

WELCOME TO DENMARK and a chance to get to know the Danes!

By Niels Frandsen - Director of MyEducation Denmark

When I received the request to write about the Danes, my first thought was: "But there is not much to say, because we are quite 'normal', but after reading a book about Danes I realized that, like all cultures, we do have our own unique perspective and values. I hope I by this introduction can give you an insight into our culture, customs and our people; and that it might give you the wish to come and visit our great country. You are always welcome!



Denmark is a constitutional monarchy, and the queen is one of the most admired persons. Margrethe, known affectionately as "Daisy", is looked up to not only because she is tall, but because she is multi-talented. In addition to costume design for television theatre and scenery for ballet, she is an accomplished linguist and artist.

In the heart of Copenhagen and near our office is Tivoli, the famous amusement park and pleasure garden. The park opened on August 15, 1843 and, except for Dyrehavsbakken in nearby Klampenborg, it is the oldest amusement park in the world. Tivoli has been maintaining a balance between well-loved traditions and the latest in entertainment for over 150 years. We are very proud that it was during a trip to Tivoli that Walt Disney decided Disneyland should try to emulate its "happy and unbuttoned air of relaxed fun.". It's no surprise that if you spell it backwards, it says "i lov it"!



While Denmark is part of Scandinavia, one could say it's a bit "light" on the real trademarks of being Scandinavian. For example, it has no midnight sun, no ski jumps and no reindeer. Of course, we envy the Swedes for having all these things and think that they really don't deserve them! A quick look at a map will show you that Denmark is situated above Germany. The Danes try very hard to like their German neighbors, but it's sometimes we find it difficult. By contrast, Americans are generally admired. If, however, a situation is approaching unacceptable levels, for example, children are being fed too much fast food, a Danish academic of some description will appear on the news proclaiming that Denmark is hurtling towards an "amerikanske tilstande" (American state of affairs). Perish the thought!



The official religion of the Danes is Lutheran. Everybody pays church tax, but still most only use the church four times in their lives, for their baptism, confirmation, marriage (at least one) and funeral. No one twitches an eyebrow at those who choose to share the morning newspaper prior to marriage, and a couple of children will often attend their wedding, as a high proportion of children are born to couples outside of marriage. In Denmark (as in much of Scandinavia), this makes a little or no difference.

Danes fly their flag with pride. The

red and white "Dannebrog" against a clear sky is enough to bring a tear to their eyes, but there is nothing threatening about this nationalism. As a nation, the Danes have not been a threat to anyone for hundreds of years. Indeed, today the Danes are a peaceful people. The only helmeted warriors left are bikers. When the Danish Vikings colonized the British Islands, they must have taken all the most unruly elements - and left them there. Danish children are brought up with stories that feature Teddy, Chicken and Duckling. Teddy and his friends regularly face the conflict of individual needs versus common sense.



Even in such a small country as Denmark there are strong regional differences. Copenhagen makes great show of not being able to understand some of the thicker regional accent in Jutland and regard traveling there with foreboding. According to popular belief, the Jutlanders rarely say anything downright positive, e.g. when a Jutlander is asked if he/she wants a coffee, the reply will not be "Yes", but instead "I wouldn't say no". On the flip side, Jutlanders see Copenhageners as slick, silver-tongued city-dwellers who do them an injustice.

However, to understand the character of a Dane, regardless of their region, one must understand two very important concepts in our culture - hygge and Janteloven.

The love or need for hygge is an important part of the Danish psyche. It is often translated as cosiness, but this is too simplistic. Cosiness relates to physical surroundings, whereas hygge has more to do with people's behavior towards each other. To have a hyggelig time is social nirvana in Denmark. Candlelight is used to encourage a hyggelig atmosphere. In fact, the Danes are mad about candles and use them everywhere, both in public places like cafes, bars and restaurants, and in the home. Achieving hygge generally involves being with friends and family, and eating and drinking.

