



A+ World Academy
Sample Updates from Sea
2016

June 21, 2016

We're alongside! Today Sørlandet docked just outside of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum. Captain and Chief Mate mustered the students to congratulate them on a remarkable voyage. Ms. B. then lead those aboard in singing an emotional "Leave Her Johnny" to a crowd waiting on the quay. Parents and friends were welcomed aboard. Some had not seen their loved ones in nearly a year. A brief reception in the Hong Kong Maritime Museum itself followed, in which the A+ World Academy was commended for its 22,000 nautical miles sailed thus far, and for being the first ship of its kind to dock in Hong Kong. Captain Sture and Head of School Terry Davies were treated to a traditional lion dance. Students enjoyed shore leave with their parents or parent "sponsors." It goes without saying that all faculty and crew here aboard Sørlandet are likewise proud of them. There are many who have helped crew the ship this far, but the students are the life and soul of the vessel, they got her here, with only fourteen. But it's not all over yet. Graduation isn't until the twenty-fifth. In the mean time, students enjoy the metropolis of Hong Kong!

June 19, 2016

Well, we've made it. At long last Sørlandet is anchored outside of Hong Kong—not yet alongside, but steady outside of the city all the same. And what a beautiful landscape it is. Lookouts stood vigilantly this morning before young Jack Holbrook himself got to "drop the hook." Since, students have been eagerly painting, tarring and attending to schoolwork. Ms. Hills lead another sea shanty practice. This evening Annie and Antonio hosted the school year's final family dinner. Ms. Curtin screened her knockout video compilation of students and faculty in choreographed dance all around the world. Ms. B. and others host games night in the banjer. Later, under supervision and with the approval of the maritime crew, students have the chance to sleep on boat deck under the stars.

June 18, 2016

As of this morning Sørlandet is 77 nautical miles from where she will drop anchor off of Hong Kong! We are beginning the first of lasts—last Field Studies class, last major call to stow sail, last day of extensive bracing, last night underway. But with it comes some firsts. Ms. Vivas stowed sail aloft for the first time today! With the guidance of some of her esteemed students and friends, she did just fine. And tonight Aaron hosts the students' first screening of the nautical documentary, *Around Cap Horn!*

June 17, 2016

What a day! Under the instruction of Second Mate Johannes, students and teachers heaved the ship to and had their final swim call of the year in the South China Sea! Just before, they spotted dolphins! And in the evening, Ms. B. led a yoga class during sunset. Below deck, students work away on their research essays, incorporating in-text citations, not to mention comical and musical end of year videos in a variety of subjects.

June 16, 2016

We're really getting there; as of today Sørlandet's closest shore is China! Today is also Signe's birthday! Signe sailed with Sørlandet as a volunteer since she docked in Las Palmas last fall, and in Surabaya was promoted to Ordinary Seaman. Students love her. And so at sea they celebrated her the only way they know how: by dumping bucket after bucket of cold water on her head. In other news, third officer Michael John Adams' navigation class continued this afternoon to an appreciative bunch. Students learned about plotting position, referencing chart legends, factoring current and more!

June 15, 2016

Today started with a bang! Sørlandet's morning colors was wonderfully interrupted by students' very own Harlem Shake. The flash mob routine may have stopped going viral three years ago, but the shelf-lives of trends don't matter much at sea. Once the dance was over it was time to scrub the decks. Classes were called off for a routine deep clean. Under the instruction of Meg, students and teachers alike took to ballast, banjer, the aft ship, laundry room, galley and other spaces and all of their nooks and crannies to ensure Sørlandet is as its best upon arrival in Hong Kong. At the day's end the crew rewarded the students for their hard work with a game of deck golf, and later, the deck pool!

June 14, 2016

Another "Grand Arrival Meeting" will be held tonight to further discuss sailing into Hong Kong. "Girl's Night" by all accounts was a success replete with sweets. Ms. Vivas' Mandarin students are busy making "how-to" language videos. Ms. B. instructs yoga on main deck. Ms. Hills and her Politics class discuss the aftermath of September 11th. And

in their writing hour, students are at work on the abstracts of their extended research essays. We are well underway preparing for the end of the school year and heading home.

June 13, 2016

With the end of the school year in sight, these may be less stressful days, but that's not to say they're uneventful. We caught a fish! Cook's Mate Alex and Second Mate Johannes wrangled in the catch. We saw dolphins (both yesterday and today)! Rumors abound about an upcoming game of deck golf. This evening in starboard side banjer the females of the student body have "girl's night." And on deck, those students that are interested continue various projects to make Sørlandet shipshape for her arrival in Hong Kong—varnishing, tarring, polishing their nautical home.

June 12, 2016

Happy Sunday! This morning's breakfast? Bacon and eggs. And tonight, one of the last family dinners of the school year! Students continue to redraft and polish their extended research essays. In Ms. B's Field Studies class they discuss "reentry" to life as they once knew it, on land, no longer at sea. We're getting closer. Our nearest shore? Ho Chi Min City! Last night a Grand Arrival meeting was called by AB Celina to organize fanfare for the ship's going alongside in Hong Kong. On deck, students better their seamanship, learning more obscure knots and bits of nautical knowledge that they didn't get around to over the busy ten months. Below deck, studies continue, too. Here's Francisco reviewing Mandarin.

