



5 FIS Students, 5 FIS Moms, 1 GREAT Experience! Tanvi Kapur, Archana Kapur, Rena, Margy, Alicia, Olga, Anna, Christina, Hannah, Amy



Not a Vacation but an Education

India...what to expect? My family had done our research with travel books, online sites and friends that had traveled or lived in India but nothing could have prepared us for this wonderful experience.

Every morning as soon as we set foot outside, India would unfurl itself right in front of our eyes. It's like a game; giving you a little nudge as if to say, "come on - trust me." So you forget any ideas you had about controlling your trip, and simply let go.

Amid the extremes of poverty and wealth there seems to be a sense of contentment and a happiness factor that is hard to put into words. Delhi gets under your skin - there's something so familiar about it that after a day or two you already feel at home.

Five mothers traveled with their Grade 10 girls whose hearts were focused on service. These girls are the co-founders of the student lead club called VFI - Vision For India. Their goal was to work hands on with the students at NAB (National Association for the Blind) in New Delhi. Their objective over the last two years was to create awareness about VFI among the FIS student community. We were joined by Upper School faculty member Rhonna Jessome, who was a great asset. This trip was not a Spring Break holiday. It was a trip for all of us to touch the lives of children at the NAB school.

Looking back, I am so proud that these five girls could work with such ease and confidence with children that have no sight and limited English, and come away with so much. This resulted in new friends, and a new found spirit for life and a thankfulness for what they have.

My daughter Hannah summed it all up very well: "They can't see with their eyes, but they can feel so much with their hearts." During the week the girls worked hands on learning braille, recording textbooks, traveling to local markets led by the NAB students. Now, during monthly VFI meetings at FIS, our students will SKYPE with the students at NAB to continue building the relationship. Even with such a brief visit, we learned much more from the NAB students than they learned from us.

*Amy Schmidt,
FIS Parent*

