



NEW BRUNSWICK
French International
Student Program

NewsLETTER



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 **Summer camp 2018**

 **Story of a Turkish student who loves French literature**

 **The Roy family welcomes a student for the 6th time**



Left : Andrea Santos, Meri Seppälä and Sinem Uysal. Right : Meri, her host sisters, her host mother and Santa Claus.

A student forever changed by her experience in NB

Meri Orvokki Seppälä gave an emotional speech last June during a ceremony for the international students at the Polyvalente Roland-Pépin in Campbellton.

“Becoming an international student was maybe the most foolish decision I made, but it was also the best decision I ever made,” states Meri in her speech.

Her host mother, Lisette Maltais, admits that Meri is the one that changed the most among the ten students she hosted in the past years.

“She was a very reserved person who didn’t talk much or show her emotions. She was rarely smiling. With time, she changed completely and at the end of the school year she amazed everybody with her speech. My father still talks about it,” she says.

Meri concluded her speech by saying that she had changed a lot during the school year. “I learned to smile again, learned to understand my host mother’s bad jokes, gained maturity (I swear my parents don’t even recognize me), and more importantly I became the person I want to be.”

Now that Meri is back in Finland, she and her host mother call each other on a regular basis and are planning a visit for next summer.

“Meri and I want to travel Scandinavia together in 2019,” explains Lisette.

Meri’s experience confirms the popular phrase: it is not a year in a life, but a life in a year. ★



Orientation 2018

Each year, we organize an orientation weekend for the students in our program during which they are given guidelines for their experience in Canada. At the orientation, the students are encouraged to participate in ice-breaking activities aimed at getting them to know each other. According to Chantal Lavolette, coordinator for the Moncton-Dieppe region, the weekend was a success. "There was a positive energy and the students were happy to share contact information to keep in touch during the school year." ★



The group who participated at the orientation on September 8 and 9 in Bathurst.



The group at the summer camp 2018 with the counselors.

A Successful Summer Camp

For the fourth year in a row, the International Student Program offered a two-week summer camp in August 2018. The students stayed in a residence on Campus of the Université de Moncton. The group attended French classes and got to do activities and excursions around the province.

This year, the camp had 16 students from different countries such as Mexico (11), Slovakia (1), Germany (1) and Switzerland (3).

Michèle Josée Arsenault, who was one of the camp counselors for the first time, thinks that this camp is like no other.

"This camp is different from other camps I have done in the past. You can broaden your culture in only two weeks. It's a way to see the cultural differences and similarities."

A French teacher gave three hours of French lessons each morning for students to master basic vocabulary and practical sentences. In just two weeks, participants learn a lot and are better equipped to start school in September.

Two students hosted the gala that took place on the last day of camp. The gala is a good occasion for the host families to know more about the student they will be welcoming in their home. ★



The students participated in many activities including the National Acadian Day (left) and a boat trip (right).



Perin Çelik, a student who loves French Literature

It was a little over two months ago that Perin Çelik arrived in New Brunswick from Turkey and her passion for French literature is already very present. The 11th-grade student at Cité des Jeunes A.-M.-Sormany in Edmundston is reading essays by Voltaire and Montaigne and theatre scripts. For example, her favourite book is *Le rouge et le noir* by Stendhal.

“In Turkey, my school was a French school. We studied literature and civilization. We divided literature by a century and we were in the nineteenth century.”

Although these types of books can be difficult to understand for Perin, it doesn't stop her from reading them. She uses the dictionary of certain words.

“We didn't read these types of books, we just analyzed the text. We read book reviews. Now I read them,” she explains.

Perin works for the student newspaper. She even wrote a story for Halloween. (You can read her story on our web site : www.pacnb.org.)

Perin adapted well to her life in New Brunswick. In fact, she is thinking of pursuing her studies at the Université de Moncton after graduation.

“The universities here are better than in Turkey. I want to study in French,” she adds.★



Perin Çelik from Turkey.



Toronto Trip

Two trips are organized every year by the New Brunswick International Student Program (NBISP) in collaboration with our program – Toronto in October and Québec City in March. Eight of our students participated in the Toronto trip this fall: Elin Schwab (Germany), Marcel D'Al-lura (Italy), Eva Reisig (Germany), Maja Katzer (Germany), Kristina Luptakova (Slovakia), Olivia Merz (Switzerland), Stella Friker (Germany) and Sarah Pavelkova (Slovakia).★



The Roy family is invested in the International Student Program

Host families are the heart of the International Student Program. Students have the chance to live in a French family environment, which gives them the opportunity to practise the language and participate in cultural activities with the family.

The Roy family is the perfect example. They are hosting an international student for the sixth time. Lily Watanabe from Switzerland (Grade 10) is living with Jocelyne, Jean-Frédéric and their two daughters.

How it started

In 2013, rather than going on a trip, the Roy family decided to welcome Sarah from Colombia in their home.

“We love to travel and discover new things. While travelling, we like to do as the locals do and find authentic places,” explains Jocelyne.

Through the years, students they hosted have become members of their family. They even visited Johanna in Germany recently, which they have welcomed last year.

Jocelyne says that her daughters enjoy hosting more and more because they are getting closer in age with the student and become friends.



The Roy family, composed of Jean-Frédéric Roy, Jocelyne Roy, their two daughters Marianne Roy and Zoé Roy as well as Lily Watanabe from Switzerland (right).

She adds that being open-minded is an important factor in becoming a host family.

“You must treat them as a member of the family and not like a tenant. This lets you learn so much about their culture.” ★



Activities in the Acadian Peninsula

Students in the Acadian Peninsula got to spend an evening together celebrating Halloween. They attended *Terreur au Village*, at the historical site Village historique acadien in Caraquet. This was their second group activity this year. Early in September, they had an outing at the local Papineau Falls. ★



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