June 11, 2016

The Pacific was wide and empty, the South China Sea is not. These waters are riddled with fishing boats, though Sørlandet (in keeping with this rotation's luck) has yet to catch a single fish. Last night's game of hide and seek was a success, even if Mr. Line took a while to find everyone. Students today enjoyed afternoon fitness: jumping jacks, crunches and planks with Ms. Hills. Ms. Curtin and her choir continue to rehearse for the year's end. And on deck students have taken to projects of their own. Becky's been touching up paint on main deck. Jack is varnishing monkey island!

June 10, 2016

By day, students are preparing music and song for this year's graduation in Hong Kong—rapidly approaching. They're also learning more about navigation with Third Officer Mikey. Less exciting, they're employing a handful of techniques to polish up their final drafts of their extended research essays: preferring academic over casual language, specificity over generalization, discussing when to use and avoid repetition for effect. By night, fun happens. This evening students have been given permission by the deck crew to play their first ever game of hide and seek! But there's a good deal of fun happening in the day, too. Becky spent some of her free time today making chalk art on the foredeck.

That water bottle? Ms. Curtin's Moai from Easter Island. Oh the places these students have been.

June 9, 2016

Beam reaches and sunny days make for happy sailors. The weather is warm and the AC below deck, quite cool. As if desirable temperatures aren't enough, students were joined yesterday by their one and only Third Officer Michael John Adams who gave his first lecture on navigation. What are the differences between Plane Sailing, Mercator and Great Spheres? How many miles in a degree? Students found out. And they'll be learning more from Mikey about the sun, moon and stars in the coming days in scheduled navigation hours, too. Comparative Politics is studying the consequences of the American Revolution. And in Arts, Media and Culture, students today rounded up a discussion of the controversial Kony 2012 campaign, followed by a close look at videogenic philanthropy in the popular North American youth event, We Day!

June 8, 2016

While exams may be done with, the school year carries on. Students are at work on their extended research essays and yearbook, not to mention a handful of year-end assignments. MLA formatting and how to create a proper works cited were the topics of this morning's informative (if not riveting) essay hour. Outside of the classroom, students write blurbs for the various ports of call to be featured in their yearbook. And yesterday in Arts, Media and Culture, students screened their promotion/propaganda films, to laughter and applause. On deck, our closest shore of Palau Mangkai can be seen.

June 7, 2016

After days of zipping about Singapore—to gardens, a night safari, an opera in the park, Little India and Chinatown—students and faculty visited Universal Studios Singapore yesterday for a much anticipated last hurrah. The thrills were enjoyed. Rollercoasters, stunt shows, motion-simulators and cutting-edge animatronics filled the day. And now the ship has set sail. Sørlandet is back underway, despite a little bit of rain, en route for Hong Kong, students' last port of call. This departure day is a bittersweet one, full of excitement, tinged with sadness that the voyage will soon end. So begins the last sail of the A+ World Academy 2015 – 2016 school year.

June 5, 2016

These are busy days of learning, efficient transit and Asian cuisine. Students recently participated in a night Safari and later, a Muay Thai martial arts workshop. Last night some students attended an opera in the park. The other day they enjoyed a tour of the Supertree Grove in the avant-garde nature park, Gardens by the Bay.

June 4, 2016

We're docked! Sørlandet is alongside in Singapore just outside of Vivo City, not far from Sentosa Island, home to Universal Studios. Students are enjoying shore leave after an exam-filled sail. Stay tuned for pictures and updates of our Field Studies. Here's the ship yesterday as she approached the quay with the help of a tug, and Second Mate Johannes and bowman Jack in the tender.

June 2, 2016

We're almost there! We've taken on a pilot and are motoring in to Singapore. Through their portholes students can see skyscrapers on the horizon. Exams are finished. Our second round of equator crossings is complete. No pollywogs remain aboard. All crew of Sørlandet are now shellbacks. Students themselves organized yesterday's ceremony. They reveled in it. Afterwards they took in all sail, had a brief rinse in the deck pool and went below for a surprise family dinner. Students, faculty and crew attended Tina Appreciation night. Tina has been a volunteer aboard Sørlandet since her second port of call of the A+ school year and will be leaving us in our second last port of call, Singapore. We are grateful to have enjoyed her humor and refreshing candor.

May 31, 2016

There may not be a lot of wind out there, but we're ready for it. Students set sails this morning after colors. Teachers are busy preparing and marking exams. Today's roster is a lengthy one. This morning's exams: history and physics. This afternoon: politics and biology. On a less academic note, we crossed the equator—again! King Neptune himself sent an INMARSAT-C message to Captain Sture, making clear that when examinations are over the ship is to be inspected for pollywogs! And this time they won't be the students, but a handful of maritime crew.

