

Tagebuch von Isabella, 17, aus Ontario

Ausschnitte eines Reisetagebuchs einer kanadischen Gastschülerin

13.11.2017

Dear diary,

today was my first day at the Kreisgymnasium Halle. I was so excited but also a bit scared.

Questions like „What if I won't find the different classrooms?“ and „What if I won't be accepted by the others?“ jumped through my head. I was shaking a bit when I entered the school's building.

My first challenge was to find the classroom. It was called H29 and I literally had no idea where to go.

But I was scared of asking someone for help. In Canada, I've only studied German for half a year.

Also, I'm very shy. I want this year abroad to help me becoming more extroverted.

Well, I figured out that I definitely needed to ask someone now because the school bell already rang and the foyer drained. There weren't many people left to ask for help.

So I gathered all my courage and said „Excuse me“ to a student walking by. He was tall and had short black hair. But he just kept walking and didn't even look at me. I almost teared up. This made me feeling worse and I just wanted to be home again.

But then someone tapped on my shoulder. I turned around and saw a young lady with brown braided hair and a nice smile.

„Hallo. Bist du neu hier?“, she asked.

I wasn't sure if I understood it properly so I answered in English.

„Sorry, I'm from Canada. I'm an exchange student. Today is my first day here and I'm searching a classroom called H29“, I told her. My voice was shaking a bit.

She replied with good English and her voice was very calming.

„Oh, it's quite easy to find. You just need to get to the second floor and then it's in the right corner.“ She pointed into a direction. „If you can't find it at first, look at the room signs. They've got a certain order.“

„Thank you very much“, I said and smiled.

„No problem, dear“, she replied. I was so grateful.

After walking up all the stairs into the second floor, I was almost running out of breathe. My high school in Canada is very huge and modern and we've got an evelator which we can use most of the time. Hopefully this year of walking the stairs up and down will help me becoming sporty haha.

Arriving on the second floor, it wasn't that hard anymore to find H29. I knocked on the door and then entered the room. Everyone turned around. Suddenly, my heartbeat increased and my skin began to feel uncomfortably hot. In front of the class stood an elderly teacher with grey hair.

I won't write down every conversation from today but I quickly introduced myself and sat down next to a girl called Melissa. She's got long, brown hair and a nice smile. They currently had Maths class and she explained me all the German words I couldn't understand and helped me to calm down and made me laugh. I really like her and we spent the day together. She introduced me the school and showed me the most important rooms.

Now it's 5 pm and I'm done with my homework. It wasn't that difficult because we had to write a comment in English which is my main language.

Well, I just realized that I haven't lost a word about my accommodation. I'm living with a very nice German family of two parents and their five year old son Nick. They live in Halle so I take the bycicle to school.

Okay, I'll leave it for today. See you tomorrow.

14.11.2017

Dear diary,

my second day at the KGH consisted of organizing stuff and getting to know the school.

First, I had to go to the secretariat to collect my student ID card and some papers about my stay. Then I needed to talk to the main teacher for student exchanges and stuff like that.

At lunch break I was able to sit with Melissa and some of her friends. They are very nice and mostly talked in English because I first of all need to improve my German to hold proper conversations.

We had Biology in the 9th lesson and I was on the toilet in the short break before. I told Melissa and her friends to already go to the biology room because I felt kinda uncomfortable to let them wait for me. But I realized that it was a mistake. I had no clue where the biology room was. I looked all around but I just saw thousands of room numbers and brown doors. I clearly couldn't knock on every single door.

The time passed by and the 9th lesson had already started. I got nervous and started shaking a bit. What if the teacher won't understand it and shout at me? What if I have to meet the principal? All the imaginations stressed me even more and I decided to sit down in the foyer and figure out a solution, but I couldn't get clear thoughts.

Wham. The main door got openend and closed again by someone. I looked up. It was a boy with brown hair and mostly black clothes. I didn't know him and he seemed to be in the 11th or 12th grade, so I looked down again.

„Hey ... ist alles okay bei dir?“, someone suddenly asked me.

I got pulled out of my mind and puzzled thoughts and quickly raised my head, surprised by someone talking to me. In front of me: the boy who just entered the building.

I was so nervous, I couldn't find the right words.

„Ehm... yes... no not really... I don't know where to find my biolo- oh yeah, I don't even speak proper German...“ I could punch myself for speaking this awkwardly.

„Oh no worries. I can speak English. So what class are you in?“, he kindly asked.

„I'm in 9d“, I answered, glad that I could talk to someone this nice.

„Okay. Let's check your timetable. Which room number does it show?“

I quickly pulled it out of my bag and scanned it. „H14“.

„Ahh yeah. I can show you the room. It's easy to find.“, he said while smiling at me.

I smiled back and followed him upstairs.

„So what's your name?“, he asked me while arriving upstairs.

„I'm Isabella. What about you?“

„My name's Fynn. So you're from ...“

„Ontario“, I told him. „I'll be staying here for one year.“

„That's nice! Well, here's your biology class.“ He pointed at one of these hundred brown doors.

I nodded at him, smiling. „Thank you so much. I really appreciate it!“

„You're welcome. See ya!“ he answered and walked away.

I was nerviously entering the class but the teacher didn't even ask me about being late, he just kindly showed me where to sit and I felt much better.

I'm so glad that this boy helped me finding the room and that the teacher was very friendly. Oh, my host mum's calling me for dinner!! See ya.

17.11.2017

Dear diary,

it's me again. The last few days contained a lot of organizing stuff, holding large conversations with my host family and getting used to my kind of new life.

I'm feeling better with every day passing by, although it has not even been a week since I arrived in Germany.

Well... today actually sucked a bit. Let me tell you...

Melissa was ill today and I sat in class alone, which generally wouldn't make a huge problem. I've got to admit, I feel a bit more comfortable when she's near me and I often needed her to ask some vocabulary questions, but after all, I'd survive a class without her.

But the breaks, especially the lunch break, were sooooo terrifying.

In the last days, I've always spent my breaks with Melissa and her friends. But as she's ill today and was making up a huge part of the connection between her other friends and me, I needed to sit alone.

Of course I had already spoken with the others and we know each other a bit, but today, when I ate in the cafeteria and they entered a few minutes later, they just sat down at another table in the opposite corner. I was wondering if they maybe haven't noticed me, but I bet I've seen one or two of them looking over to me at least twice during the break. This made me feel a bit anxious because I hate when people stare at me.

Oh, and then there was this incident with the small girl in the toilet, it was soooo strange.

I was just leaving the toilet cabin and going to the sinks to wash my hands, then a young girl, approximately in 5th grade, asked me something, speaking as fast as a race car. I surely couldn't understand her so I asked her to repeat it (I was asking her in English because I'm still not feeling secure about my German skills). But all she did was looking at me like I was a strange animal or something like that she had never seen before and quickly leaving the facilities.

I'm still wondering what she wanted to ask me and why she reacted like this, but maybe I should forget it and concentrate on more important things.

I told my host parents about my experiences from today and they encouraged me with some kind words. They're very caring and helpful, I couldn't ask for better ones.

I hope that Melissa will be feeling better on Monday and I won't be alone anymore.

But for now, it's weekend and I'll be going on some interesting trips with my host family. I'm very excited to explore Bielefeld, the Teutoburger Wald and taking the Haller Willem.

Germany is quite different from Canada, but still very, very exciting, beautiful and it's feeling absolutely great to stay here. I bet it's all going to be better and easier within the next weeks and I can't wait to explore as many new things, places and words as possible!

Isabella