At the core of the second concept, Janteloven or Jante's law is that anyone who sets himself above the rest of the group will be knocked off his perch. The code is so ingrained in the Danish mind that a good many believe it originated in the



Middle Ages. In fact, it was written in 1933, and is still alive and kicking. To give you an idea of how it works in Danish society, take for example, a man who worked hard to save money for a brand new car. The minute he parks it in the driveway the questions begin: "Is it a company car?" and "Bought it second hand, did you?". This helps to explain why Danish exchange students and au pair's sometimes have a hard time writing or, as they see it, bragging about their positive qualities and talents.

The Danish language is unique and also reflects our unique cultural values. And, while the Danish language may not be very beautiful, it is economical. Why invent a new word when two old ones are perfectly adequate? For example, direct translations give us such words as the dust sucker (vacuum cleaner), Swine meat (pork), body burning (cremation), and flying machine (airplane). Words, like everything else in Denmark, are recycled where possible. "Hej" means hello so it only makes sense that "hej hej" means goodbye. The verb at lide can mean to suffer or to like. Fyr has several meanings - lighthouse, fire, pine or young man. You get the idea that the listener has to pay attention to context and tone of voice if misunderstanding is to be avoided. Perhaps this is why Denmark produces about 25% of the world's hearing aids!

Another aspect of the Danish language is that the word "please" simply does not exist in Danish. Instead, children are taught to say "Bede om" (literally "ask for"). Also, Danes don't typically say they are sorry. If a customer calls in and asks to speak to Mr. Jensen, a Dane would simply reply "Mr. Jensen is not in". The words "I'm sorry" would not factor into the interaction.

Not surprisingly, Danes will say what they think of sex, politics, religion, everything. They will frankly tell you what they earn or if they shave their armpits. And, they will ask you equally frankly "Is it hot in here or is it just my menopause?". Doors

are seldom held open for persons following behind and motorists hardly ever let other drivers join the stream of traffic. Standing in line is disliked. Indeed, nothing makes a Dane happier than if an additional checkout opens and he can beat other customers to the checkout line!

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Editor's Box

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed your wonderful articles and photographs. Without you, there would not be any ASSE News! I encourage everyone to share your fun moments with the rest of the ASSE Family.

Please send your best original photographs and articles to:
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Until next edition,
Mary Loving ASSE News Editor

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Ring, Ring, Ring We're Calling ASSE Exchange Students!

We randomly called the following students and asked them: "Now that your exchange year is well underway, what has surprised you most about your host country?"



"So far I am having a really good time! I have made a lot of friends. At first my impression of the school wasn't too good because I didn't know anyone and I felt so lonely, but that quickly changed as I met people and now I really like the school! I don't miss my family or my friends too much because my host family is very good. I feel comfortable and my new friends can help me when I don't know something in English." **ASSE Exchange Student Enric Botet Vaca (Spain) hosted by the Sorbella Family of Carmel, NY, USA**



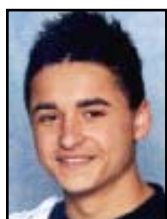
"The school system has surprised me the most so far. It is so different how the scheduling works and I really like the school spirit of the students! And I am looking forward to new American traditions and holidays like Halloween and I really like living in Wisconsin!" **ASSE Exchange Student Liv Jonsson (Denmark) hosted by the Jones Family of Burlington, WI, USA**



"I've been here for one month and during this time I have had many special experiences that I never had before so there are many things that have surprised me a lot. For example, the way to see hello, the way to make friends, the way to study, etc., so it's hard to say which one surprised me the most. But I do think the equality between all of people is the thing that most surprised me because whether you are rich or poor, or black or white, for example, you have equality. In my host family, my host parents always said "it's up to you." At first, I couldn't get used to it because in China our parents always make decisions for you and you have to follow your parent's mind. So that is something that surprised me too." **ASSE Exchange Student Fei Feng (China) hosted by the Lange Family of Kelso, WA, USA**



"My host country isn't done surprising me yet! My first impression was "WOW", this is like the movies, the lockers at the high school, the football team, the fast food everywhere and the big trucks rolling on big roads. Then I learned how to know the people and think that they are more complex and I'm happy to be here. The mentality is very different than Europeans, for example people eat around 5 p.m. here, and I am used to eating around 7 p.m. The school is very different too because here the teachers are not distant with the students, rather they are friendly and make it possible to make school interesting. It's very, very different and I like learning every day more and more about Canada." **ASSE Exchange Student Fanny Floreani (France) hosted by the Kauenhofen Family of Carman, MB, Canada**



