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NEWS FROM ASCA

An ongoing series of reports, articles, and news items about the Arlington Sister City Association's programs and activities, plus news from its Sister Cities

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Reims Middle-School Visitors Enjoy Warm Arlington Hospitality Despite Blustery March Weather

by **Melissa Cabocel**

This year's cohort of visiting students from the College Schuman middle school in Reims arrived in Arlington during a cold and blustery March. But even the weather could not stop the 19 students and two chaperones from enjoying the full slate of touring as planned, apart from spending the coldest, windiest day inside the Air and Space museum instead of walking the monuments, which was postponed to a milder day.



Visiting Reims middle-school students and their hosts gathered for a welcome picnic on the grounds of the Iwo Jima Memorial on March 17, 2017.

The French guests spent two of their 10 days spread out among all six Arlington middle schools, accompanying their hosts to classes. The weekend was spent within host families, seeing local sights not on the group agenda, visiting areas a bit further afield than the National Mall, and experiencing American family life firsthand. One visiting student even got to enjoy an American-style birthday party with her host family.



Inès Nacih of Reims celebrated her birthday in Arlington with hostess Rosemary Hill and family.

The balance of their trip was spent touring museums, the U.S. Capitol, and the Newseum with their chaperones. And the group could not resist an afternoon of bowling before heading to Dulles Airport for the flight back to France.



Reims students at Bowl America on the day of departure

Melissa Cabocel is a member of the board of directors of the Arlington Sister City Association and coordinator of the Arlington-Reims Middle-School Exchange.

The Arlington Sister City Association (ASCA) is a nonprofit organization established in 1993. ASCA works to enhance and promote Arlington's international profile and foster productive exchanges in education, commerce, culture, and the arts.

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