May 30, 2016

If every day were a sunny day, life at sea might be predictable. Today was not. After writing their Arts, Media and Culture exam, students mustered with faculty on main deck to brace and take in sail in the rain. And after nine months at sea, the students and faculty are getting good, speedy, knowledgeable. Today they impressed the deck crew with their saltiness. Headsails were passed, sails were stowed, the MOB boat was tacked and all was squared away before students headed below deck to write their second exam of the day, Mandarin. In the classroom and out, these are a hardworking bunch.

May 29, 2016

We're twenty-eight nautical miles from the island of Pulau Seratu. Not many students can say they wrote exams with such surroundings. While preparation for the year's finals has certainly not been without stress, it's been a lot of fun, too. Teachers have pulled out all the stops to make for engaging, lively, playful study. In Mandarin, Ms. Vivas' students

tested their knowledge of the language, competing against each other in teams. Ms. Curtin's Biology class recently completed their model of the endocrine system, which they mapped—in true A+ fashion—onto a moai (Easter Island statue). Ms. B's students played a game of “Historical Headbands” in which they had to wordlessly arrange historical dates and events (which they were each assigned) into one chronological timeline. And today, exams begin. This morning Ms. Curtin's students write their Chemistry exams, and in the afternoon the student body writes English. Wish them good luck!

May 28, 2016

Today is our last day of regularly scheduled class. Today is also the birthday of our Cook's Mate, Alex! He says hello to his wife in Romania. Exams begin tomorrow. This evening, students will be studying into the night. These are busy school days and busy waters. Last night Sørlandet sailed by a sizeable fishing fleet. Thirty some boats illuminated the horizon like the strung out lights of a Christmas tree. Students gathered on the foredeck to take pictures and enjoy the tangerine sunset.

May 26, 2016

After a week's stay in Surabaya Sørlandet has begun her voyage to Singapore. A full crew change-over took place, too. Students and faculty were sad to say goodbye to those with whom they'd sailed the South Pacific, but glad to see the crew they began the year with return to finish off the year. Classes are back in full swing. Students and teachers busy themselves with review for final exams. Sails were set last night after dinner and a handful of hours motoring away from Surabaya. Today we are thrilled to celebrate the birthday of our only Australian crewmember, Meg, much beloved by students for her “saltiness” and care.

May 24, 2016

We're back! Students and faculty enjoyed a culturally enriching few days away from the ship. Indonesia's Field Studies took them to the Buddhist monument of Borobudur, to the active volcano Mount Bromo and a handful of other unique locations. Stay tuned for a blog detailing our time ashore in A+'s first Asian port of call! In the mean time, here is a shot of the night sky during the annual Waisak Ceremony, in which students sent their own floating candles off under the moonlight.

May 20, 2016

Today A+ students finish up the last of their AP examinations! This afternoon students and faculty board a train out of Surabaya to explore the island of Java. Field Studies over the next three days will take them to Borobudur (the largest Buddhist monument in the world), a coffee plantation and the volcano Mount Bromo!

May 16, 2016

Sunday was a fun day. Students took a break from studies and the heat and humidity in Sørlandet's deck pool. Becky had a chance to show off her arts and crafts skills, Antonio his customer service sensibilities and Francisco and Annie their knack for dress-up in a Beauty and the Beast themed family dinner, the last family dinner of this maritime crew's rotation. Bogdan and Alex cooked up a fine meal of chicken and steak. Afterward Chief Mate John fired up his latte machine and surprised students and crew with a celebratory coffee house hosted in the banjer. Today it's business as usual. Sørlandet has one more full day at sea before arriving in Surabaya.

May 15, 2016

Did you know that Indonesia is made up of 17, 508 islands? Did you know that Jakarta is the world's largest city without a metro system? We saw land yesterday! Indonesia is on the horizon. Lookouts are especially busy ringing in fishing boats and other vessels. It is a strange thing to be in more crowded waters after so long alone at sea. The May 17th Committee is finishing up the details of upcoming Norwegian festivities. Classes continue as usual and students and crew are taking in sail as we approach the home stretch of our voyage to Surabaya.

May 14, 2016

Did you know Marco Polo was the first European to visit Indonesia? We're nearing arrival. Department representatives had a WEC meeting today to discuss workplace safety. Ms. Hills' English class has a close read of the inaugural speeches of American presidents. AP students receive the results of their mock exams. Ms. Vivas' Mandarin class studies and exercises vocabulary related to visiting a friend's house. And tonight we set the clocks back an hour and travel through time!

May 13, 2016

It's a birthday filled week. Today Jack turns 18! The crew celebrated him this morning during colors with the usual buckets of water. He's celebrating right now by writing a mock AP English exam in the crew mess. Department heads meet today to discuss arrival plans in Surabaya. Classes and studies orbit around Indonesia. The student crew are muscling through the first drafts of their extended research essays, due May 17th. Some are even beginning to apply a little polish. Mr. Line's Media class continues their viewing of Joshua Oppenheimer's enlightening documentary the Act of Killing. Doctor MacArthur is teaching his students how to solve equations that previously required three pages of calculation in one line!

