

Karin Keller, 2013-14 Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Student



Karin Keller, a 2013 high school graduate from Kelowna Secondary School, is the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise's current outbound Rotary Youth Exchange student. Karin arrived in Sao Paulo, Brazil on September 19th, where she is being hosted by the Rotary Club of Sao Paulo Imigrantes, a club within District 4610.

The Rotary Club of Sao Paulo Imigrantes, founded in 2005, is one of 59 Rotary clubs in District 4610, a district which is solely situated in the city of Sao Paulo. The club which meets every Monday evening, consists of 15 members, including three women, with leadership being provided by President Wilton Parreira.



Karin's Family.....

Karin is the daughter of Susan and Leo Keller who reside in Kelowna. Both of her parents taught at Dr. Knox Middle School. While her mother retired from her position of Home Economics teacher; her father continues teaching Technical Education at Dr. Knox. Karin has an older sister Sarah who is currently studying at UBC Vancouver in the area of Human Kinetics.



Secondary School Experience.....

Karin graduated with a dual dogwood as a bilingual student. While attending high school, she achieved the Honour Roll and Work Ethic Award each year and was awarded the Top marine Biology Student Award in grade XII.

Interests and Hobbies.....

Karin is an artist who enjoys expressing herself through her watercolour and acrylic paintings. Her artwork was displayed at the Kelowna Art Gallery in May of 2013 at the Youth Insights Art Show.



Her hobbies and interests also include hot yoga and socializing with friends and family. In between, Karin loves to spend time at the ocean and travelling. During the summers, prior to this year, she served for two weeks at the Vancouver Aquarium in the elite position of Aqua Camp Leader. She expresses that she has been passionate about volunteering at the Vancouver Aquarium as it gave her the opportunity to teach children about the ocean and to help them become more aware of global climate change and what

we can all do to stop it. She has also volunteered in countless local triathlons, and at the Gospel Mission, the Osoyoos gleaners, and the International Children's Games.

Demonstrated Leadership Skills.....

Clearly, Karin has developed many leadership qualities through her schooling and by volunteering in community activities. She is also recognized for her ability to help others, and her ambitiousness, creativeness, kindness, positive attitude and her irrevocable determination in achieving the goals she has set for herself.

Karin's Aspirations while in Brazil.....

Karin shares that as a RYE student in Brazil, she hopes to master Brazilian Portuguese and to become trilingual. She has a passion for languages and is fully anticipating becoming fully immersed in the country's official language. She plans on visiting the Amazon Rainforest. More importantly, she adds, she hopes to find out what her true passions are, to discover herself, and to be able to gain a better understanding and love for the world for what it is. She is anxious to embrace all types of people in her life and to experience the Brazilian culture. She has a great desire "to live wholeheartedly and openly." "I really think the Rotary Youth Exchange Program makes all these things possible for young people and I am so grateful for this opportunity."

Karin's Forthcoming Educational Experience in Brazil.....

While in Brazil, Karin attends Colegio Pauliceia, a College that was founded in 1960. This small private school with approximately 200 students from kindergarten to grade twelve, provides "quality education for all," which is the school's motto, where the educational environment is inclusive to enable the school to promote the development of each student's potential by recognizing and focusing on human multiple intelligences.

Karin is currently attending grade 11 so that she can carry on to grade 12 with her peers in January, as this is the beginning of the new school year in Brazil. She finds the school incredible as it is fully inclusive, where everyone welcomes and accepts one another. "It's refreshing!" exclaims Karin. Karin is enrolled in 50 minute classes of mathematics, physics, English, history, Brazilian history, art, music, physical education, chemistry, Portuguese, Spanish, sociology and self-esteem. She takes seven of these each of the days that school is in session.

A Little about her City.....

Sao Paulo is the largest city in Brazil, the largest city in the southern hemisphere and South America, and the world's seventh largest city by population. It is a city with a metropolis population of 11,364,076 (Nov 01, 2013), and a metropolitan population of just over 20 million. The metropolis is anchor to the



São Paulo metropolitan area, ranked as the second-most populous metropolitan area in the Americas and among the five-largest metropolitan areas on the planet. São Paulo is the capital of the state of São Paulo, which is the most populous Brazilian state, and exerts strong regional influence in commerce and finance as well as arts and entertainment. São Paulo maintains strong international influence and is considered an Alpha World City. The name of the city honors Saint Paul.

