

Toronto students love rainy days in Scotland

EARLIER THIS MONTH, a group of Toronto-area high school students left for Europe to study history in Greece and Italy and literature in Scotland and Ireland during July. The group, 33 in all, are taking part in a program that is accredited by the Peel District School Board through the Centre for Education and Training and run by Global Journeys of Mississauga. During the month, we

will be running letters and accounts of the students' adventures. Here's what they have to say about Scotland:

The rain pours down around me, soaking me to the bone, and my umbrella is back in my dorm room. It is my first time in Europe — Edinburgh, Scotland to be exact, and I'm cold, wet and having a great time!

Despite the weather, the city is one

of the most amazing places I have ever been. There are so many old buildings, each one more interesting than the last. The food, though, is a bit of an adjustment for me. There are no chocolate chip cookies here — biscuits only! Looking elsewhere for a sugar-fix, I discovered my new favourite dessert in the Deacon's House Cafe on the Royal Mile: Caramel Shortbread, a three-layer sweet of traditional shortbread on the bottom, a caramel-honey layer in the middle, topped with chocolate. Wrap it in "cling flin," which I now understand to be saran wrap, and I am ready to go.

Right now, the sun is shining and the sky is blue. Ten minutes from now, who knows? Needless to say, my umbrella is my new best friend.

Laura Winter
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We have finished our first week in Edinburgh. The main highlight for me so far is having the opportunity to go to a lecture at The National Library of Scotland on "Children's Literature in the Media," and afterwards, seeing the original manuscript of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. It was really interesting being able to see her original writing, things that she had left out of the story, complete with the spelling mistakes and



GLOBAL JOURNEY: Toronto students studying in Scotland report that while wet, "Edinburgh (above) is an amazing place."

grammatical errors of the most popular book for kids in today's culture. Also, being able to see the cafés in which she would do all of her writing was very cool. I'm happy that I have had the opportunity to see things that I

otherwise would not have been able to see and hope there will be more to come. Cheers!

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