



San Domenico School

Educate. Engage. Empower.

Dear Lisa and Denis,

January 28, 2014

After Denis' day-long visit to our school, I was so excited that I couldn't sleep that night! My head was spinning from his wonderful stories and images, and my thoughts flew back to my own world travels so much that I was in danger of dropping everything and heading back out into the world.

I think that's the message that our students took away—to go out and do what they dare to dream, and never give up, even in the face of great adversity. Mistakes? Don't worry about them—have no regrets! Everything is a learning experience that makes one stronger.

Denis' visit gave us a chance to talk to our students about the incalculable value of world travel, the marvelous differences in cultures that can be experienced out there, and the great value of finding friendship with other people in the world. Denis answered every student's question unflinchingly, and our kids couldn't stop asking. They were really inspired by his story of two buddies setting out together with a goal and vowing to be successful or not come back at all. Besides our students being so fascinated, I have never seen *adults* so interested in a parent presentation held at night—they didn't want to leave!

Denis' infectious enthusiasm and passion for living one's life to the fullest came through loud and clear, and both students and teachers have continued to tell me how much they enjoyed and were inspired by his visit to our school. We can't wait to have Denis back! We hope to have him come as an Explorer-in-Residence for a whole week—and *I* hope I will be able to sleep again after he leaves!

Wynn Richards
Humanities Lead
San Domenico School
San Anselmo, CA