

7/7/15



Headmaster Fleming

IT'S A GLORIOUS FOURTH

Dear T-D Family,

Yesterday at JFK about twenty Thornton-Donovan student ambassadors arrived having enjoyed a safe trip home. T-D students from ages 13-18 honed their diplomatic skills in two countries on two different continents. Thanks to Almira Bubesi for guiding our Italian contingent and thanks to Alan Goodman for acing his indoctrination as a teacher-supervisor serving for one week in Sera, Japan.

Stella Ficai really outdid herself with Fleming-like activity and gusto. This was by far T-D's best Italo-American exchange and the *pasta people* kept serving irresistible entrees - not just food I might add.

T-D's three m's drew special note. Mazin, Marius and Michael all did themselves proud. The Fawzy and Fanelli families should break out some fine Italian coca-cola.

For my time in Sera I'd give it a 9.8. I'm a hard marker. Most folks I know would go above ten. It was amazing to me how many middle schoolers grew up right before my eyes. Maya Dominguez spoke in

front of a crowd of 150 Japanese family members at a welcoming ceremony. What great presence. Sophia Ventresca spoke at the same welcome warmer. She was as poised as she was eloquent. Mable Takona did us proud and knew just what to say. Max Sutton never loses it when he speaks and I couldn't have been prouder of him. Calum Macphee couldn't make the picnic, but he was very impressive practicing his Japanese. He spoke at an opening ceremony at Sera High School that was featured in the county's newspaper.

Sera is always surreal. It makes the Catskills look like Disney World. You can't get greener, quieter and more peaceful than this hidden hamlet. Eighteen hours of flight time could be doubled and it would still be worth it.

In June, 2016 we want to make sure more Thornton-Donovan students travel abroad. In fact, next June, T-D parents can join in the experience. This way all of us can return on July 3, 2017 and need only a second of turnaround time to celebrate a Glorious Fourth.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Fleming, Jr.
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Headmaster



Japan



Italy