

# A week of unusual learning: WOW

*Trinity Episcopal students' experiences include Nicaragua trip*

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Dozens of students from Charlotte's Trinity Episcopal School recently spent several days engaged in a variety of unusual educational activities.

It was part of the school's annual Without Walls Week (WOW/Week), which took place Feb. 19-22 for students in grades 5 through 8. WOW/Week is designed to allow the school's older students a chance to participate in outside-the-box learning experiences.

One group of students traveled to Nicaragua. Another group spent the four days at the U.S. National Whitewater Center. Yet another activity, "Project Runway," allowed students to experience the fashion world.

There also was "Searching for Balance," a class devoted to finding strength and peace through activities such as kickboxing and yoga.

The Nicaragua trip involved 26 Trinity Episcopal students, and several parents and staff members. They worked at the El Ayudante Orphanage in the city of Leon. The group tutored students and took part in repair work at the orphanage.

Tom Drake, Trinity's academic dean and a participant in the Nicaragua trip, said, "Of the profound learning that occurred for all on this trip, the strongest piece emerged from the relationships that we formed with the various people we met on our journey."

Seventh-grader Sarah McDonald said: "We met incredible people and learned a lot about ourselves, like how we can help in the world and that we should be grateful for what we have."