May 12, 2016

A little rain never hurt. After a week of hot and humid weather, the air has cleared up. Preparation for AP exams in Indonesia continues. Ms. Hills' and Ms. B's Human

Geography and World History students today write their mock AP exams in the crew mess. If not studying for upcoming tests, students work away at their extended research essays. In other news: a committee to organize the 17th of May has been formed. The group will coordinate cultural festivities to be had on the upcoming Norwegian holiday!

May 11, 2016

Today we are happy to celebrate Francisco's birthday! He wishes his family in Mexico and Canada well. This morning he received the customary congratulations at sea: a song at colors, accompanied by two refreshing buckets of water. Below deck Ms. Curtin's AP Chemistry students write a mock-exam in the crew mess, in preparation for the real thing in Surabaya. Shooting stars aplenty were reported last night. This morning Sørlandet began to enjoy more favorable weather. Our Chief Engineer switched off the motor and students and crew loosed canvass. Morning fitness and deck rinse were cancelled to instead harness the wind! The ship continues west toward Surabaya, and with good speed.

May 10, 2016

It's sunny skies and studying as usual at sea. This photo is from whale spotting yesterday. In the likes of mathematical whizzes in Hollywood movies, Doctor MacArthur and his students are calculating distance and location using triangulation. Mandarin students write a quiz this afternoon. Ms. B's World History class explores the art of the Renaissance period. In Biology, Ms. Curtin and her students study the endocrine system. And in Arts, Media and Culture, Mr. Line and his students continue to discuss the representation of real life events in various artistic mediums.

May 9, 2016

Yesterday the deck pool stayed open well into the night so that students and crew could enjoy a movie from the pool! The evening's entertainment? JAWS. Talk about a 4-D experience. Below deck, Ms. Hill's politics students compare the governmental structures of select states; Per is taking a close look at the similarities and differences of Russia and Iran. In Human Geography, students review the many types of maps used in social sciences for their upcoming AP exams. And just this morning the six to eight watch spotted whales not so far in the distance. As the sun rose, a small pod of dwarf minke whales flanked Sørlandet

May 8, 2016

Happy Sunday, Mother's Day and Crazy Hat Day! That's right, students and crew are marking the beginning of the week with wild headwear. Sombreros, baseball caps, berets, tilly and cowboy hats—they're all on display on deck and below, the one day of the year they're allowed in the banjer. Another fun surprise is also on the way...students on their off hours may cool down in the heat by using the deck pool. Mandarin students prepare for an upcoming quiz. Ms. B.'s World History students are at work on mapping trade

routes in the time of Christopher Columbus. And in Biology, Ms. Curtin and her class study excretory systems. Tonight, all crewmembers dine in the banjer where galley will host family dinner.

May 6, 2016

We're time travelling again! Today at 1400, Sørlandet sets the clocks back to 1300. The result? An extra hour to rest and perhaps enjoy the pool on deck. Yesterday we celebrated Cinco de Mayo. Bogdan (Chief Cook) prepared a feast of tacos. Los Hermanos Mexicanos wore a sombrero. Galley played the romantic soundtrack of Zorro and the music of Enrique Iglesias, for a little festivity. This morning, Ms. B. led yoga on main deck during the sunrise. Ms. Curtin's Biology students continue their studies of the human brain. Ms. Hills and her English class analyze the language and rhetoric of historical political speeches. And all the while Sørlandet sails closer to her destination of Indonesia.

May 4, 2016

Our sail of the Indian Ocean has officially begun! For the first time in a long time, Sørlandet has company at sea. She saw many vessels and shores in the Torres Straits. Shallow waters proved fruitful when it came to fishing; yesterday the crew caught two mackerel and a barracuda! (The first mackerel was too small to eat, the barracuda was tossed back in the sea.) Below deck, students as always are hard at work writing their extended research essays and preparing for their AP exams. In Ms. Curtin's Biology class, students learn about the brain and in chemistry they study "equilibrium."

May 3, 2016

We're sailing through the Torres Straits! Sørlandet's first ever Pacific Crossing is complete. In English, Ms. Hills and her students have a close reading of the language of Martin Luther King's famous "I have a dream" speech. Students screen their recent video assignments in Arts, Media and Culture. In World History they continue their studies of the Aztecs and their practices of human sacrifice. All those writing AP exams prepare for them nightly. Otherwise students are hard at work on their extended research essays, the first drafts of which are due in Surabaya. Temperatures rise on deck as Sørlandet continues to make her way north, but students shield themselves from the sun with big, green tilly hats gifted to them by their high school friends made in Australia.

May 1, 2016

We're back at sea! After a refreshing rest at anchor and joyful days spent alongside, Sørlandet is making way for Indonesia. She sails outside of the Great Barrier Reef for the Torres Straits. Faculty are kicking into high gear to prepare students for their upcoming AP exams. Students are still abuzz after a week's stay in Cairns. They enjoyed exotic sites, cuisine and even made new friends. As she sailed away yesterday, Australians young and old gathered on the quay to wish Sørlandet fair winds and wave her goodbye.

