Rafting Trip

By: Genesis Castro

Have you ever been so cold that you couldn’t feel your body? I have. My class was getting ready to go on a rafting field trip on the upper Kenai River. We were going to Alaska River’s Company, in Cooper Landing. I rode with Hailee Kirsh and her mom. It was very exciting! We got to meet our new water testing teacher, Melissa otherwise known as her nature name: Skye. Once we arrived at Alaska’s River’s Company, we scrambled into our groups. While we waited for the parents to arrive from moving their cars, Mr. Faris made us jog slowly around the whole place with our gear on!

The parents came back ready to go. The helpers guided us and helped us into rafts safely. My group was the first to get on a raft, it was very exciting! The floor of the raft was so squishy! I wanted to lay on it and go to sleep. Everybody was as cold as ice. It felt like pine needles were striking our faces. The freezing cold wind was hitting us hard. After a while we didn’t know what to talk about, so we played down by the banks! We didn’t play very well though, our hands were frozen and we couldn’t move them!

The waves were splashing against the raft making the raft unsteady on the water. The raft was rocking softly. It was so soothing! I needed something to keep me awake. Then at that moment somebody said,” Look an Eagle!” I looked up eagerly at where he was pointing and saw a brown and white spot in the trees. It was very beautiful. We kept looking for eagles and saw six more! While we were on the raft the trees and the mountains blended together. The fall colors looked like a painted picture.

After the first hour everybody was starving! We started talking about food to make each other feel better. After a while our mouths were watering. We desperately wanted to eat our lunches. But the guide who came with us on the raft told us were close. We were excited to get to the island to eat! After a few minutes, (which felt like hours), we finally got to the island.

When everybody stumbled out the raft, we all trudged to our lunches. Trying to get used to the firm ground. All of us sat on the rocky shore. The smells were a little weird. Dead fish surrounded us while we ate. But the river, trees, and mountains made up for the smell. They greeted us with their beauty. Seagulls were flying over us screeching for us to leave food behind. The sun was hitting our faces bringing us warmth. It became very hot.

Finally, we were boarding our rafts once again. Our feet were familiar with the rocking and swaying of the raft floor under our feet. Everybody was tired! We were on the raft for another thirty minutes. The raft hit shore. We all got off the raft with swaying feet. We took all the weight we had on off us. It felt so good to take off the rain jackets, boots, and life jackets.

The parents went to go get the cars to get back home. Mr. Faris gathered us in a circle and told us to tell him of the funny moments we had on the raft. Luke Ermold told everybody what Grace said to try to make everybody laugh, she said, “APPLESAUCE! ’’ As we laughed, the parents drove up. We all piled into our cars. We drove home, having a great day.