"So far I have been surprised by the big cars that everybody drives here despite the gas prices, how much the Americans eat and spend going to eat and the Halloween celebration (how they celebrate it compared to what I thought) and how religious they can be here. All the houses are only one story and the houses are wood not stone like in Germany. The school and its schedule are not like mine in Germany where we get out at 1 and here we get out at 3:50. The school also has the same classes everyday." **ASSE Exchange Student Ben Schindewolf (Germany) hosted by the Parr Family of Amarillo, TX, USA**

ASSE American Congress Bundestag Scholarship Students Enjoy Discovering Germany

Arena's Magical Experience

Submitted by ASSE Congress Bundestag scholarship student Arena Morillo from Portland, OR USA, hosted by the Matz family in Karlsruhe, Germany

Before the German exchange scholarship I had never put much thought into travelling... but now I have completely changed my mind. It really is a magical experience going to another country. You learn so much and it's as if



Arena Morillo with her German host sister Hannah Matz in Ammeer See

your eyes have been opened to the fact that there is a whole lot of world to explore out there, the possibilities feel infinite!! I am truly inspired with this exchange! My Host family is really nice, we get a long well and my host sister became the person I could always confide in. Of course there were days I was feeling a little sad, home sick, missing my friends and family and just little things like knowing where I put away things or how the dish washer works and so forth. But everything had a solution and in the end I would always end up happy and satisfied with the fact that I am here in this AMAZING LAND meeting so many people and making worldwide friends. The making friends part is definitely one of my favourite aspects, even all the kids I got to know in the program with the 3 days we spent in Washington D.C.

The school is a challenge and at times I feel rather discouraged.

But then again I am learning so much German that I could not deny the fact that it is all good.

I just hope I get the chance to thank all those who have contributed to this experience. The scholarship is a great blessing and experience I will never forget. It has helped me grow so much in knowledge and appreciation for the entire wonderful world we have and how much we still have to discover.



Arena Morillo, ASSE CB Exchange Student to Germany in front of the Karlsruhe Schloss

Kirsten's Fantastic Experience

Submitted by Kirsten Johnson, ASSE Congress Bundestag scholarship student from Reno, NV USA, hosted by the Weever family in Gescher Germany

I love my school, I like the way things are set up a lot better here than back home. I love the fact that I am not going to the same six classes every single day, it's fun to mix it up!

My community is actually a rather small town, but I like it that way. I am a small town person. Everyone rides bikes everywhere and there's always something going on in town. I think it's great.

My host mother Conny, is amazing, she is so understanding and caring. That's not an exaggeration as she is always trying to help everyone, animal and human alike.

My host sister Dany (18) is wonderful, she was an exchange student in America two years ago, so she knows what it's like to be in my position, she is super helpful, especially when it comes to school. Like I said, wonderful.

My host brother Basti (19) is a great friend, he is wonderful to talk to and we get along great, he has recently moved out of the house but that doesn't matter. He and I have spent hours upon hours

talking. We also hang out a lot and both he and Dany have introduced me to all their friends.

My host sister Fini (15) has down syndrome, she can be a hassle sometimes but I can't help love her enthusiasm for music (not that I agree with her taste in music XD). It is so cute, sometimes she will blasting her music in her bedroom, then she will come running into the sitting room dancing and singing into her hairbrush!

My host brother Can (8) has a mental disability also, however I don't know which one, I never bothered to ask, because it doesn't matter to me. He is my little buddy, he always wants me to play with him and take him places. He is so smart and so happy. If it weren't for the fact that I have seen him cry, I wouldn't think anything could take a smile off his adorable little face. He is always so excited to see me when we're both home from school, and I can definitely say I enjoy how much he cares. It makes

me remember when my brother was that small.

That's my host family. They're fantastic in every matter of speaking. They make the sun shine for me even when I am feeling grey. I couldn't have asked for a better family, they are my perfect match, my happy ending after a long day at school. I am glad I am here, and I can't wait until the day when I will be able to come back.



