



# King's Hall School Prep Newsletter

Edition 50

20<sup>th</sup> March 2015

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## HEADlines

So – have you been extra smiley today? Did you have an extra ‘Spring’ in your step? Or have you been gazing up (with goggles) at the sky? International Day of Happiness, the official start of Spring and a solar eclipse that won’t be repeated until 2026 all occurred today. Here we had some yummy Danish Pastries as a bonus for break – don’t tell the children because it was just for the staff, this time – and I have heard Pharell Williams in more than one classroom during the day. The eclipse really was very impressive and with the grass being cut and the sun out it has certainly felt spring like.

Despite the graphics in each corner, the eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed that this Newsletter is 50 not out this week – HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Newsletter. I am very grateful to the staff for contributing material to it each week but it is the consistent attention it receives from Mr Webster that ensures it is such a rich publication each time. Having avoided it for over a year I have been coerced into answering ‘The Questions’ as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> edition!

We are moving into the final week of term and House Music tunes are probably invading your airwaves at home as the preparations are finessed for what should be a terrific finale to a really good term in so many ways. I hope you enjoy reading about some of them within this publication.

Justin Chippendale

# 13+ Scholarship News

Congratulations to all children who have recently taken Scholarships in a wide range of disciplines. I hear from them all that they enjoyed it and felt it was a thoroughly positive experience, regardless of the outcome. There is a list below of the awards made:

Oliver Biggs	Academic Scholarship and Music Exhibition
Isabel Burger	Academic and Music Scholarship
Ellie Carrow	Sports Scholarship
Karis Chambers	Sports Scholarship
Eliza Chippendale	All Rounder Scholarship
Ellie Clist	All Rounder Scholarship
Joe Gill	Drama Exhibition
Phoebe Hake	Academic Exhibition and DT Scholarship
Matthew Harrison	Sports Scholarship
Jess Highton	Sports Exhibition
Morgan Hill-Lamey	Sports Exhibition
Samuel Lang	Drama Exhibition
Ben Luxton	Academic Scholarship and Sports Exhibition
Daniel McSwiggan	Academic Scholarship and Music Exhibition
Joe Messenger	Sports Scholarship
Rosie Potter	Drama Scholarship
George Small	Sports Exhibition
Alec Sprague	Academic Scholarship and Sports Exhibition

## Taunton Festival of the Arts - Drama



*“All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts.”  
William Shakespeare, 'As You Like It.'*



Between 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015, King's Hall Speech & Drama pupils took part in the annual Taunton Drama Festival.

Over the week, we had 70 pupils taking part in a huge variety of classes, ranging from solo and duo poetry, prepared reading, acting and even TV News Reading.

The King's Hall pupils performed fantastically, achieving plenty of Commended and Distinction marks and, in the end, we came away with 29 top three placings in all classes across the week:  
*four 1<sup>st</sup> places, twelve 2<sup>nd</sup> places and thirteen 3<sup>rd</sup> places.*

This is an incredible achievement for all involved, well done!



We also had two pupils involved in the Taunton Drama Festival's first ever 'Taunton Young Theatre Performer of the Year'. This is a slightly different format to the rest of the Drama Festival and is run in a similar way to the Taunton Young Musician of the year. As the title suggests, it is a competition to find the best theatre performer in Taunton.



The pupils involved were required to perform a 10-minute acting recital, where they could perform a solo monologue, poetry or a reading. The competition was extremely tough, and went all the way up to Year 10 in the junior category, where there were some excellent candidates.

Molly Evers and Karis Chambers both represented King's Hall splendidly, and I am delighted to report that Karis was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Molly was awarded 5<sup>th</sup> place; a tremendous achievement for both girls, so particular credit goes to these two young performers.



Next term, we will be looking forward to Vanguard Speech & Drama exams, which will take place at the end of June; this is another fantastic opportunity for the pupils to get some silverware and certificates.



