



Madeleine

from

Fergus Elora

to

Argentina

“Hola, Como estas? Estas bien?”

Argentina – My Home Away from Home.

I have been in Argentina for almost three months and writing this has given me the greatest opportunity to look back at the first months and see how I have changed so much since then. Firstly, some things that I love about my country; the weather is beautiful. Of course, some days you can find that the heat brings buckets of sweat and people nap in the afternoon because it's just too hot to do anything, but at the end of the day when you watch the sun go down and it's still twenty-five to thirty degrees outside. It's then when you think about all your friends back in Canada that have already had to take out their winter jackets for the upcoming cold weather.



I also seem to have fallen in love with thunderstorms. Maybe because we (my host sister and I) get to sleep in if it's raining really bad as school is usually cancelled due to the roads turning to mud.

I remember the first night I was here my host family was picking me up from the airport and I had to run from the plane to the airport because it was raining so bad and just as I had found my cover from the rain I heard loud ground-shaking thunder and I looked back to see the most beautiful lightening shower I had ever seen in my whole life. The sky seemed to light up with colours of pink, purple, white and blue. At this exact moment I wasn't scared of anything just completely in awe of the show Mother Nature had put on.

In my first month in Argentina, I knew little to no Spanish. Someone could have asked me where the bathroom was and I would have responded with 'my day is great and yours?'.

But now, three months later and about seven two hour Spanish classes later I am able to communicate with my peers and speak with my host family. I actually have just finished putting all my verbs into the present tense and now I am working on the past tense. I was very worried at first as I didn't realize how important learning the language was but it is really important. For anyone that thinks otherwise you're wrong. It helps A LOT. It helps you to make friends and answer questions about your country. It also



helps to get more connected with your host family. Once people start to see you putting in an effort they will try to understand and correct you so that you improve. Also I find they speak slower if they know you're an exchange student which really helps especially in Latin American countries.

I have also made great rotary friends. I have one other exchange student in my town with me. He is from France. Since we are the only ones in our town we have come to be pretty good friends. He has helped me with my Spanish and if I am ever sad he lets me tell him all about it. It has really helped me because I can't really talk to my friends about it at home because they just don't quite understand but it's okay because I don't expect them to nor would I want to trouble them. The first time I met my closest friend on exchange she offered me a piece of her candy and right after we were best friends. She unfortunately lives two hours away from me in a beautiful city but this gives me great excuses to visit her often. I live far from both cities. Both cities are beautiful and each time I travel there, I have a great time and always want to stay a little longer. But I think if I were to live there the beauty would wear off so in some respects it's good that I don't live there. When I am there, I stay with a close friend that has just come back from France. She invites all the girls to her house and we have a huge slumber party for the weekend or however long my stay is.





Usually we go to the beach and the mall of course in the mall there is a fast food restaurant which has become a tradition to eat at only when we are all together.

Being in a new country shows you how different everything is. People's dreams are different, their greetings, the food, the surroundings. I like to think

I come from a higher middle class home and coming to Argentina has opened my eyes to see that people really don't care where you come from or how much money you have, it's how you present yourself and how you show you care. I find that most of the kids at my school love to have fun, make jokes, fool around and just have a good time and it doesn't matter who you are. They don't have groups here or people that think they're better than others, They just are friends and a friend is how they treat me. I couldn't feel more at home than I do away from home. Hope you have enjoyed reading.

Chao,

Madeleine