



Blaze, the J. L. Bowler Mascot, is held by Joe Xu of China Plus, with Bowler staffer Jamie Jones

## Bowler mascot continues his China journey

*Blaze, the mascot of J. L. Bowler Elementary School, is in China with five Bowler teachers. This is the next report on his explorations.*

J. L. Bowler Elementary School  
**C**hongqing, China is an important port city along the Yangtze River. Blaze, J.L. Bowler mascot, and his five Bowler Bighorn companions flew to Chongqing to learn about

jade and panda bears.

They learned that jade comes in two kinds: hard or soft. It can have many shades of green or, if you are lucky, a little lavender. Carvings can be made from jade as can exquisite jewelry.

Because the cost is a little more than a bighorn sheep takes home, Blaze won't be buying any!

A highlight of the Chongqing city tour for Blaze was meeting Yoyo. She is a baby panda born last September. Yoyo's grandma is 27 years old and has had seven children.

Yoyo's mom lives with her in the Chongqing zoo. The Chinese words for panda are "xiong mao" which means bear cat.

Some say they are in the raccoon family.

Blaze was so surprised to meet four red pandas! They are smaller than the black and white pandas. The red pandas are beautiful animals with raccoon-like faces and ringed tails.

Pandas are threatened due to the loss of their natural habitat.

Blaze was pleased to learn that there are more than 1,500 in the world today. He hopes that the Little Bighorns reading this might consider what they can do to protect the pandas' environment as well as our global

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Nancy Burton, Blaze, Lena Hess and Jamie Jones bicycling on a wall in Xi'an.

## SHANGHAI

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enticed him back. He became the only bighorn sheep marching through the busy streets of Shanghai, much to the delight of friendly Chinese people. Although Blaze and his traveling Bighorns speak barely a phrase in Chinese, communication has been two-way and on-going. A smile says so much and goodwill sur-

rounds visitors like the morning mist.

Shanghai is home to 33 million people. Making all of their cars disappear after rush hour is a trick worthy of David Copperfield. Bicycles and scooters can be seen, but few can resist the allure of the auto as the economy continues to prosper. The sun is a hazy orange ball in the sky and the full moon appears

pink, stark reminders of the consequences of "progress." The evidence of global warming is everywhere and a topic on everyone's lips. One wonders if the children of Shanghai have ever seen a star.

Today Shanghai is the most sophisticated city in China. The Shanghai museum rivals the Getty museum in California for exhibits. Two thousand years of China's history is elaborately displayed on four floors of artifacts and antiquities. The ancient Chinese bronzes, ceramics, and calligraphy are priceless.

Before setting out for picturesque Guilin and the fishing cormorants, Blaze and the Bowler Bighorns were taken to an acrobat show by guide Joe Xu of China Plus. Fantastic does not do justice to the talented troop that performed.

Contortionists, gymnasts, and trapeze artists entertained an awestruck audience. The Bighorns left the show with a new understanding and admiration for "flexibility." It was a phenomenon they rendered over