

# A slice of Italy, France arrives on BC's shores

By KAITLYN NAPLES  
STAFF WRITER

For the last 10 days or so, students from Italy and France paid a visit to Bristol Central High School as part of the exchange program the countries have with the school.

While many of the students said they have been to the United States, they said they were looking forward to traveling, meeting new friends, and experiencing the American culture.

"The school day is different, and the houses are different," said Esther Leneutte, 16, of Paris, France. She said it was her first time traveling to America, and pointed out things she noticed were a bit different than what she is used to.

Since 2004, Bristol Central High School has held a foreign exchange program with the Lycée Jean Monnet in La Queue-les-Yvelines, in France. Alternating years, a group of students from Bristol Central have visited France, and a group from the Lycée Jean Monnet have come to Bristol, spending a little over a week visiting the school, the city and surrounding cities, like New York and Boston.

This is the 10th year of the exchange program, and Gael Manescau, one of the teachers from France on the trip, said every time his airplane lands in New York City "it feels like magic for me," as well as for the students. He said the experience for his students, as well as the Bristol students, is like none other and provides a great opportunity for them to learn about different cultures.

The French students were staying in Bristol for 10 days, and the Italian students were staying for one week. Students from the other countries stay with students and their families in Bristol. They travel to New York City, Boston, and other places, as well as spend time in the classrooms in Bristol.

Lea Garcia, 16, of Paris said she was looking forward to being in a new country and meeting new friends.

"It's a great experience," Garcia said, adding she noticed "everything is bigger" in America.

Kaitlyn Labbie, 16, of Bristol who is hosting Garcia said she was excited to be a part of the program because "it is a great opportunity and a lot of fun." She added she found it interest-



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Foreign exchange students received a tour of Memorial Boulevard last week from local Korean War veterans Richard Avery, left, and Omer Deabay.

ing to see how the exchange students "adapt to our environment and our lifestyles."

French Teacher Teresa DiCarlo said the whole experience for all of the students involved is especially great because they get to take what they learn in class and apply it.

Jean Rioux, 16, of Bristol said he was looking forward to being part of the exchange program because "I was interested in meeting people from other countries." He said he was enjoying having another peer from another country living

with him in his home and "seeing how their habits differ from ours."

Marking his fourth time in the states, Louis Moser, 16, who is from Paris said he enjoys traveling to the United States and said he is considering attending college here.

Bristol Central has had its partnership with the Italian students for at least

six years, and Fedelica Rossi, 18, of Italy said it was her third time traveling to the United States.

"I love America, I love the people and the school," she said, adding she noticed the school day is longer in Bristol.

The students received a tour of Bristol, especially the monuments on Memorial Boulevard, and

were traveling to New York on Wednesday and Friday where they would see the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the 9/11 Memorial, and more. They were also going to travel to Boston, and were able to see things like Quincy Market and Harvard University.



## Up go the walls

Volunteers on Saturday began the process of building a new home on Bernie Avenue for Habitat for Humanity. See story on page 4.

TAMMI NAUDUS



Bariatric and General Surgery

# welcome

Souheil W. Adra, MD

Souheil W. Adra, MD, has joined the medical staff of the Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group, Inc.

Dr. Adra's office is located at 25 Newell Road, Suite C-14, in Bristol and he specializes in minimally invasive bariatric and general surgery.

Dr. Adra comes to Bristol Hospital from BIDMC—Harvard Medical School in Boston where he recently completed a clinical fellowship in minimally invasive and bariatric surgery. He also completed a trauma surgery fellowship at Hartford Hospital.

Dr. Adra received his bachelor's degree in biology and medical degree at American University of Beirut in Lebanon. He completed his general surgery residency at American University of Beirut in Lebanon and Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia. He is a member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Adra is accepting new patients and can be reached at 860.585.1560.

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