German host brothers Can & Fini enjoy an opportunity to dress up as their American host sister, ASSE CB Exchange Student Kirsten Johnson!

Whale Watching in MA, U.S.A



ASSE Exchange Students Alexandra Schulte im Hoff (Germany) living with the Reamer family in Lexington, MA & Karolina Sobieska (Czech Republic) living with the Pratt family in Westwood, MA joined their ASSE Area Representative Mohan Narasimhan for a day of whale watching. With rough waters most of the passengers found it more eventful than anticipated. The ASSE Exchange Students showed their adventurous spirit and enjoyed the opportunity!

Learning Through Job Shadowing!

ASSE exchange students participating in the U.S. State Department Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) scholarship program and the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) scholarship program have spent a day with a leader in their host communities to learn more about how these amazing people use their talents to better their world. The following 3 essays show a snapshot of a few of the great student experiences.



ASSE FLEX Exchange Student Irina Khisamova (Russia) with Jess Santamaria, District 6 county commissioner, Palm Beach County FL USA

A Day with a Palm Beach County Commissioner

Submitted by ASSE FLEX Exchange Student Irina Vasilyevna Khisamova (Russia) hosted by the Trifiletti Family of Wellington, FL, USA

My first project called "Leadership" presupposed me to spend a day shadowing a local leader. This person must be a business, political or community leader. On September, 15th I completed my project. I spent a day with a political leader – Jess R. Santamaria, who is a county commissioner for the district 6 of Palm Beach County.

This is how that day started. At 9 o'clock in the morning we arrived to commissioner's office. We had some free time before the commissioner's meeting which I also attended started so I had an opportunity to listen to Jess R. Santamaria's story. He told us a lot about himself and also about his family which plays such an important role in his life. His family consists of him, his wife, his two

sons, a daughter and two granddaughters. Most members of his family found their jobs in politics as he did. He loves his community as well as his family. He came with his family to Royal Palm Beach in 1974. And there are countless civic organizations to which he has given time and support. Jess Santamaria has demonstrated a unique commitment to the community. Since coming to the Western Communities, Jess Santamaria and his family have become outstanding leaders. His story was quite interesting and besides he is a really good speaker, so it was very pleasant to listen to him but it was time to go to the commissioners' meeting.

At 9.30a.m. the county commissioners board meeting started with a roll call, invocation and a pledge of allegiance. Seven commissioners took part in the meeting, county administrator was also presented. Each of the commissioners represented his own area. The meeting lasted about three hours. During it several important topics were discussed and some public hearings were held. In the middle of the meeting commissioner Jess Santamaria introduced me. It was very exciting. The meeting continued with board appointments and staff comments. After the commissioners' comments the meeting was finished. It was really very interesting and useful to see how the government works inside and I am happy I had such a wonderful opportunity. This experience was rewarding and very informative for me. The next day the web story of my visit was posted on the County web site.

But it was not the end. After the meeting commissioner invited us to have lunch with

him. During lunch he told us about his work as a county commissioner and about his community involvement. He was working as a county commissioner for three years and all the money he had received for this work he donated to different charity organizations. Also it turned out that the work of a county commissioner is not a full-time job. And of the 14 jobs listed on Jess Santamaria's resume 11 are still in the "current" category. Santamaria is a man willing to devote hours of his free time to causes that he believes will benefit the community. As a result of his dedication to the quality of life in Royal Palm Beach and surrounding communities, Jess Santamaria has been awarded 14 civic honors.

Jess Santamaria is also a founder of the organization "We the People United". He said that the main aim of forming this organization was to remind the politicians that they were public servants. The main areas toward which the organization works are children, the environment, safe streets, honest government and honest business.

Mr. Santamaria is well-known throughout Royal Palm Beach and Wellington as a builder – he built 3000 homes in the Western Communities, and developer. Jess Santamaria's love of this area is evident in his commitment to making these communities a wonderful place to live and work. He has received awards recognizing his community service, too numerous to mention. In addition to all his leader, business and political qualities he is a very friendly and outgoing person meeting with whom gave me an unforgettable experience.



