



## **Regent's School – Pattaya, Thailand Kamy Roberge Carrington '16**

When my lengthy 24-hour flight came to end, I had been glad to disembark the plane. As I spotted the Regent's sign ahead, I somehow knew that this would be a journey I would never forget; not knowing was the factor that had made the beginning of the experience difficult at first. I had not known the country, the people, the culture or even how to say "hi" in Thai.

School was great but it was quite different from LCC. An outdoor presence had been everywhere at Regent's: one that I had come to greatly appreciate. I had enjoyed having to simply stroll the outdoor hallways while going to my next class. When coming back to the Canadian cold, it was something that I missed and that I appreciated; even more once the opportunity to experience it again would have to wait. Altogether, everything was quite different but it is quite an enjoyable change.

With the cultural change came changes in abilities, the ability to experience various things. For example the majority of children under the age of 18 knew how to ride a motorcycle and consequently used them as a mode of transportation, with or without the option of a helmet. The rules were applied differently, the laws involving security were not the same as at home. For example, I had the chance to visit the city while seated in the outdoor part of a car accompanied by three other people. This was the beauty of my exchange; I experienced many things that I wouldn't have had the chance to experience in Canada. I had gotten the chance to go elephant riding with my friend Ellis, as well as scuba diving with Ellis and her sister, Chloe. For the first time in my life I had seen two baby sharks from about one meter away. This was an event that I will never forget. I had been stunned at first but I had nothing to fear as the sharks actually swam away from us as one of the seemingly fearless instructors fully grabbed its fin. Not only had I gotten to see two amazing creatures but I had also gotten to see many remarkable types of coral and fish. They came in all sizes, colours and forms. The corals were also quite fascinating, with some turning into different forms when gently touched.

As I fully anticipated, Bangkok was a very busy city; its hustling and bustling as present as the hot weather. I have to admit crossing the street was a challenge I will never forget. As the days passed, every week had passed by so quickly. I came to realize how much of a great time I was having and how much I was going miss Regent's school and all the friends I had to leave. Now I am finding myself back home glad to be surrounded by the people I missed but still wishing I could possibly be in two places at once.

I had gotten the chance to live an incredible experience; this experience was one that I will never forget. From the cross-country journeys among the pineapple fields, the swimming classes during physical education, the elephant riding, the diving, the few retreats to Bangkok, the outdoor strolls through the hallways, and many more. It has all been deeply missed. Overall, my journey to Thailand had been a great experience filled with adventure and encounters.

—Kamy Roberge Carrington '16