April 30, 2016

It's always fun getting to show people your home. Today Sørlandet and the A+ World Academy were thrilled to welcome aboard the people of Cairns for an "Open Ship!" Students guided a whopping 450 guests about the decks, before gearing up to set sail for Indonesia! Here's Annie at her post on the gangway.

April 28, 2016

Curious what it's like to sail and study at sea? Interested in the world's oldest fully-rigged ship? The A+ World Academy is proud to welcome the city of Cairns aboard its campus at sea, the Norwegian sail-training vessel Sørlandet. The gangway is open to the public for an "Open Ship" Saturday, April 30th from 1000 to 1300 at the Marlin Marina. Come see the vessel before she embarks on a 17 day voyage to Indonesia!

April 25, 2016

A+ is having a whirlwind of a stay in Cairns! Yesterday's Field Studies were once in a lifetime. Students snorkelled and dove the Great Barrier Reef! Corals, sea cucumbers, clams, fish, sharks and turtles were all on display. Today A+ students hosted Trinity Anglican School aboard their home, Sørlandet. The student crew graciously toured their Australian "buddies" about the ship. Together they ate breakfast, explored the decks and banjer—even went to colors! An orienteering activity about the wharf organized by TAS followed. And after, A+ World Academy faculty and students ferried to Fitzroy Island where they visited the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre and learned what marine biologists are doing to protect the gentle species.

April 23, 2016

We made it! After retrieving the anchor yesterday morning, Sørlandet took on a pilot, left the Coral Sea and made for the Trinity Inlet. She is now docked in the convenient and comfortable Marlin Marina, a short walk from shops, restaurants, a lagoon and scenic esplanade. In preparation for snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef, students, faculty and crew enjoyed a "Reef Teach" last night. The presentation led by a resident marine biologist detailed the various species abundant in the reef's waters—corals, fish, turtles, rays and anemones—and how to identify them, so that all can better appreciate their time exploring one of the great wonders of the world. Today students enjoy a full day of shore leave before a week busting at the seams with Field Studies activities!

April 22, 2016

Sørlandet's Safety Management System is second to none. We regularly practice drills to ensure preparedness in the event of emergency for our students, faculty and crew. Here's a shot of our recent Dry Evacuation Drill at anchor in Cairns. As part of the exercise,

students and teachers lowered themselves from the main deck into a small exercise only life raft. The aim? Not to get wet!

April 20, 2016

Students eagerly await Cairns. They are currently preparing a video presentation to share with an Australian host school. The Field Studies project requires students to interview faculty and crewmembers with regards to day-to-day life and to then edit clips from their year this far to better explain to Australia who we are and where we've been. In other news: Becky has recently struck a deal with Captain Sune to curate an "art wall" in the starboard banjer nook. The wall, for the students, by the students, features student work and educational posters. On deck, rust is being busted and paint is being applied thickly, weather permitting. Students and crew bookend the day with swim calls, made all the more fun by a rope swing.

April 19, 2016

Greetings from Australia! These are sunny, steady days spent at anchor with reduced day and night watch. Students, faculty and crew alike are grateful for the extra sleep. And everyone has been grateful for the chance to swim, before sunset, after sunrise. Drills will be had today, as always to ensure topnotch safety practices for Sørlandet and her crew in the event of emergency. Otherwise, classes carry on as usual—as usual as classes aboard the world's oldest full-rigged ship can be; Ms. Hills' Politics class was held on the bowsprit yesterday; Ms. Curtin and her students are shooting musical chemistry videos from various locations and angles on deck; and we'll be time travelling today! At 1400 we set the clocks back to 1300.

April 18, 2016

Sørlandet is now at anchor outside Cairns. She maintained good speed yesterday and thanks to the hard work of students and crew, tacked around the Great Barrier Reef and dropped the hook in the late afternoon. Students went aloft to take in all sail in time for family dinner in the banjer. After tacos (made with the help of Francisco and Antonio) and ice cream, Matheis, a volunteer crewmember gave a presentation detailing his time in Greenland as part of the Danish military's Sirius program. For two years he lived in the arctic with little company, navigating the icy landscape with sled dogs. His photographs and stories—of icebergs, aurora borealis, walruses and polar bears—were nothing short of spectacular. Students were spellbound. And, when the slideshow rapped up, they were asked to reflect themselves on what this year away may mean for them, what they'll continue to discuss, the memories they'll have, the challenges they'll face adapting to life on land. Classes continue today and in those to come, as usual while at anchor. Students and teachers will happily be studying in a more physically stable environment.

April 17, 2016

Happy Sunday! Students today enjoy a day of rest. No classes! They were also relieved of their night watches yesterday by their teachers. Today marks the end of Harry Potter weekend. A tri-wizard tournament is in store. But there is also excitement on the horizon—literally. Sørlandet approaches her anchorage in Cairns. Depending on her speed throughout the day she could be dropping the hook tonight!