ASSE YES Exchange Student Minna Al-Barqi (Palestine) and Science teacher/mentor, Alicia Woo

Leadership in Teaching

Submitted by ASSE YES Exchange Student Minna Al-Barqi (Palestine) hosted by the

McCleary Family of Carson City, NV, USA

My science teacher is a perfect teacher towards her students and duties. She uses effective strategies and ways of teaching and communicating with students. She knows her goal and who she is. She looks at her job as it is. Teaching is not an easy job and you can use your creativity.

We talked about how she got this position, about her personality and how to make balance between the job and personal life. She told me that she had to work really hard, needed to be organized all the time to be successful to get the work done. She said it is important to know your duties and what your position needs. Starting at any job at first is not easy and it takes hard work.

Teachers need to care about their students and how they do in their studies.

I feel that I am learning a lot of new things. I know new things about life here, being responsible and challenges in the job.

About her year so far in the USA, Minna says, "It's a completely different experience being here. I know a lot of people who are really nice to me and welcoming. I saw that people here are different from what you hear about them or about America in general. We had a pumpkin carving party with the exchange students in my area. It was the first time to carve pumpkins and it was a lot of fun. I went trick treating on Halloween. It's a whole different experience and a lot of fun.



ASSE FLEX Exchange Student Giorgi Noniashvili (Republic of Georgia) with associate professor Timothy Ostrander

Shadowing a Community College Professor

Submitted by ASSE FLEX Exchange Student Giorgi Noniashvili (Republic of Georgia) hosted by the Norman Family of Roseburg, OR USA

I spent a day shadowing Timothy Ostrander, associate professor of nursing.

He teaches pathophysiology, which is the study of the disease process in the human body. During this day, I observed how he was preparing for lessons. I had the opportunity to visit Umpqua Community College and understand how a college professor works with his students.

Professor Ostrander updated all information about the program he is going to teach and sent an email to all students about it. He let his students know what chapters they have to read for every week in this term. In my opinion, this system is comfortable for students and of course, for the teachers too. I was able to observe different computer programs that are used as communication tools.

Mr. Ostrander has direct contact to his students by email, so in case of need, students do not waste time and just sends an email to the professor. It's hard to work to gain all this information from the books and answer all student's questions but this

system is a better way of communication for students. It gives them a chance to schedule everything and study in a minimal amount of time without big problems.

This day was important for me. I am from the country of Georgia, which is not as developed as the USA and I realize that we need an educational system like this. My country needs development and in my opinion, the same system for our colleges would make it easier to get knowledge. More educated people and of course a better system of education – this we need to make our future better.

Today, I understand how we can improve our system and how important it is for development. When I am back in my country, it will be easier for me to participate in the building of a better system of education because now I know an example of a good system and how it works.

Our Trip To New York

Submitted by Marie Dinkheller (Germany), ASSE Exchange Student hosted by the Mrs. Hélène Mathieu and Mr. Martin Gingras family of Beauceville, Québec, Canada

On the 8th of October my hostfamily and I left for our trip to New York. From Beauceville we took the car to get to Portland. There we stayed the night and the next morning we took the airplane to go to New York. After arriving in New York we

went to our hotel (next to the Times Square in Manhattan) by Taxi. It's unbelievable how many taxis there are in New York and how big this city is. There are lights and noise everywhere. At night we made a bus tour to see all the skyscrapers and monuments by night. It was really impressive. The next day we went to see the statue of liberty and we visited the museum where the movie „Night at the Museum“ was made. On the last day of our trip we walked a lot through the Central Park, which we all really liked because it's such a beautiful park. Of course we went also shopping. I really liked our trip and we were all a little bit sad when we had to leave.



ASSE Exchange Student Marie and her hostsister Ann Sophie enjoy NY

ASSE FLEX Student Meets U.S. Vice President

Submitted by ASSE FLEX Exchange Student Irina Fomenkova (Russia), living in Reno, NV USA

My name is Irina Fomenkova, I am an ASSE student from Russia. At first, when I received information about this project I was thinking about my host-mother as a local leader. But suddenly something really great happened: because of my host-mother's job, she works at Child Assault Prevention, we received invitations to the meeting with a vice-president of the United States of America! So, I decided to choose Joe Biden as my local leader.

