina Tsang pose for a photo at Westridge Elementary School.



Photo by Rosalind Essig/[rosalind.essig@state-journal.com](mailto:rosalind.essig@state-journal.com)

Jason's eyes are read as he says good-bye to his host family.





Photo by Rosalind Essig/[rosalind.essig@state-journal.com](mailto:rosalind.essig@state-journal.com)

Principal Christina Tsang said her students enjoyed their time in Kentucky so much they didn't want to go home.