April 16, 2016

Welcome to the wizarding world! It's Harry Potter weekend. The faculty of A+ World Academy have arranged a thematic few days of magic. Yesterday students were personally invited by owl-delivered-mail to attend a school of witchcraft and wizardry. The banjer was turned into the great hall! After dinner, students were called up one by one by their professors to be given houses by the Sorting Hat. Today students in Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff compete for house points in their usual classes and during their watch on deck! In Field Studies students are preparing media to share with a school in Australia to better explain shipboard life. And in Arts, Media and Culture students have taken a close look at the blocking techniques of Alfred Hitchcock to help them with their own blocking assignment which requires them in groups to storyboard and shoot a scene of dialogue on the foredeck.

April 15, 2016

Last night on lookout Simon rang in a ship for the first time since Panama; we're nearing Australia! Ms. Hills and her English students take a close look at the work of Jonathan Swift and the birth of satire. Each student is tasked with creating his or her own "Modest Proposal." Using the ideas of Descartes and Newton, Doctor MacArthur and his brainy students are determining the calculus of rainbows to explain their shape, location and color. He and his students are also searching for the solution to a question posed to them by Captain Sune: what is the cost of a litre of potable water aboard the ship? Now that students have crafted their chopsticks in Chinese Language and Culture, they are now learning how to use them, and discussing proper etiquette at the Chinese table.

April 14, 2016

It's not all school work at the A+ World Academy. During the evening students hold physical watches: helm, safety and lookout. During the day they are involved in more diverse routines pertaining to the ship's maintenance—rewarding and fun work! Here's Antonio taking a break from sanding the spanker boom to "sand" his classmate, Sam!

April 13, 2016

There's more than reading, writing and arithmetic onboard Sørlandet. Doctor MacArthur's physics students have begun circuit analysis. Linn and Antonio explained and presented to their writing class the importance of positive statements and the active

voice (helpful tips to bear in mind while working on extended research essays). Ms. Hills' Politics class learns of Nigeria and the deplorable tactics of Boko Haram. In Biology, Ms. Curtin's students study the cardiovascular and respiratory systems. And in world History Ms. B. and her students explore the Dark Ages. Above deck, four shooting stars were reported on night watch, and one satellite!

April 12, 2016

Congrats Mac! Mackenzie was recently accepted to the University of Victoria—with an entrance scholarship! In other news, Sørlandet will be conducting her regular drills today to ensure proper protocol in the event of an emergency. Thanks to the proceeds of those who visited the ship for deck tours in Noumea, student council has purchased candies, chocolates and other treats to sell in their own "Slop Shop." Students both manage the inventory and finances of their tiny establishment, open for business once a week. Ms. Vivas and AB Drew have collaborated to deliver something extra special to Chinese Language and Culture class: chopsticks. Today and in those to come, students will craft their very own Asian utensils, combining carpentry skills with their knowledge of Chinese culture.

April 11, 2016

Students rotated into their new night watches yesterday. By coincidence, a mere 28 shooting stars were seen! Family dinner in the banjer consisted of thick lasagna followed up with cookies and cream ice cream. In class, students are taking up exams and receiving their marks for the third term. The overall results suggest increasing success. Students writing Advanced Placement exams in Surabaya are buckling down; all AP students are to attend study hall each evening in preparation. In other news: thanks to their efforts in a recent Field Studies Scavenger Hunt, and the charitable donation of one seasoned volunteer (now disembarked) students were thrilled to receive a new microwave and toaster from Ms. B.! Breakfast just got more exciting.

April 10, 2016

We're bound for east Australia! Sørlandet is back at sea after a warm and hospitable stay in Noumea. Students participated in a Field Studies scavenger hunt that challenged them to navigate the city and discover the history of New Caledonia. They visited the Tjibaou Cultural Centre and there learned of the Kanak people during a memorable Pathway Show. On their own time they visited the picturesque Baie des Citrons and Ile au Canards, amongst other destinations. With an accessible quay, Sørlandet was a magnet for locals. She drew media, onlookers and mariners keen for a peek of the ship. Students, faculty and crew held an open deck tour during her stay in Noumea in which 302 souls were welcomed aboard! She departed yesterday afternoon. Students loosed sail as islanders snapped photographs and waved goodbye from shore.

April 4, 2016

Surprise! On account of superb seamanship and favorable wind Sørlandet is arriving in port early, again! Today she will take on a pilot in the afternoon to make her way into Noumea, New Caledonia. Exams will continue as usual today and tomorrow. Students and faculty are exempt from arrival duties on deck so as to focus on academics. Students will not have shore leave today, but they will benefit from a more physically stable environment, and, being alongside will have reduced hours of evening duties; gangway watch only. This morning's exam: Calculus. This afternoon: Politics and Biology.

April 3, 2016

Happy Sunday! Today is dedicated to the second of four days of exams. This morning: Physics and World History. This afternoon: Mandarin. It's a mentally challenging sail, but students are superbly demonstrating their time management skills, which—with the schedule life at sea demands—have seen great improvement since the beginning of the year.

