



The content in this preview is based on the last saved version of your email - any changes made to your email that have not been saved will not be shown in this preview.



CONNECTIONS

March 2009 Volume 1, Issue 1


WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ISSUE!



Red Leaf Student Programs is excited and proud to share our first issue of "Connections" with all of our host families across Canada.

Our Connections newsletter will provide you with interesting stories, community profiles, travel information, recipes and more. But, more importantly, we hope it helps to keep Red Leaf connected to the more than 3,000 families who generously open their hearts and homes to the thousands of eager and excited students who visit each year.

We hope you will enjoy our inaugural issue and encourage you to share with your friends and family. Visit us on [Facebook](#), comment on our new Host Family blog <http://redleafhostfamilies.com/> or forward this newsletter to a friend.

 Forward to a Friend

This Year's Scholarship Winner

Vanessa Gray



For many years my family and I have been a host family for Red Leaf and have hosted students from Spain, France and Mexico. Since I have two brothers, we always host a boy and it is always my room that

is given to the visiting student. I don't mind though because it is fun helping them improve their English and I love meeting people from all over the world.

Last summer, I decided to enter Red Leaf's Scholarship contest. After hosting students for so many years, I wanted to see what it would be like to be on the other side of things. The summer was

In This Issue

[Red Leaf's Scholarship](#)

[About Connections](#)

[Host Families Needed](#)

[Summer Camps at Sheridan College](#)

[Meet the Dekkers](#)

[Recipes](#)

nearly over and I had almost forgotten about this contest. I had other things on my mind....my 14th birthday was coming up.

My parents told me shortly before my birthday that I was getting a 'big surprise'! I just assumed they meant a present for my birthday. Was I ever surprised and stunned when Red Leaf called to tell me that I won the scholarship! Immediately I phoned my dad who told me that they already knew and that was my 'big surprise'! I was still so shocked and very happy. This is way better than any present!

I decided to go to France as both my brothers have already visited this country and we've also hosted 3 students from there too. I wanted to see for myself what everyone is raving about! I will be staying in Montpellier, France for 2 weeks this July. Instead of staying in a hotel, I decided that I want the experience of living with a French family. I have heard the scenery and landscape of Montpellier is beautiful. It is my hope to take long walks with my host family and I would love to see a sunset.

My goals for this trip are to make friends, improve my French, and to take advantage of every opportunity I am given. If I am asked to go to the grocery store, I'll go. I will not let any opportunity pass me by. I heard that they like to eat frogs' legs and that they are really good. It sounds nasty to me but I would definitely try it!

Lately I've been paying real close attention in French class! I'm focusing on learning the past and future tenses so hopefully I can communicate with my host family. I hope to conjugate my verbs correctly! However, I know from my experience hosting, there are many ways to communicate so I'm sure I'll be just fine.

I am also looking forward to seeing the famous fashion trends that France is known for. I want to see how the people of France dress and the different styles that they have. It would be interesting to see for myself if it is really true that people in France have bread and cheese with every meal.

My trip is only a few months away and I'm really getting excited to go. My friends are all so happy (and jealous)! They can't wait to hear if I will actually try frogs' legs. I hope to write again after my trip to let you all know about my experience and if I was able to eat the frogs' legs.

Until then, au revoir.

Vanessa

Note: *The 2 week scholarship Vanessa won is offered to all teenage children of Red Leaf summer program host families. For more information on your son or daughter entering this year's contest, please contact your Local Coordinator.*

Connections Contributions

Send Us Your Stories

One of Red Leaf's goals is to provide opportunities not only for visiting international students but to our wonderful host families. There are endless opportunities gained by hosting. One of the most life-changing aspects in a young person's life is making life-long friendships. There is nothing more special to Red Leaf than the bonds created by these friendships.



Each issue of "Connections" we would like to share a special friendship connection made between one of our visiting students and their host brother or sister. We hope that these young people learn from each other and take their experiences with them throughout their lives.

We welcome your stories, comments and ideas for future issues. Please email your thoughts to your Local Coordinator.

Host Families Needed!

July and August 2009

Red Leaf is expanding to Alberta! Host families are needed for French and Spanish students in Edmonton, Red Deer and vicinity.

These teens will be doing a Total Immersion program in July and August 2009.

Please contact mlowen@red-leaf.com for more information or click the Forward to a Friend button above to send this to anyone you know who may be interested.

Host Family Profile

Meet The Dekkers



My name is Susan and along with my husband John and 3 daughters Marina (15), Taya (12) and Halli (10), we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our 4th daughter....a student from Mexico. This will be our family's

3rd time hosting young students from Mexico during 2 short weeks. Our biggest challenge will be deciding whose room the student shares.

