



# Tylee

from

**Burlington North**

to

**Brazil**

*“what a life it has been”*

It is hard to believe that this is my last BeaverTale since it feels like I wrote the first BeaverTale only a couple of months ago. The time is passing so fast and I am creating many memories that will last a life time.

As I am writing this I am looking back at all the amazing opportunities that I have had access to including the trips, being part of my school community, the food, problem solving in a new language just to name a few. I would like to say a huge thank you to Rotary back home and Rotary in Brazil. I would not have been able to experience all that I have without them. My year in Brazil has opened my eyes to a whole different world. It has helped me gain confidence in myself and other people.

Currently I am at my third and final house. This family is made up of three marvelous people my host mom, dad and little sister, Sofia. I am so happy that I get to stay with this family for the rest of my exchange. They have helped me become more confident in my Portuguese speaking skills. I will never be able to describe how thankful I am to this family for taking me in like I am their own daughter. This family has made my exchange one hundred times better. And I will never forget them and their kindness. My host mother is currently in Canada visiting her older daughter who lives in a city close to my home town of Burlington. It's kind of neat that I was able to help her plan some of her trip. It is cooler still that I will see her again before I leave to go back to home.

Since the last BeaverTale I had the opportunity to visit Peru. This trip definitely represents my favourite time during my entire exchange. Only four exchange students went on the trip which meant it could be a lot more personal. We got to see more of what we wanted. The cities visited were: Lima, Nasca, Cuzco, Ollyantamba, and Machu Picchu.

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By far the greatest moment was being able to climb up Machu Picchu and see the view. We got to see so many historical sites that would take your breath away. There was a lot of walking that by the end of each day we all found it hard to stand. On this trip we also got to try some traditional Peruvian food. I think the oddest was that we got to try Guinea Pig. The thing is when they serve Guinea Pig they don't cut it up, it is still in the form of the body. I tried it, as should anyone who gets the chance, however I will not be eating it again. In Machu Picchu there are lots of llamas roaming around that really like to photobomb your photos. I even got the lucky chance to meet the famous llama, Jack.

Reflecting back on my exchange, I can officially say that I understand the saying, *"It's not a year in your life, it's a life in a year."* And what a life it has been. I will miss many things here and at the same time I am grateful I even had the chance to build a new life, a new family, and a new friend group. I am also very grateful that I learned a lot about myself. I know this will help me do well with whatever comes my way in the next part of my life. Would I recommend the Exchange to others? Yep – without a doubt.

*Tylee*