

The jump of a lifetime!

By Elena Brown, Y6 Peak School

“Thump” “Thump”

I could hear my heart jerking around in my chest like a lion trying to escape his den. There was only a couple more seconds till I plummeted into the freezing waters below me. I thought I had waited a lifetime for this chance but this time it just didn't feel right. Now I was looking down at the deep waters and I couldn't help but be frightened like an rabbit in a lions den about to become a tasty dinner .

Then I heard the words , “3 , 2, ...” The words I couldn't take in, the words that felt like screams in my ear. I could now feel the furious wind blowing and blowing almost as though it wanted me to fall to my death. Now I was walking like the captive of a pirate, walking and walking to the edge of the plank ready to jump into the unknown. I felt petrified, yet so eager to do it also like I had to do it.

“ 1 ” echoed through my head as I slowly became aware of my surroundings. The people behind me were all cheering and laughing as my instructors were cheering in the background, but for some reason it encouraged me, I felt good, I felt stronger ... “Go” Then there was silence, But I knew that was it, my call. I must have been daydreaming for a while now. Slowly and carefully I stepped off the short yet sturdy plank. I started to see my life flashing before my eyes. I was regretting going first on the jetty jump.

“SPLASH” After what felt like months or maybe even years I fell lightly into the menacingly deep and freezing waters. I felt great and that was a understatement I felt amazing, I felt terrific, I felt more self confident than I had ever felt before. On my face was a smile that looked so powerful and big, that whoever looked at it immediately had a huge smile on their face .

The Beam

By Tom Scapinello (Y6, Peak School)

20 minutes, 12 people. We had to get them all over a 1.5-meter beam. To most people, it seemed impossible. It was a tall thick long beam. All 12 people had to go over you have to step on someone's thigh and then the person at the top will pull you up and then you would slide down on the other side.

"Come on we have to set the time limit!" yelled some of my groupmates. "I think we can do it in 15 minutes." said a person but someone said "But what happens If we make a mistake?". After that there was a bit of silence because some people thought about it and some people agreed and some did not. I thought that we should make it more time in case it went wrong but some people did not, so then we started a big argument. Finally we settled on 20 minutes.

I was supposed to be the first one up so no one would be there to help me from above, after that I had to help all the other 11 people.

"Ugh!" I groaned as everyone pushed me up slowly. It was really hard and painful getting but finally, I got up and I crossed my legs around the log.

I was the first person up and I was the strongest one so my job was to help everyone over. The rules were simple. Only two people were allowed on the log, the people on the other side could come back from under, the instructors can't help and you have to do it in the time limit so I was the one helping and one person would step onto people's knees and then there would be people supporting them at the back and then the person will get over the log with my help and slide down the other side.

Once I was on top the first person went up suddenly, without a warning and I had to grab them and pull them up immediately. It was hard to grab everyone up and push them up from below but everyone helped and after a while, there was only one person left to get over the beam. I thought about 15 minutes passed so we had to be quick. It felt weird that 10 people were on the other side and my ankle was hurt everyone was tired and fewer and fewer people helped and the last person was Ian, he was really, really hard to get over. But we pulled him up together and we made it! We did it in only 13 minutes!

The camp

On Monday morning people were either nervous or excited about the coming week, the hall had erupted with the noise of fifty-eight Year 6 children. There was just one bus ride between them and Outward Bound.

Outward Bound is located by the coastline of Sai Kung which makes it ideal for water activities. The 5-day course has been done by students at Peak School for over 20 years. The aim of the camp was for the Year 6 students to develop their self-management skills by having to organize themselves when they woke up when they went to bed and having to pitch their own tents.

Then they were able to do some team building activities. The students were particularly excited for the jetty jump in which you jump off a jetty in a 4.5-meter drop into the ocean and wait and encourage your teammates to do the jump unless you are last then you just get out of the freezing ocean instead of wait for a few minutes. "I like the jetty jump because it is an improvement of bravery, and the log where you have to use teamwork to get everyone over the log.", said Zachary Hull. "I like the log activity because it was challenging and it needed teamwork", said Aki Tanaka.

In conclusion, the camp was good for teaching the students life skills and safety when jumping off a jetty. The camp was enjoyed by most and is to be remembered by the students forever.

By William Blythe (Y6, Peak School)