

Hello, how's it going?

Finally, less than one month left to be here in Canada and this report is going to be the last report. I'm very happy to go back to Japan at last, but at the same time I will miss my days in Canada. I have been feeling time flies very fast in the last few months because there have been so many events. It has been very fulfilling .

【School life in Canada】

We played badminton and field hockey in P.E. class at the beginning of this semester. Lately we sometimes run in the woods do weight training in the weight room . I noticed some differences between P.E.class in Canada and in Japan.

In Canada we play music during P.E. class and we caexperience a variety of sports . Also, we play games and sometimes we can even walk to Starbucks to have tea.

We studied about a short story in English class and we had a debate. The theme was 「woman should be at home」 and 「woman should not be at home」 . My team debated about 「woman should be at home」 . However, in my opinion, even if I was married, I would work. So it was hard for me to debate against my true opinion and it was really hard to debate in English. But everyone's discussion was very interesting and it was fun.

In science class we learned about biology and now we are learning about physics . It was hard to memorize lots of difficult biology words.

Food class is always very fun for me. We often use meat recently. We made lots of kinds of dishes like pizza, chicken crisp, fried rice and chocolate mousse . Sometimes each group makes different dishes and we share the dishes together like buffet style. When I cook a lot, I feel like homemaker and sometimes I can make dishes by just reading recipes. I became to like

cooking after I chose Food class. Also, we study not only how to cook but also about nutritions, grains and ingredients.

【Second ski trip in Whistler】

I enjoyed skiing when I went to Whistler last time and I decided to go there again. We had less snow than last time and the snow didn't pile up at all. Although I could only ski at the bottom of the mountain last time, I could go to the top of the mountain this time. I really had a good time because there was lots of snow and I could ski a lot. It was my first ski experience in my life and , I was very lucky to go skiing twice in Whistler where the snow quality is high. That became a wonderful memory for me.

【A reunion with my mother for the first time in seven months】

I met up with my mother in Vancouver which takes about four hours from my place in Victoria by ferry, train and bus. I met her for the first time in seven months. When I saw her, I felt too happy and my eyes were filled with tears. I went shopping with her for two days in Vancouver and we moved to Victoria. we visited a sightseeing place called Butchart Gardens. There were a lot of blooming flowers .

Also I and my mother made Japanese dishes for my host family which has eight people. We made tempura, okonomiyaki, and Japanese style pasta. Everyone really liked the dishes and they all had secomds. My mother became good friends with them. They talked a lot as if they had met before. It was very nice weather during the five days she stayed with me and I had a good time just like a dream.

【Cheerleading competition】

I went to Vancouver for a competition and stayed at a hotel for three days. In Japan the mats don't have springs. On the other hand, in Canada ,mats have springs under them. Many teams participated in the competition. Some of the teams had high skills. there was a small children's team, they were very cute. I'm very lucky that I could do cheerleading in a foreign country which everyone can not experience easily. Moreover I could participate in competition.

This is one of my unforgettable memory in Canada.

【Seattle trip】

I went to Seattle which was really fun. When I landed on there, I was very impressive. I was so excited to cross the border between Canada and U.S.

On the first day, I went shopping at an outlet all day.

On the second day, I went to the first store of Starbucks in the world and went up the Space Needle. I could see the beautiful view of Seattle city.

【What I learned in Canada】

At the beginning of my life in Canada started last August, I had many difficulties such as a lot of rules at the home stay, language barrier, difference in foods, tough homeworks, and so on.

It often took much time to finish my homework like until midnight and I cried with frustration when my host mother didn't understand what I wanted to say.

Although, I thought I wanted to change my host family seriously for a period of time, I didn't have courage to raise my voice. I convinced myself, "it's only a half a year left." so I didn't change. I'm glad I didn't change it, though. I was trying to communicate with my host mother in my own way and we were getting better to understand each other as time goes by. Now, I'm very enjoying life with them.

Japanese people in Victoria is more than I expected. I become to miss Japanese food, I and my Japanese friends gathered and then we sometimes make Japanese food. I had a wonderful encounter with a Japanese student studying abroad who has a goal similar to me and they are staying longer than me in Canada that they are aiming to graduate from high school of Canada.

I think that I was able to try hard for almost one year because of my Japanese friends support and meeting with Canadian friends, above all else, my friends in Japan are cheering up for me and I was supported by my mother's word, even though it has been hard time a lot for me.

I realized how much precious the life in Japan, my friends in Japan and my parents are. There were lots of things which I must not have noticed how important they are if I didn't leave Japan for a year.

Studying abroad is not only the acquisition of language but also we can do a valuable experience a lot, for instance, I make breakfast and lunch for myself and do the washing which is sense of self-reliance. To say own opinion and if we can't understand what teacher or host family said, we should ask instantly. It's assertiveness. Also, we can learn about different culture. We become to think that is important to tackle every challenge. It might be difficult to take the first step but if we take the first step, we can grow up and gain confidence.

I want to thank my parents because they gave me such a chance of a valuable experience.

【After return to Japan】

I want to use English at work in the future. In order to make it come true, I'll make use of this experience. I'm learning many things and will try my best at university entrance exam. After returning to Japan I'll study hard to catch up on my studies in Japan.

Also, I want to work hard to mainrain my English ability.

But anyway, for now I can't wait to wear the uniform of "joshiseigakuin" again and I can join sports day.

I'll complete this experience by doing as many things and I want make a wonderful closure to my days in Canada.

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon. Have a great day!!

M.N