If you would like more information on the Vanguard Speech & Drama exams or would like to find out more about your son or daughter becoming involved in our Speech & Drama lessons please do contact me.  
[AKirby@kingshalltaunton.co.uk](mailto:AKirby@kingshalltaunton.co.uk)



### More King's Hall successes at the Taunton Drama Festival 2015:





## Ghosthunters



We have been extremely well entertained this week by the Year 6 children who have been performing 'Ghosthunters' as their school play. Please enjoy these photographs and look for the full report in next week's newsletter.



## A view from the Rose Garden

### A Geographical Week for Year 3



We have been exploring the globe via the internet and the school library with children researching a country of their choice and deciding if they would like to live there or not. The choice of country has been diverse, from Australia to Germany to Egypt, and opinions on whether they are a good place to live or not have varied widely.

This week a field trip to Exmoor proved well within reasonable distance after the disappointment of not going to the Shetland Isles earlier in the term. The Year 3s headed off on Monday morning from the fog and gloom surrounding King's Hall to the fog and gloom that surrounded Dunkery Beacon, Exmoor's highest point. Hopes of it clearing as it had done last year were sadly dashed. The children had to spot flora and fauna and learn about the history of the Beacon, which was donated to the National Trust by a group of people who thought it should be preserved for future generations to enjoy. The weather failed to dampen anyone's spirits and we had a great morning outside.



## Academic Life...

### Geography

As we slowly emerge from winter, last week the pupils in Year 5 kicked off the Geography department's spring and summer fieldwork programme by venturing out to the Somerset Earth Sciences Centre in the Mendips. This is part of the work they have been doing during the term on rocks and minerals. The centre is a modern educational facility, sponsored by the companies who extract rock from the Mendip Hills. In the morning the children learned about the characteristics and uses of rocks and they visited the enormous hole in the ground that is Whatley Quarry (the third largest limestone quarry in Europe!) and in the afternoon they spent time identifying some amazing fossils.

Here is Jemima's account of her day there:

#### Our trip to Whatley Quarry by Jemima Rundell 5H



When we got to Whatley Quarry, we all gathered in a big classroom. We had a biscuit and a drink, after that we departed and one group went to the Quarry and one group stayed in the classroom. The classroom work was very fun, we learnt about rocks and the structure of the Earth, we also learnt about the 3 types of rocks called Sedimentary, Igneous and Metamorphic. After we had spent two hours in the Somerset Earth and Science study centre, then we had lunch.

After lunch our group went to the quarry so we dressed up in a high visibility vests and put on our hard hats - that gave you a headache! We went to the quarry in a flashing minibuss that had big flags that were fluorescent and lights that flashed all the way. The lady driving the bus talked about the quarry. It was very interesting because the facts were so ongoing - for example the quarry had been there for 78yrs, it was 1.5km long, 0.75km wide and each person in the UK uses about 5 tonnes of limestone a year!



When we arrived at the quarry we realised how big it was and how deep it really was - it was too big to describe! The lady driving the bus took us down to Bench 7, which was the lowest of them all. A bench is 15m high and they are going to dig 3 more.

We drove up to Bench 3 and there were loads of big buildings, including the crusher, that break up the rocks and then the rocks were taken by conveyer up to another building that had giant sieves that got smaller and smaller going down. If the rocks were too big to fit through the sieve then they would be put back in a big pile with a trap door at the bottom and they would go through the process again until they were small enough to fit through the sieve. The smallest sieve holes were 4mm.

A dumper truck cost £600,000 and to repair a puncture would be £7,000! The dumper trucks could carry up to a 100 tonnes of rock at a time.

After we had spent loads of fun time in the quarry we set off back to the classroom. We spent about half an hour back in the classroom finishing off our day before we set off to go back to school, after a great day out in the quarry. Everyone was very tired after today but very happy too!





## Music

The Music department has been a hive of activity recently as we ready ourselves for the **House Music Competition**. It is always a wonderful send-off to the term, and we look forward to seeing you there next week. It would be incredibly helpful if those children performing in the junior and senior groups (they know who they are!) could bring in their instruments each day next week so that they can practice together and with me.

Results from yesterday's **Trinity Guildhall exams** have already reached us and our pupils fared very well with everyone passing and a total of nine distinctions and two merits. Well done to all!