It was Friday, 16th of October. I and my host-mother got up early in the morning and went to the University of Nevada, Reno the a place of meeting. The doors were opened at 9:00 am but in fact the meeting started at 11:00. The first person who was giving speech was the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. He was talking about the situation with economy in Nevada and about Joe Biden (Joe Biden and Harry Reid are good friends, as I understood). After this Joe Biden started his speech. The main goal of his speech was analysis of the recovery act and economic situation as a whole. As for me, I am interested in politics, law and economy. I have a tendency not to trust people who are connected with government, but I was open-minded to the vice-president and his speech, it was a great experience for me to see him with my own eyes, not with mass-media interpretation.

I want to analyze some facts and my feelings about this meeting. Joe Biden said that the stimulus package is the beginning to help stabilize the economy, citing more positive news from the housing and stock markets in recent weeks. "People forget we were in a free fall with the economy," he said. "There would be a million more unemployed people without this. But listen to the critics. We know what they're against, but what are they for?". I, personally like the fact that Biden is doing something, not just waiting for better times. "Times are tough. We know how high unemployment is. And I want you all to focus on how much worse things would have been had we not acted?". It's very true, in my opinion, the economic situation is very complicated now, when you are trying to improve one aspect, you immediately lose another, people should understand this and not criticize every disadvantage of this act. I also noticed some not very good aspects in this meeting, but to my mind I am a guest in this country, so I don't have any right to criticize activities of the government.

Nevermind, the vice-president of the United States is a very friendly man, he was talking to every person freely and I liked it. So, this meeting, I think, was the most important thing that has happened to me for the 2 months that I am here. I was glad to have Joe Biden as my local leader and to spend a half of the day with him.



ASSE Exchange Student Irina Fomenkova and Joe Biden

(Continue on back page)

The Danes' mission in life is to help the rest of the world to see just how wonderful Denmark is! They can feel sorry for all the poor souls who are not Danish, have never visited the country, or otherwise don't live in their land of milk and honey. However, they cannot bring themselves to boast about how fantastically talented they are, so they use an inordinate amount of time and energy trying to get others to see the light. So, why not get to know a little bit of this beautiful country by hosting an exchange student from Denmark today?

FACTS:

Country: Denmark

States: Denmark, Faroe Islands & Greenland

Population: 5,352,815 Capital: Copenhagen

Language: Danish Religion: Lutheran

Government: Constitutional Monarchy

Area: Total: 43,094 sq. km (twice the size of Massachusetts) (excluding the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Climate: Temperate; humid & overcast; mild, windy winters & cool summers

Terrain: Low & flat to gently rolling plains

Highest Point: Yding Skovhøj 173m

(yes that's right meters!)

Natural Resources: Petroleum, natural gas, fish, salt, limestone, stone, gravel & sand

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Blending Multiple Cultures Brings an Opportunity of a Lifetime!

Submitted by ASSE FLEX Exchange Student Irina Barda hosted by the Bigby family in Wolf Point, MT (USA)

Hi Everybody!!!! I'm writing now from Wolf Point, Montana and I'm very glad to share my happiness and a little of my experience with you, my dear friends!!! My name is Irina Barda. I'm from Kazakhstan so I'm an FLEX ASSE exchange student.

Firstly I really want to say some words of gratitude that I have such a perfect host family for me!!!

For me this year is a really exciting time of cultural exchange!! I'm here finding out not only facts about American culture in general but also the Native American culture opens to me. My host dad Ken is a Native American and he better than anyone else can introduce it to me. My host mom Arlene knows almost everything about this culture because she was really interested in it and studied it within many years. They have millions of the most amazing stories and know so many real facts about Native American culture so everyday I become more and more educated in this culture. In fact



Irina Barda (Kazakhstan)

many times more than any of my friends or relatives so I already have a plenty of new information for them!!!

