

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Last week, 125 Middle School students from Heritage Oak Private School traveled to Long Beach to spend a day exploring the elegant Queen Mary, now permanently at rest in Long Beach harbor. While not so big and sleek as today's mega-cruise liners, the Queen Mary is an elegant reminder of a bygone era.

The students enjoyed the commentary provided by well-trained guides who pointed out several of the more interesting sites on the proud but aging ship. One of the most popular tours is the Haunted House tour, which begs the question "Is the Queen Mary truly haunted?"

During her 60 years of service, the Queen "witnessed" nearly 50 deaths. Some of the reported haunting includes a young crewman who was killed in the engine room, swimmers who died in the first-class swimming pool, a man dressed in black, and a woman wearing blue.

The students certainly enjoyed the ghost stories, and the opportunity to see what "luxury" and "majesty" looked like sixty years ago.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are part of its program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 "Blue Ribbon" award. The "Blue Ribbon", our Nation's most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.