# OUR EXCHANGE WITH ALPHARETTA HIGH SCHOOL

Increíble, emocionante e inolvidable,… estos son solo unos cuantos adjetivos que podríamos utilizar para describir la maravillosa experiencia que algunos "serranitos" hemos tenido la suerte de vivir.

Entre sonrisas y abrazos nos despedimos de nuestros padres que, con los ojos aún dormidos, nos dejaron a las 3 de la mañana en la estación de Zaragoza para que empezáramos esta increíble aventura.

Llegamos a Atlanta y en el aeropuerto había un pequeño bus que nos llevó al instituto Alpharetta High School. Si os estáis imaginando el instituto de High School Musical, dejadme deciros que vais por el camino correcto: los campos de fútbol americano, de tenis, de beisbol, los pasillos de taquillas y los alumnos que en clase se pueden permitir el lujo de estar sentados en un cómodo sofá tomándose un café y abriendo el ordenador para tomar apuntes. Este es exactamente el  cuadro que tuvimos la suerte de ver.

Fue una experiencia encantadora en la que, a parte de pasarlo genial con nuestros correspondientes, incrementamos muchísimo nuestro nivel de inglés. Obviamente hubo algunos momentos de "yeah, can you please pass me the … ¡Ay! ¿cómo se dice … ? ¡Ay, que se me ha olvidado!

Cada uno de los estudiantes españoles se quedó súper contento con su propio correspondiente. No os podemos ocultar que echamos muchísimo de menos a nuestros "American friends" y que tenemos muchas ganas de que sea marzo para que vengan a Zaragoza.

Durante nuestra estancia en Atlanta, fuimos al "Homecoming Game" y después al "Homecoming Dance". ¡Estuvo súper bien! Antes del baile, fuimos a hacernos fotos estupendas ya que íbamos todos arreglados y, claramente, en un viaje así, el postureo no puede faltar.

Además nos llevaron al Six Flags Over Georgia, que es uno de los parques de atracciones más entretenidos y divertidos en los que hayamos estado. Nos lo pasamos todos genial.

Entre otras cosas fuimos a visitar "The World of Coca-Cola". Os lo creáis o no, al final de la visita teníamos más coca-cola que sangre en nuestras venas. Otro sitio en el que nos dieron una charla muy interesante fue "Georgia Tech". Una universidad en la que nos explicaron cómo funcionan las "applications" y los diferentes programas de estudios que tienen.

6 de octubre, 5'00 de la mañana. Llega la despedida de nuestros correspondientes. No podíamos parar de abrazarnos y confieso que las lágrimas rodaron por las mejillas de algunos de nosotros.

Con una tristeza infinita, dejamos Alpharetta y nos dirigimos al aeropuerto, pero … el viaje no termina aquí. De hecho a las 11 de esa misma mañana estábamos en la preciosa e impresionante ciudad de todos los colores, una ciudad caracterizada por el dinamismo, por los pitidos de los taxis que, en un gris domingo de otoño, intentaban hacer malabarismos entre el tráfico. ¡Nueva York! La emocionante y multicultural Nueva York, menuda maravilla!

Creo que nunca se desvanecerá el recuerdo de las calles del centro llenas de pantallas publicitarias, del típico olor a perrito caliente de los chiringuitos por la calle, de la gente que corre frenéticamente con su café en la mano para no llegar tarde al trabajo, de las tiendas por la "5th Avenue", … No sé explicarlo, esta ciudad tiene su propia magia. La Estatua de la Libertad, el viaje en ferry, las excursiones por los diferentes distritos de la capital neoyorquina, el "Empire State Building", "Ground 0" y el "One World Observatory", son alguna de las cosas que fuimos a visitar. No me detendré en explicar cada monumento, en internet podéis encontrar toda la información que queráis, y mejor explicada. En cambio, me gustaría transmitiros lo agradecidos que todos nosotros estamos por haber tenido la oportunidad de hacer un viaje tan estupendo. Hemos conocido a muchísima gente nueva y hemos visto sitios llenos de energía y de vida, sitios que, no sólo se quedarán para siempre en nuestra memoria, sino también en nuestro corazón.

**Consuelo Centurelli, 2º Bachillerato CCSS**

## Differences between IES Pablo Serrano and Alphareta HS

First of all, you can take the bus to the High School. Or you can go by car. Most of the students could drive. The school has different buildings for different things. Each teacher has their own classroom.