Wolf Point is a pretty small city that's situated on the Fort Peck reservation so I can say that here almost 40 % of population are Native Americans. So for this reason I have so many native American friends at school!! And I can say that for me a native American week in school was so exciting!!!

I saw a Pow-Wow dance for the first time in my life and it was so amazing!! Everything that's connected with native culture fascinates and attracts me now and I'm glad so much that my host parents share it with me!!

I also have a wonderful host sister who is also an exchange student from Brazil. It's very difficult to explain how much it's interesting, unpredictable and amusing to live together and share our cultures!!! My host parents are such a ball of fire and we also full of endless energy so we have together so much fun!!!

To other exchange students Irina says, "I wish you all to appreciate your host



Irina Barda (Kazakhstan) & Anna Luiza Adas (Brazil) with their host parents Kenneth & Arlene Bigby in Wolf Point, MT (USA)



families!!! Remember that you need to share your knowledge of the US culture in your Motherland so don't let a chance to find out anything new go away! Be curious! Good luck to everyone!!!

Sincerely yours, Irina.

Foxton Beach, New Zealand

Submitted by ASSE Exchange Student Ida Katrine Rishoff (Norway) spending her exchange year in New Zealand

We had a wonderful day at Foxton beach. Running in the water, eating lunch and playing volleyball was some of the things we did before driving to the river to do some fishing. We went to fish at the wharf in Foxton but we didn't get any fish. We also saw two men fishing for whitebait**.

They showed us the tiny see-through fish which are a New Zealand delicacy which is made into fritters with egg, flour and seasoning. The net had a triangular shape, and the tiny fish were swimming into it, with the help of the tide. The men raised the net several times while we were there and

poured the whitebait into a bucket filled with water.

The beach offered some amazing shots for the ones interested in photography. We watched the beautiful sunset as the sun went down into the sea before we drove home from a wonderful day!



ASSE Exchange students in New Zealand: Nobel Michael (USA), Peter Schmidt (Denmark), Elin Wallstrom (Sweden), Ida Rishoff (Norway), Maisa Halin (Finland), Emma Korhonen (Finland), Eileen Wolmerath (Germany)



**According to Wikipedia, "The New Zealand whitebait is small, sweet and tender with a delicate taste that is easily over-powered if mixed with stronger ingredients when cooked. The most popular way of cooking whitebait in New Zealand is the whitebait fritter, which is essentially an omelette containing whitebait. Purists use only the egg white in order to minimize interfering with the taste of the bait. Foreigners frequently react with revulsion when shown uncooked whitebait, which resembles slimy, translucent worms."

Trying the 'Other' Football!

Submitted by Jakob Ånevall (Sweden), ASSE Exchange Student hosted by the Caron Family in St-Prospers, Québec, Canada

My name is Jakob Ånevall, I'm sixteen years old and I'm from Sweden. I'm here in Québec as an exchange student for a year and this is my story about football. Not the kind of football that we play in Europe, but the other kind, where you use your hands more than your feet.

Back home in Sweden there isn't a lot of football teams so I had never tried it when I first arrived here. But the first day in my new school some of my classmates told me that I should try it and I thought it would be a great experience to tell everybody in Sweden about. I was a little nervous though because I had never tried it before.

The first practice my friends had to help me put on my equipment and I didn't do a lot of things right, but I knew that I was going to love this sport. To me it felt more like what happened out there on the field was a war over 60 minutes. The coach is the general who decides what to do. He commands his orders to the quarterback

who gives the information to the platoon. The goal of the war is to get the ball to the end zone and in the way there is the defense who is trying to stop you.

It can get really tough out there on the battlefield and that's another part I love of the game. You get hit a lot but it hurts just a little because you have a lot of equipment. But the day after a game you're pretty sour in your body.

As the time went by I understood more and more of the rules in the game and I learned exactly how I was supposed to run and tackle my opponents. I learned that after a touchdown the offensive team can choose if they want to pass or kick the ball. I also learned that you're not supposed to pull an opponent in the facemask or tackle him under the waist from behind.

I have never regretted that I choose to join the football team of my school. I have so many great memories from my two months of football and I'll never forget this experience.



ASSE Exchange Student Jakob Ånevall (Sweden), number 72