

# LOOMIS CHAFFEE

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To Whom It May Concern:

Last week, we hosted Denis Belliveau as he presented his documentary *In the Footsteps of Marco Polo*. In the morning, he spoke to our entire student body (650 high school students and another 50 faculty who were present) about both Polo and his project. He introduced the project, showed 15 minutes or so of footage, then followed with more discussion and Q&A.

He visited several classes (Chinese language, Photography, and Filmmaking), met with faculty over lunch, and made himself readily available to the community.

That evening, we showed the shorter version of the documentary in its entirety, and he spoke and answered questions for another ½ hour following the showing. About 60 students and another dozen adults showed up voluntarily for the evening event.

Throughout his visit, Denis was an engaging and entertaining speaker. The film itself is exciting and the students and faculty found it interesting. While it includes some of the historical story of Polo, what our community most enjoyed was the footage of the modern world along Polo's route, along with the project's nature as an adventure of two friends – a welcome departure from some of our more strictly, and coldly, academic speakers.

I highly recommend Denis and his film to you.



Alec McCandless

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