

# WALEX NEWSLETTER

Week 0 - Hello World!

July 2, 2019

*Welcome to UC Berkeley!*



## A big, big welcome! 06.30.2019

One arriving to San Francisco airport, the students smiled tiredly in relief. After 17 hours on a plane, some stared in awe at the view of the Bay Bridge while others were too tired to even open their eyes. The residential and assistant counselors warmly welcomed them at Ehrman Hall, the place they will call home for the next two weeks. Once inside, students picked up a welcome folder with their room keys, meal cards, T-shirt, and fresh Taiwanese pastries.







The residential and assistant counselors performed several fun skits to educate the students on proper dorm behavior and etiquette. These skits included: how to keep your room clean, our no-bullying policy, being responsible for possessions, speaking in English, and The students then met in their home groups, where they got to know each other and learned more about program expectations.



The students took great interest in the billiards and ping pong tables in the lobby, staying up all the way until bedtime. Other students also delivered leftover food from dinner to distribute to the local homeless. One of the students said that this experience made them feel sympathetic.



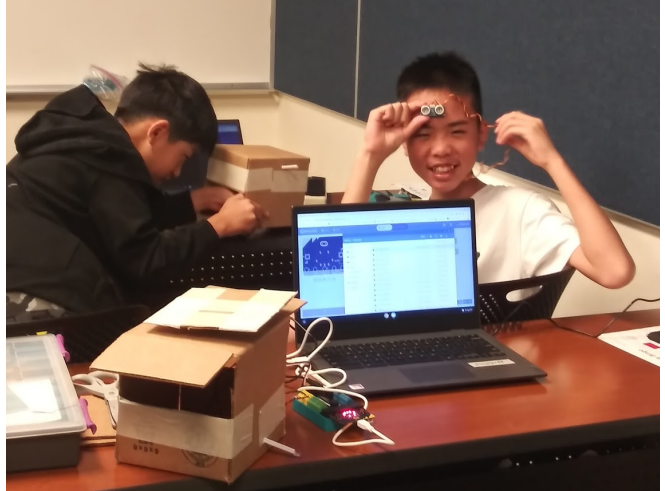


## An exhilarating time at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom! 06.31.2019

The following day, the entire group made its way to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. The bus was filled with excited laughter, which turned into nervous smiles as we approached the park and the scary rollercoasters came into view. At the park, they enjoyed a spectrum of thrill throughout the day from touching stingrays to screaming their lungs out on the Medusa ride. The students had lunch at the “Beach Grove” where they enjoyed a vast selection of American cuisine (and no soda!). No matter what activities the students decided to participate in at the amusement park, everyone had fun and peacefully fell asleep on the ride home.









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## First day of class 07.01.2019

Monday was the first day of class. The students were divided into three rooms and greeted by the big smiles of their professors. They were seated in pairs in front of laptops and worked diligently to create a cardboard version of a satellite. Using the program Micro:bit and Hummingbird kit, they recreated thrusters so the satellite would spin clockwise and counterclockwise. The next step was to create a shield flap using motion sensing that would open and close depending on the distance away from an object. The students actively participated in class and showed their determination to tackle any challenges despite being jet lagged.