We are delighted to announce that **Jemima Lawson Johnston** has been selected to perform in the **Final of the Woodard Schools Young Musician of the Year competition**. It will be held in May at St John's, Smith Square in London. More news will follow in due course. Well done, Jemima!

Looking ahead to **next term and beyond**, we hope you might take note of the following for your diaries:

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June we are incredibly fortunate to have **The Queen's Six** coming to Taunton to give a workshop and concert at King's Hall during the day, and a concert at King's College in the evening. The *a cappella* group from Windsor Castle has just released its debut album to very positive reviews, and will be performing a mix of repertoire in the evening concert as well as performing a couple of pieces with the Senior Choir (on which we will work during the daytime workshop). Tickets will be on sale in due course, but please do pencil this concert in your diary as it promises to be terrific. We also hear that The Queen's Six may feature a guest addition and become The Queen's Seven for the night as Mr D-J, a founding member of the group, returns to the fold for a few numbers!



Mr Dayus-Jones, front right, as one of the original Queen's Six.

The current group



Following our successful and enormously enjoyable concert last year in St Michael's Church, Orchard Portman, we have very kindly been asked back to give another **concert** there. It will be at 7pm on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June** and we will contact pupils in due course to ask them to perform.

To all ukulele players out there... we hope to have a **ukulele teacher** at King's Hall in the near future and has heard rumours that there may be some interested parties (not just the children)! If ukulele lessons are something you would perhaps be keen on trying, please could you let Mr DJ know?

**Save the date** - We would like to give advance notice of an **orchestral course** (run in conjunction with Taunton Children's Orchestra) that will take place from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August at King's Hall. Run by Miss Pink, Miss Tustian and Mr Dayus-Jones, it follows the hugely rewarding and popular course that was run last summer. As you can see from the photo, we had a lot of fun and hope you might be keen on coming this year.



More details will become available soon but it will involve playing as a whole orchestra and in chamber groups, singing, junk percussion and some craft activities during the breaks. Plenty of fun for all!

## Spanish

### Year 5



We have had another fun half term learning our colours in Spanish. The children have enjoyed learning songs, playing games and even creating and performing their own songs to help them remember the colours. We have finished off the term by looking at “Las Fallas” festival in Valencia. This occurs on 19 March for 5 days. Huge figures are made “ninots” and

displayed in the streets. The festival culminates with fireworks, bangers and the burning of the figures. The class decided that this was a noisy and dangerous festival which appealed greatly to most of the group!



### Year 5 – Mr Webster’s Tutor Group



It has been an eventful week for 5H with a great deal of exercise and a mountain of Plus Points and Merits being collected. At the King’s College Cross Country event Harry, Adam, Jaime, Jemima, Arielle and Tilly all took part and performed exceptionally well. We all watched Ghosthunters, the Year 6 play on Tuesday afternoon and enjoyed supporting the cast during the production. Robert was one of only two Year 5 boys to be included in the U11 Regional Hockey Finals squad which was a lovely honour for him. Ruby and Amelie were amongst the very successful U10 squads who played against Millfield on Wednesday, while the boys enjoyed an intense hockey practice. Games also included a game of association football in which Fane, Cassian and Felix played as if they were involved in the Nike ‘Winner stays on’ advert.

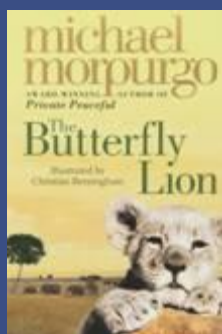
#### Nike 'Winner stays on' Advert

Oliver, Harry and Bryony are vying for the highest Merit total for the term. We have been collecting them all in this week in readiness for the presentation of certificates and chocolate treats next Thursday. There is still time to hand more in as the excitement grows. On a beautiful Thursday afternoon we saw the whole of Year 5 playing ‘Capture the Cone’ in the woods, with 5H taking on 5K. With impressive leadership skills being displayed by Freddie and Christopher I am pleased to say that 5H were triumphant. The teams changed for the second half with the girls competing against the boys in a hard fought draw. We worked extremely hard on Friday and all went home with big smiles on our faces. This is what school days are all about 😊

## Next term in the Library....

Following on from the very successful launch of our new Book Club programme earlier this term, here are the details of what we will be reading for next term's meetings:

