CAMPFIRE

 Going to Sprout Creek Farm was an experience of a lifetime! It was a long way there and a long way back, but it was definitely worth it. We learned new things about our class and ourselves. Experiences like these really can leave an inspiring imprint on your life ahead of you. This one was a very . . . special one, but sometimes you need a break from luxury and need to start focusing on the reality of things!

 To reflect on our memories and share the challenges we faced, we planned a campfire for the day before our departure. It was a very nice bonding moment. We sat in a circle and shared everything that came to and, and I know in my head I just saw flashbacks over and over. Flashbacks of my experiences, my new friends, and the fact that we all learned more about each other in a way that could be impossible in a busy school day. I know for a fact that we all changed. We were more open to admitting our imperfections because nobody’s perfect, so what’s worth pretending that we are?

 The staff also shared their thoughts and their impression on us. They definitely thought we were like no ordinary class; we were different than the average. We were up for an adventure and challenges. We were up to doing things we never dreamed we’d do. Like milking cows and goats, and witnessing the average day in the circle of life. One of the staff members had said to me, “When I saw the way you guys accepted an assignment, and the way all of you worked hard to finish what you started, makes me wonder how I accept my challenges. Everyone faces challenges that can and will determine their future. When I see that I have something to do that I’m not up for, I push it to the side or do it just because I know I have to. But the way you kids look at these challenges, it’s like you’re on for anything, and you’re all determined to get things done no matter how hard it may be. You may have been scared at first, but no matter what you follow through, and that’s very special!” Hearing that about my class made me feel so good inside, because that is a big impression to have on people in a matter of three days!

 Mr. Hartman was also very pleased with us because these used to be his co-workers, and he felt accomplished to hear them talk about his students in that way. He felt good that his students left such an impression on a place that meant a lot to him. We felt proud to give him that feeling, because he definitely deserved it!

 We sang songs, and we just enjoyed those final moments of life on a farm. We ate s’mores and I have to say that they were FABULOUS! It felt good to get the truth out, admit all of our mistakes, but acknowledge the mistakes that showed what to do if it were to occur once again. That campfire was only one example of moving forward from an ordinary class, to a class that is there for each other through the thick and thin!

-Kalina Chin-Olivo

A special thanks to the coordinators of this trip! It was a lot of fun and I think that it was a great idea! We hope to make tons of more memories with you guys!