April 1, 2016

April Fool's! Not all pranks are unwelcome; tonight students and crew enjoy a delectable breakfast for dinner! Below deck, students and teachers review course content in preparation for tomorrow, the first of four days of exams. Chemistry and Physics students pore over the results of their recent labs in Suva. Above deck, helmsmen continue to steer Sørlandet with efficiency. She is making good speed on her voyage to Noumea. Today's Manitoba fun fact, brought to you as always by Annie and Mackenzie: every February Manitobans participate in Festival du Voyageur, which celebrates their fur trading heritage.

March 31, 2016

Sørlandet is back underway, albeit for a short sail. Captain Sune, officers, crew, students and faculty successfully sailed the ship “off of the hook” yesterday, through two reefs without motor or pilot! Prior to departure, students enjoyed one last day of shore leave, taking the time to contact friends and family back home, stock up on snacks and continue research on their extended essays. They are now preparing for exams which will be held in all subjects, beginning April 2nd. Sørlandet is making good speed and—we are excited to report that while this email was being typed—she just caught a mahi-mahi; Bogdan, our cook is proud.

March 24, 2016

Students, crew and teachers climbed masts to stow canvas in the moonlight. This morning's alternative fitness was hosted by AB Anita, who taught ballroom dance on main deck. Anita herself is a semi-professional ballroom dancer and has experience instructing, albeit on flatter surfaces not cluttered with lines of rope.

March 22, 2016

Yesterday Sørlandet Sailed past Vanua Vatu while students were doubling down on studies. A handful of classes have been shuffled into evening timeslots so that students may enjoy a bit of early shore leave should Sørlandet arrive early. Manitoba fun fact: Manitobans have their own version of the Loch Ness Monster, Manipogo which is said to live in the depths of Lake Winnipeg.

March 21, 2016

We are skipping across the International Date Line today. Sørlandet will set the clocks and dates to Tuesday March 22nd on Monday March 21st...time travel indeed. In class news: Politics students continue their analysis of Iran's governmental structure. In Human Geography Ms. Hill's teaches about LDCs and MDCs in a series of classes devoted to the topic of global development. Ms. Curtin's Chemistry students present their "podcasts" today.

March 20, 2016

Fun fact: if Sørlandet is sailing at ten knots and a student sprints from the heads (toilets and showers at the bow of the ship) to the aft deck, he or she will be in the same spot, geographically. But no student would run on deck—safety comes first! That isn't to say that fun can't be had. Captain Sune opened the deck pool yesterday. Students, faculty and crew took turns taking a dip in the refreshing water. After coasting at a leisurely two knots, Sørlandet picked up speed last night. In the galley, Sam and Annie generously baked cinnamon buns for the entire crew. However, not all students will enjoy them. As part of a cultural participatory project, world history students have elected to give up various comforts to better experience and have a deeper appreciation of Ramadan. Arts, Media and Culture today features student presentations and critiques of renown and historical filmmakers. And in an English class focused on writing, Ms. Hills lectures on the importance of clarity.

March 19, 2016

This morning's fitness: yoga on main deck during sunrise with Hunga Ha'apai in the background. Yesterday's afternoon view: seabirds, pilot whales and the misty shores of Tonga. It's a good time to study aboard Sørlandet. Last night those lucky few who found hidden four-leaf clovers about the ship were rewarded at family dinner with oatmeal raisin cookies, baked specially by student council to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Today, having sailed past the mentioned constitutional monarchy of Tonga, Sørlandet enjoys refreshingly calm seas. She voyages with all sail set, save one, for Fiji.

March 18, 2016

For St. Patrick's Day yesterday, students, faculty and crew were dressed in green. Fifteen four-leaf clovers were hidden about the ship. Those who found them received prizes from

student council. All enjoyed a family dinner in the banjer as part of the festivities. Mandarin students tested their knowledge in vocabulary tournaments. Ms. Curtin's students put the finishing touches on their chemistry podcasts. World History class discussed the rituals of Ramadan. Winds have died down and swells have become milder, but Sørlandet is still making good speed on her sail to Fiji!

March 17, 2016

Doctor MacArthur's Physics class is studying how springs function in a mass. In Biology, Ms. Curtin's teaches genetic mutation. Ms. Vivas' students are presenting skits in Mandarin today. And in Arts, Media and Culture, students work on two assignments: a montage video and a presentation of a select filmmaker and his or her body of work. It's wet and windy on deck, but students and crew are dressed for the rain and approaching the day with smiles, happy to sail the Pacific and to have started their morning with scrambled eggs.

March 16, 2016

Doctor MacArthur's Math students are using differential equations for hilarious and practical purposes: to calculate a carton of milk's rate of cooling in a mini-fridge and to determine the rate at which a rumor will spread in a confined environment with a limited population. In World History, students continue to study Islam. In Politics, Islam and its relationship to Iran are explored. Calculus students are at work using logarithmic functions. In Mandarin, students learn vocabulary from their new unit: hobbies. On deck, volunteers, students and maritime crew recently fired up the emergency hose for exercise purposes and enjoyed a good mist on main deck. Sørlandet continues to make good speed on her sail to Fiji. Today she'll set the clock back an hour in the afternoon allowing students additional study time.