### Year 3 and Year 4 Book Clubs



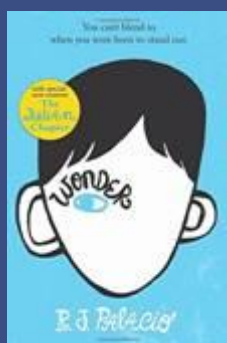
Year 3 Book Club - 3.45pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Year 4 Book Club - 3.45pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May

**The Butterfly Lion** by Michael Morpurgo

*"The Butterfly Lion is unique among animals and books, and will touch all hearts – both young and old." (Virginia McKenna, Born Free Foundation)*

### Year 5 and 6 Book Club



4.45pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April

**Wonder** by R.J. Palacio

*"What a gem of a story. Moving and heart-warming. This book made me laugh, made me angry, made me cry." (Malorie Blackman, Children's Laureate)*

Pupils taking part will read their book during the school holidays and we shall meet early next term to discuss our opinions on what we have read and to enjoy some fun, story-related activities.

Parents of pupils in Years 3 and 4 are very welcome to attend Book Club with their child. I look forward to hearing what the children think of our chosen books.

Please email Mrs Marcuccilli before the end of term if your child would like to join us.

Happy reading!

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## Out of the classroom...

### South West Lambs Rugby

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, three King's Hall rugby players travelled to Rugby School, the birthplace of rugby football, to represent the Southwest Lambs in the National Festival. Lorcan McLoughlin in the U13) with George Thomas and Ben Davies in the U11s competed with some of the strongest players from Prep Schools around the country. Both Southwest teams faired extremely well and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> out of the 4 regions in the competition. Lorcan made a huge impact on the matches, playing as a dynamic blind side flanker he was able to attack





freely around some very big pitches whilst also playing a key role at the break down, fiercely contesting many rucks. Lorcan played superbly and was very close to being selected for the National schools side.

In the U11s, Ben and George both played in various positions in the backs and were able to prove their undoubted ability at this higher level. In all three matches both the boys were key link men in releasing some of the outstanding pace that the Southwest side possessed. Both boys defended admirably and never let their team mates down, which is quite an achievement at such a high level.

### **A few words from this term's Head Girl, Emma Hawkins ...**

This term has flown by very quickly and I will be very sad to leave my post as Head Girl.

This week we went to see the Year 6 production, Ghost hunters. I enjoyed the Star Trek scene as they wore our costumes from my Year 6 production, Dazzle. This brought back many memories and I wish the Year 6s the best of luck in their performances.

House Music rehearsals are going extremely well and all the Houses are keeping their moves very secret! Come on Oldham!

The best part of the week, for me, was the leavers' photos as they were really exciting and fun but we also found them a little sad as they made us realise how quickly the end is coming.

## **Sport Action and News...**

### **Netball**

#### **U13A against Blundell's**

What a fantastic game! This was such a battle, even until the 3rd quarter, when we were trailing 7-8. A surge in the last quarter, great intercepting, and tight marking all through the match saw us take the lead and Blundell's had chances to equalise and couldn't, leading to a very deserved win for us! Player of the Match was Lucy Buckley

#### **U11A & B against Millfield**

Wow, what a way for the A team to end the season with a draw against Millfield Prep. At half time we were 6-2 down but after a good team talk they were more assertive, they fought for everything and they certainly played some of their best Netball this season. Well done! Parents and staff enjoyed it too. Player of the Match was Kezia Ogle for some outstanding shooting.

There was a huge improvement in the B's teamwork in comparison to previous weeks which clearly made a difference to the result. Everyone played very well even though we lost a little focus as we got tired. There is still a little room for improvement in attack, but overall midfield and defensive work was of a high standard. An excellent game of netball! The Player of the Match was Charlotte Sidwell with some brilliant goals.