The studemts have more respect for their teachers. They always call them Mr or Mrs …Teachers don't give a lot of homework.The students can eat, drink, use their phone and the computer in class. There are vending machines in the halls. There is also a big cafeteria.

Every student needs an ID to enter the classes, and there are cameras in all the building.

**Marcos Andreu, 4º ESO and José Luis del Río, 2º Bachillerato Ciencias**

## A weekend with my host family

If I have to be honest, I didn't spend a lot of time with my host family. Campbell and I were all the time with her friends who became mine too! I remember that the first weekend I spent in Atlanta we went to this typical American fast food restaurant called "Chick-fil-A" to have some fried chicken. Then we went to the Homecoming game, where I had so much fun. The football players and the cheerleaders made me feel like I was living my American high school dream!

The following day we went to The Six Flags Over Georgia, which is one of the most amazing amusement parks I've seen in my whole life! I had so much fun even tough I have to admit that I was a bit scared of some of the rollercoasters. After the amusement park, we went straight home to get ready for the Homecoming Dance. Everybody was so gorgeous and well-dressed! We took so many pictures, we laughed and danced until our feet were hurting. I'll never forget that weekend!

**Consuelo Centurelli, 2º Bachillerato CCSS**

## Landmarks in Atlanta

We went to Georgia Tech on a school bus. The visit was great! First we went to an explanation about all the things that they do at this college. They say that it is one of the most important colleges of engineering in the USA. We walked around the campus and entered some buildings

Once we finished our visit to Georgia Tech, we walked to the World of Coca-Cola. There a man told us a little of the history of Coca-Cola. Then we went to a big room and saw a publicity video. Finally we tasted all the different flavours of coca cola from all over the world, saw a 4D video and took a photo with the white bear, the mascot of Coca Cola.

We also visited Six Flags, an amusement park very famous in Georgia.

In Alpharetta we visited Avalon, which is a beautiful big shopping centre. It is like a small city. It has hotels, shops like Apple Store and other brands. But it wasn't very cheap.

**Juan Manuel Pérez, 2º Bachillerato Ciencias**

**Natalia Fantacone, 2º Bachillerato HH**

## My Free Time in Atlanta

In Atlanta, I did a lot of things. I could see a football match of the high school team, and I enjoyed it because it was like an American film. I went to the Homecoming party with all the exchange students. We also visited the main theme park in Atlanta. Later that day, we went to a barbecue in one of the American student's house, where we spent the rest of the day. During the week, in the mornings, I was in the school, and then most of the days I spent the afternoons with a Spanish and an American exchange student, because Tai, my correspondant, was practising colour guard. One day, I visited a big shopping centre with two Spanish students and their American partners, and we returned home after dinner. Most of the days I was with my host student in her house, talking and playing ping-pong.

**Mario Estrada, 2º Bachillerato Ciencias**

## New York

First of all, we went to the Hotel Pensylvannia, which is just in the center of Manhattan. So, we visited Times Square. It's amazing, there are a lot of lights and if you see that at night, you will be shocked. Another thing we visited was the Trump Tower, which has a lot of security, Grand Central Station, St Patrick's Cathedral,, … The next day we went on a tour by bus. We stopped to take photos and then we took a boat to see the Statue of Liberty. We also visited the Bronx, Queens, Staten Island and Brooklyn. We visited the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, which is huge, and we fed the squirrels. We walked along the Brooklyn Bridge, visited Ground 0 and One World Observatory, the highest tower in New York.

We took a lot of photos and would like to repeat this trip. I fell in love with New York.

**María Valdelvira, 2º Bachillerato HH**

## Something I learnt

I learnt a lot of things about American language and culture. Here are some of the most interesting expressions:

“Go off” - to encourage someone.

“Do not beat around the bush” - Get to the point.

“You can’t have your cake and est it too” - You can’t do both.

“It costs an arm and a leg” - It is very expensive.

“Hit the hay” - Go to bed.

“I call shotgun” - I want to sit in the front seat of the car.

“Last straw” - All you can take, You can’t take any more.

“Who let the cat out of the bag” - Who told the secret.

“Rip off” - It is not worth the money that it cost.

“Period” - And that’s final.

**Andrea Lorente, 1º Bachillerato Ciencias**