



# Behind the scenes at Madison Square Garden

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**D**id you know you can tour Madison Square Garden?

We did it recently, and we thought it was great.

When we got to the main floor, we saw that the upper walls were covered with photos for every day of the year and the special events that have taken place at MSG, from a Knicks championship win to great hockey, boxing, wrestling and concert photos.

We saw a machine that once was used to smooth the hockey rink ice. When you first look at it, you might think it was a cannon.

Another highlight was going to the highest point of the Garden. The view of the court below is amazing. We then checked out the luxury suites.



**Kidsday reporters check out a luxury suite at Madison Square Garden.**

After that, we went to the locker rooms and saw the very bench where Wayne Gretzky hung up his ice skates after his last game. They have the bench under glass.

They have a special hangout place for people who purchase a lot of tickets: a private concession stand. Their concession stand is next to the Rangers' and Knicks' locker rooms. It was also

next to where people are interviewed after a game. If you are lucky enough to get to that area on the day of a game, you could be standing right next to an NBA or NHL player.

They also had games we could play. It was a virtual reality system that had a concert, basketball game and hockey game. We also saw the place where other TV channels work, commentating for the games. MSG owns two teams: the New York Rangers and the New York Knicks.

We learned how the first WrestleMania was held at MSG. We also learned there were two earlier versions of Madison Square Garden before the one we were in that day.

We really liked checking out the wall of accomplishments. They had a wall honoring Wayne Gretzky, who played for the Rangers the last three years

of his career (1997-1999). They also honored Knicks star Willis Reed when he won championships with the team. They had other memorabilia for WrestleMania, such as Roddy Piper boats and Hulk Hogan trunks, boats, belt, headband and shirt.

There were banners for music stars Billy Joel, Elton John and Phish for all the concerts they have played at MSG. We found out that about 20,000 fans can fit in the stadium for a basketball game and 18,000 people for a hockey game.

We learned a lot of things about the Garden, such as that there is a section for reporters to interview the players. The Rangers have a superstition that the floor that has their logo has to be covered with a carpet that has their logo.

We recommend the tour to basketball and hockey fans. To find out more, go to [msg.com](http://msg.com).

**CLASS OF THE WEEK** Christina Buttigieg's sixth-grade class, **THE DE LA SALLE SCHOOL**, Freeport