

Desert Valley Times

Celebrating the Virgin Valley

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SCHOOL & CLASSROOM

Page 30

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Bowler mascot off to China

J.L. Bowler Elementary School mascot, Blaze the Bighorn, is boarding a plane for Beijing next week. He is going to spend three weeks in China, learning about the culture and people who make up this vast "sleeping giant." His objective is to bring home information and artifacts to share with the Little Bighorns once the school year starts.

China will undoubtedly play a major role in the lives of the Little Bighorns. Although it is a foreign and faraway land, Blaze wants them to begin to learn about and appreciate what is sure to be an economic factor in their future.

Blaze has his passport ready and is traveling with

China Plus tours, an excellent company out of Texas which provides native Chinese tour guides. He will be climbing the Great Wall, stomping through Tiananmen Square, entering the Forbidden City, going by rickshaw through Hutongs, grazing at the Summer Palace, inspecting the Terracotta Warriors and Horses, visiting Pandas in Chongqing, visiting the "ghost city" of Fengdu, sailing down the Yangtze River, shopping in Shanghai, and enjoying the crowds in Hong Kong. Blaze will be sending home news articles about his trip and hopes all of the Little Bighorns will be reading his adventures in the Desert Valley Times. It's



Photo submitted

Blaze just might get acquainted with some real live pandas in his forthcoming trip to China.

really important for all of the Little Bighorns to read throughout the summer!

Helping Blaze on his travels will be J.L. Bowler teachers: Nancy Burton, Mary Ellen Keeton, Lana Hess, Amanda LaTurner, and Jamie Jones. Bowler principal, Mike Wilson, went on his mission to Hong Kong and will be advising Blaze on

what to teach the children about this wonderful metropolis. Mr. Wilson's fluency in Cantonese will help the children become familiar with this unique language. J.L. Bowler assistant principal, Pledger Solomon, went to China for his mission. His Mandarin will be another source of language learning for the Little Bighorns.

Although the Bowler Bighorns live in the secure pastures of the Virgin Valley, the goal of the school is to help the children understand people throughout the world. When others are perceived as very different, it is easy for conflict to occur. When children are given the opportunity to understand others, realize each point of view has merit, strive to communicate and recognize common goals, they will be more likely to solve problems by working together for the common good. Blaze hopes that what the children learn about China will form a basis from which they can build understanding about others and recognition that there are more similarities than differences in the world family.

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