Who's getting the Mexican?! All three of my daughters are fighting over whose room will be shared with their new friend. They are all excited about hosting! It was over 3 years ago that we first decided to give it a try as John and I thought hosting would be a good experience for our children to learn about another country first-hand. We also believed it would be a wonderful opportunity to show someone from another country what Canadian life is like. To live like a Canadian instead of like a tourist in a hotel room.

We include the students as much as possible in our lives. They become part of our family and do everything with us from joining one of my daughters in Girl Guides to venturing out on ice skates for the first time. Whatever we do, they do! We want the student to be part of the family so they are treated like another daughter. I like their families back home to know that we will take good care of their daughter. I'd want the same thing for my girls if they were travelling to another country.

The first thing I will most likely do when the student arrives is send her to the backyard to build a snowman! We get a kick out of seeing the expressions on their young faces when seeing snow for the first time. I love to watch them and always get them out building a snowman. It's a lot of fun and I'll take their picture to email their parents back home. Welcome to Canada!

It didn't take us long to see how easily these international students adapt to our Canadian lifestyle, no matter what time of year they visit. At first, I was a little unsure what to feed a Mexican guest. Other than Taco Bell, what do I know about Mexican food? However, I was surprised how 'Americanized' they were. All they wanted when they arrived was pizza and spaghetti. One of my Mexican students did treat the family to an authentic Mexican meal one evening. It was so good that when another student was due to arrive, her family asked us if there was anything they'd like their daughter to bring with her from Mexico. I had kept the label of one of the cans and was able to email a copy to the family. We enjoyed

International Summer Camps

At Sheridan College, Oakville

Ages 13-17

Duration: 8 days

Program dates:

July 8 - 17

July 22 - 31;

August 5 - 14

International Languages and Leadership Camp



Learn French or Spanish and Leadership skills in an international environment!

Improve your conversational French or Spanish skills, meet international campers the same age, and discover important global leadership qualities. This unique and stimulating summer camp is perfect if you want to practice your French or Spanish skills and learn what it takes to be a leader in today's interconnected world.

Film and Television Production Camp



Discover the secrets of producing television programs and films in this one-of-a-kind summer camp. There is an enormous amount of work that goes into creating a successful TV program or film. From creating an engaging story line to using effective lighting and sharp editing techniques, this camp will give you a solid grounding in the basics of this exciting field..

[Visit our website](#) to find out more.

another traditional Mexican dish with our next student!

Besides hosting students from Mexico, we've also hosted students from Columbia, Spain and France. Surprisingly, we never had any language barriers. Sometimes, they would get stuck on a word and would use an online or hand-held translator but mostly they managed by pointing to things, hand gesturing or by drawing. Language was never an obstacle because all of the students had some English knowledge and a strong desire to try to speak it. Our family was impressed by the students' enthusiasm and willingness to learn and be a part of a Canadian family.

The most difficult part of hosting is saying good-bye, it's not easy. Luckily for us and the many students we have hosted and will continue to host, we will always have memories, email and pictures with the snowman.

Cold Gazpacho Soup Recipe

A Spanish Experience

Gazpacho Ingredients:

- 8 Tomatoes
- 2 Small Cucumbers
- 1 Clove of Garlic
- 1/2 Onion
- 2 Green Peppers
- 3 Spoons Olive Oil Vinegar, salt, pepper and water.



Gazpacho Cooking Instructions:

Apart from the above ingredients you will need a blender. To prepare a good Gazpacho is a simple and quick job. First clean and cut the vegetables. Then puree all ingredients in a blender for about 5-10 minutes.

Strain and discard any vegetable pieces that did not puree fully. The Gazpacho is best served cold. Drink a nice Spanish wine with your homemade Gazpacho to have the full Spanish experience!

Tortilla de Patatae

Spanish Omelet Recipe

Tortilla Ingredients:

- 4 Large Potatoes, peeled and sliced
- 6 Large Eggs
- 1 medium Onion thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup of Olive Oil
- 1/4 cup of Milk
- Salt and Pepper.



Tortilla Cooking Instructions:

1. Combine eggs, milk, salt and pepper in a large bowl.
2. In a non-stick frying pan, cook onion and potatoes in olive oil for about 10 minutes in low-medium heat.
3. In the same non-stick frying pan cook all the ingredients over low/medium heat until the eggs begin to set. Use a large plate to turn around the omelet and again heat until the eggs begin to set.

The tortilla can be served both hot and cold with fresh vegetables or in a sandwich.

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe**[®]

This email was sent to charvey@red-leaf.com by charvey@red-leaf.com.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Red Leaf | 300 John Street - Suite 503 | Thornhill | Ontario | L3T 5W4 | Canada