March 15, 2016

Sailors get creative during their down time on long passages at sea. Last night Watch 3 organized a much enjoyed and hilarious round of "sock golf" following family dinner. The game involved participants honing in on multiple "holes" scattered throughout the banjer. Faculty, students, volunteers and maritime crew alike partook in the fun. Bogdan and Alex prepared a scrumptious cheesecake to mark the end of the week and Per's twentieth birthday. Today, Captain Sune meets with students individually to check in on their seafaring experience thus far and to gift them some fine chocolate purchased on his time off in Paris. Sweets, these days, seem to be the theme. With a mild swell from the south, Sørlandet continues west to Fiji.

March 14, 2016

She may not be sailing past the Cook Islands today, but, weather permitting Sørlandet will have a swim call after lunch! Later tonight students, faculty and maritime crew will have their first family dinner in the banjer since the crew changeover in Tahiti. This

morning, all aboard enjoyed bacon and eggs. Life advice from Mackenzie: spend your money on shoes or a bed; if you're not in one, you're in the other. A little known fact from Manitoba, home of Watch 5 (Annie and Mackenzie): Winnipeg is the Slurpee capital of the world.

March 13, 2016

We are happy to celebrate Per's twentieth birthday! He was warmly welcomed with song and customary buckets of water at colors this morning. Per hopes everything is going well for his parents in Sri Lanka and sends his regards to aunt and uncle there as well. In Mandarin, students practice conversation through dialogues. Biology students are at work on a project that explores mass extinction. In Ms. B's World History classes students map the exchange of goods and culture from Africa and Europe to the Americas. In addition to Per's birthday, today is made all the more special by the Cook Islands; Sørlandet is currently sailing past Roa Tonga on her way to Fiji!

March 11, 2016

Fun fact: Chief Mate John and researchers once placed trackers on boobie birds to monitor their flight. Their findings? Boobies travel far, some even 500 nautical miles away before returning home to their nests. History students are learning about the origins of Islam. In Arts, Media and Culture students are preparing presentations on a selected filmmaker/auteur. Yesterday Bogdan baked delicious chocolate chip cookies. To help with their extended research essays, students are each presenting on a given tip from Strunk and White's *Elements of Style* in Writing class. Sunny skies and smooth seas are enjoyed on deck. Sørlandet has headed south where more wind awaits to help her carry on in good time to Suva.

March 10, 2016

After an enjoyable extended stay in Pape'ete Sørlandet sailed from Tahiti yesterday. Students who had yet to apply for visas to our eagerly anticipated port, Cairns, Australia, did so with the guidance of faculty in the morning. Others bought a last few snacks and treats for their watch bins before heading back to sea. It was a bittersweet departure; the maritime crew rotated in Pape'ete, students were sad to see the mates and deckhands they've sailed the Pacific with go, but excited to see those with whom they've sailed the Caribbean return. Sørlandet sails in fair weather and through calm seas on her way to Fiji.

March 3, 2016

Today's arrival day schedule accommodated the following classes: Mandarin, Field Studies, AP Chemistry and Human Geography. After lunch and banjer cleaning, students reported to deck in uniform to stow sails and welcome aboard our pilot who guided the ship to her dock.

March 2, 2016

Last night, student council held a community banjer meeting in an open forum for those who occupy Sørlandet's most central living space. In Ms. Curtin's chemistry class, students are working on a podcast project that explores the roles of various elements that are important to our ship. In AP chemistry, students are finishing up a class set of over seventy flashcards that will help them prepare for the upcoming AP exam in Indonesia. In Biology, students are working on either stop-motion photography or a children's storybook that depicts one of earth's mass extinction events, and students are continuing to solidify their knowledge of the Central Dogma of molecular biology. On deck, students and maritime crew are readying for port, squaring away and hauling out the mooring lines as we approach Tahiti. This will be the first time Sørlandet's been alongside since early December!

February 27, 2016

Yesterday, English students wrapped up their study of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. In Politics students reviewed Chinese government in a game of Jeopardy! On deck, Marieke helped Meg with a project, lashing the bowsprit's hammock. Aloft, Sam helped Aaron baseball stitch chafing gear onto a main stay while Sørlandet continued its sail to Tahiti!

February 26, 2016

We believe in being prepared. Safety is our highest priority. That is why we practiced routine emergency drills yesterday. Sørlandet has sailed all of the world's oceans without out any major incidents. Our winds have been fair but we prepare for the unexpected.

February 25, 2016

Jack's been showing his "saltiness" the last few days, acting (with guidance and success) as the leader of his own watch! In addition to his academic coursework he has been calling sail commands, delegating physicals and liaising with the AB and officer of the watch to make sure that the ship is sailing well.

February 24, 2016

At around 0200 last night Sørlandet passed an island close to Ms. Bartholomew's heart, Maria Island! Below deck, Biology students learn about DNA replication. Geography students discuss agricultural practices in various ports of call. In a cross-disciplinary exercise with the help of Ms. Vivas, World History students are learning to write the names of Chinese dynasties in Mandarin! Doctor MacArthur and his students are calculating the amount of energy required to pump out water from ballast!