## U10A tournament at Millfield

v Millfield B   Won 7-1  
v West Buckland   Drew 5-5  
v Blundell's   Lost 3-2  
v Wells   Won 8-0  
v Queen's   Drew 3-3  
v Exeter   Won 3-2  
Semi Final lost 2-0

A long afternoon of netball - six pool matches and then the semi final! We fairly easily beat the Millfield and Wells teams. Matches against Queen's and West Buckland were much closer, with the girls fighting back from being behind against West Buckland. Although we lost 3-2 to Blundell's it was a much closer game than when they came to King's Hall a few weeks ago. The top two teams went through from each pool, with Blundell's a clear winner in our pool and the second place was decided in a hard-fought final game against Exeter School ourselves, with King's Hall just beating them 3-2. Play in the semi-final was fairly close, but Taunton capitalised on their opportunities which saw them through to the final and us in joint third place. The girls were sad to not come away with a medal, but overall a very impressive performance in a competitive tournament.

## Hockey

### U11A at the Regional Finals

Having qualified as County Champions, the U11s returned to Millfield for the Regional finals determined to make the most of a much higher standard of competition. In a tough pool King's also drew the toughest opponents in the first matches. A good 0-0 draw against Kingswood followed by a disappointing loss against a strong Richard Pate's side made our remaining matches must win games. The boys were also learning how important scoring was in very short 10 minute matches. Having dominated a match against West Buckland only to concede a goal in the last minute and lose 1-0 was devastating and almost certainly put King's Hall out. However, massive credit must go the boys for turning it around and winning their 3 remaining matches, 2-0 winners over Callington School, 5-0 winners over Bournemouth Collegiate and 2-1 winners over The Elm's Prep School. The boys will have learnt a lot from playing at a much higher standard and it will bode well for the future of King's Hall hockey.

## Results round up ...

### Netball

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March  
v Blundell's

U13A  
U13B  
U12A  
U12B  
U13/12C

Won 10 - 9  
Lost 9 - 12  
Lost 8 - 9  
Lost 4 - 7  
Won 9 - 8

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March  
v Millfield

U11A  
U11/10B

Drew 11 - 11  
Won 7 - 4

U10 Tournament

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

### Hockey

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March  
West of England Finals

U11 VII

3<sup>rd</sup> in Group

## Cross Country



31 teams competed in the Year 4 & 5 King's College Cross-Country Relay event this week. King's Hall entered four Year 4 & 5 teams and also had special permission from Mr Llewellyn to enter two teams of Year 3 children as they had competed so well in the house cross-country earlier in the term. Each competitor had to run a course that was 1200 metres long and included a couple of difficult uphill sections. The boys and girls ran exceptionally well and can be very proud of their achievements. The results from the event can be found below:



King's College Cross-Country Relay  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Team	1 <sup>st</sup> Leg		2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg		3 <sup>rd</sup> Leg		Position
Y4 Boys	V.Yates	5.07	R.Simpson	5.15	H.Banton	4.50	3rd
Y5 B/G	A.Craig	5.21	J.Rundell	5.18	H.Gresswell	5.28	6th
Y3 Boys	A.Webster	5.09	O.Mack	5.45	C.Wallace	5.20	7th
Y5 Girls	J.Page	5.42	A.Sheridan	5.26	T.Williams	5.58	14th
Y3 Girls	D.Rundell	6.12	D.Page	6.17	E.Rowe	6.06	19th
Y4 Girls	L.Wallace	5.39	D.Kamsner	6.02	E.Renville	6.35	20th

## The Boarders' World...



After a well deserved long weekend we are back into the swing of things. It's been a busy week with the Year 6 boys and girls rehearsing for their school production of "Ghost Hunters" which was fantastic.

The junior boys, with the help of Miss Hammond, have been putting the finishing touches to their newly decorated common room and they are all

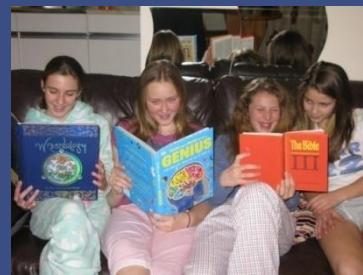


loving the new table football - tournaments are now a serious daily part of boarding!

The girls will be girls and singing, dancing and horse jumping down the corridors is part of their daily routine!



The senior boys are taking full advantage of the slightly lighter nights and the long boards have come out in force.



This weekend we are all off to the Quantocks for an Easter Egg hunt and to have our first BBQ of the year, so fingers crossed the sun will shine on Sunday.

## Things you didn't know about ...



**Mr Chippendale**  
**Headmaster**



**Ellie Clist**  
**Y8 pupil**

*How long have you been at King's Hall School? Tell us more about your arrival.*

I have been here nearly six years now. I was appointed to be Headmaster in May 2008 which was more than a year before moving here with Mrs Chippendale and three children in Years 3, 2 and Nursery. Now I find that they have been growing whilst I wasn't looking and one of them, all of a sudden, is leaving in July. Can't believe it!

I have been at King's Hall for seven years. I arrived here in Year 2 and have enjoyed every minute of it!

*If you were going to write a book, what would you call it and what would it be about?*

I would write a book called 'A Thousand Days of Sport'. It would be built around a fantasy to be the Chief Sports Editor of a big newspaper and so be forced to travel the world following the major sporting events through the year. I reckon that during a thousand day period, not only would you cover the annual events but you could take in the Olympics, an Ashes Tour Down Under, a Lions Tour and the Rugby World Cup, too.

I would write a book about every different sport you could name, and about its challenges and how it came to be a sport. I would call it '100 sports you didn't know existed'!

*What do you like most in a friend?*

Acceptance, trust, enjoyment of the moment/sense of fun and unconditional giving.

They would definitely have to be funny, kind and have lots of interesting stories to tell.

*If you could try out any job for a day, what would you like to try?*

It would be pretty cool to be a Luxury Travel Reviewer – I'd like to do it for more than just one day, though!

An Equine vet.

*What is / was your favourite subject at school?*

Maths (and sport, if it's allowed). I have always enjoyed the logic involved with Maths and the fact that it's right when it's right – no one's opinion can burst your bubble.

SPORT!! 😊

*Which three people, dead or alive, would you have to a dinner party if you could? Why?*

Isambard Kingdom Brunel – I've always been interested in him and his bridges, ships and railways. I guess it's a combination of the maths and engineering stats and planning together with the pioneering spirit on a scope well beyond most people's ambitions.

Pippa Funnell, because she is the only rider in the whole world to have won the 'Grand Slam'.

Martin Luther King because of the life changing speech he made.

Suzanne Collins because it would be really interesting to find where she got the ideas to write the Hunger Games.

Ernest Shackleton – it would be fascinating to hear about his life first hand as well as learn from his leadership.

The third is a tad incongruous next to those two but for light relief I think Lee Mack seems good fun.

*What takes up most of your time in the day?*

In the holidays I'm very busy **not** making decisions except what recipe shall we try next and where shall we go to have fun today. In term time most of my time is spent helping people make childhood fun and purposeful for those lucky enough to go to King's Hall.

During term time it is school, but in the holidays it is most definitely horses.

*If someone asked you for a random piece of advice, what would you say?*

Make your heart kind, your mind fierce and your spirit brave OR You reap what you sow.

Nothing is impossible.

*What is the first thing you do when you get home after school?*

Try to find something completely different to move my mind away from the things it has been on all day.

Go to the yard to see the horses, or go straight home and get on with prep.

*Do you like to plan things out in detail or be spontaneous? Why?*

I would say that, in general, I have a fairly uncomplicated view that life is pretty cool and good fun anyhow, as well as a philosophical belief that "it'll all be okay" so that would be leaning more towards spontaneity of the two, I suppose. Having said that, at work my time needs to be quite tightly planned and I have two important women both controlling my diary – guess who they are!

Be spontaneous because life is too short to plan things in detail. We just have to live each day as it comes.

*What one thing have you not done that you really want to do?*

Travel the world for a year. Or two. Or three.....

Bungee Jump!

*Would you rather have the ability to fly or be invisible? Why?*

Fly – in fact, whilst the sensation of flying would be wonderful, I'd like to take it a step further to teleportation. The ability to be anywhere in the world in an instant would be amazing – I wonder if it would create more time or you'd just end up exhausted, though?

Fly because when you're up high you're almost invisible and the feeling of being free and the choice of going anywhere must be really nice.