

OUR FRIENDS FROM FAR AWAY

Ellie Goto

REPORTER
NAOMI O'CONNOR

Ellie Goto is an exchange student from Japan. Ever since school started, I always wanted to learn more about her. I finally got the opportunity to pull her aside during 6th period to interview her.

She is very sweet and quite adorable, even though she says she isn't.

She is will be 16 next month and is in the 10th grade. So far, she says that being at Pleasant Hill high school is "awesome."

I wanted to know some things about her life in Japan so I asked what her favorite things in Japan were. She likes

listening to music, reading books, watching movies and going to Disneyland. Her favorite food is sushi. She especially likes this dish called "Loll." It's meat wrapped in cabbage.

I myself don't like sushi, but she made it sound pretty mouth watering. She has four people in her family counting herself. Her mother, father, and her younger brother. She also owns a dog named "Toto."

She really enjoyed crabbing at the coast and going to a Duck game. She says that she wants to stay here and go to U of O someday.

I asked her questions about the boys here and that is where the conversation got a little more interesting.

"They're so nice! I went to an only girls highschool so I don't know how to talk to boys."

That eliminated the next question: Have you ever had a boyfriend?

When she gets out of school, she wants to work at United Nations. she says, "I don't know if it's a dream come true, but I will try."



Maya Kanaba

REPORTER
LEANN DEE

She is tiny, she has a big smile, which she shares almost all the time, and she is a superb cheerleader.

She is Maya Kanaba, a 17-year old exchange student from Japan and she is 5'2". Maya practices aerobic dancing back home

and was in a Typing Club. In Japan she lives with her mother Ruriko and grandmother Kyoko. Maya lives in a bucolic town named Saga. Maya attended Siewa Senior High school. Her school starts at 8:30 and ends at 5:30, students also have uniforms.

Maya loves "meat sauce spaghetti", subway, and pizza. She wants to be a nurse. She loves all the pretty colors in nature here. Boilas here have "cool faces," and girls are "pretty cute and have good hair and fashion." Maya is here to learn better English and enjoy cheerleading.

Alexis Vander Meer says " Maya Kanaba is bubble" Jasmine Arment-Prince says "She is adorable and I love her!"

Braden Williamson said " She is very sweet, and i think it's brave of her to leave her home and come here."

Roman Steffen Max

EDITOR
JORDAN JEFFS

Roman Steffen Max is a 6'3" meat-eating machine from the green farmlands of Northern Germany.

Roman is an exchange student who lives with Eric Gibbs and his family. He says Oregon has many similarities to his homeland, but as soon as he arrived, he was immediately impressed by the tree-covered hills. There are few hills or mountains in Northern Germany.

While Roman is in Oregon, he wants to learn to "speak English fluently, have a good time, feel like an American, and try as many positive, new things as possible."

Roman is excited for this year's Homecoming. In fact, he has never experienced a school dance before, because his school in Germany only allowed upperclassmen to attend dances.

An interesting thing about Roman's home town is that the city of Oldenburg has a similar population to the city of Eugene. Roman says that the



temperatures between Eugene and Oldenburg are almost identical, so far.

Roman loves scuba diving in the summer and skiing in the winter. He also plays a "captivating" sport called handball. Handball has two teams of seven players each (six outfield players and a goalkeeper). They pass a ball using their hands with the aim of throwing it into the goal of the other team. A standard match consists of two periods of 30 minutes, and the team that scores the most goals wins.

Roman enjoys the food here in Oregon. "It has more meat, I love meat!" He loves burgers, bacon, and sausage. You can invite him over for a good bratwurst, and don't hold back on the kraut!

At home in Germany resides his mother(Silvia), father(Norbert), and a 20 year old brother(Felix). Roman's school was about three kilometers (1.86miles) away from his home. He usually was seen riding his bike to and from school.



Arsenio Hauron

REPORTER
IKE SUGITANI

"I feel at home, I feel like my family is near... here," Arsenio thought to himself as he arrived at the Eugene Airport.

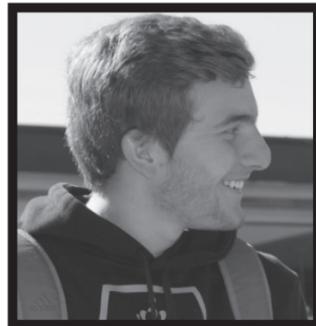
After a long trip of 31 hours, he finally arrived at his new home. He was greeted by the friendly faces of his host brother, Torrey, and his host mother and father, Miriam and Forest.

Growing up in Paraguay, Arsenio Haurón dreamed of visiting America. He lived in the small town of Pilar, Paraguay with his mother, Mirtha and his father, Carlos. Another important member of his family is his pet poodle, Apollo.

Arsenio's father owns a farm about an hour outside of Pilar. On the farm, he raises cattle, chickens, sheep and horses. Because of this, Arsenio loves to eat lots of meat.

School in Paraguay starts at 7 A.M, and ends at 11:30 A.M. However, they also have to attend school 3 days a week in the afternoon, from 1 to 5. When he's not in school, Arsenio likes to go to parties and spend time with his friends. Arsenio also enjoys unwinding on the weekends by playing Grand Theft Auto and soccer.

Soccer is one of Arsenio's greatest passions.



At the age of five, Arsenio fell in love with the sport and has played ever since. He played for the club team, Capitán Bado, in his hometown, year round. At the age of 13, Arsenio was selected into the youth national team. He never played in a game for Paraguay because of his height, but hopes to be reselected for the national team, once again, when he is older.

Before coming to America, Arsenio had studied English for 12 years. He'd always been interested in American customs and had even watched some American movies. In fact, his favorite actor is Tom Cruise. Before starting school at PHHS, Arsenio was able to see the San Francisco Giants play. Since then, he has attended many school sporting events at Pleasant Hill.

Arsenio is enjoying his time in the U.S. He hopes to travel and experience as much as possible while he is here. One trip him and his friends plan to make, is to Willamette Pass, so Arsenio can see and feel snow for the first time! With the many new friends he has made, Arsenio sees himself having the best year ever while in America.



Ally Bird

EDITOR
MILA GARLITZ

With an striking Australian accent, Ally Bird, joins us at Pleasant Hill High School. Ally is a 16 year old junior from Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia. She lives in the gum tree bush with Koalas as neighbors while kangaroos hang out near the road that runs by her home.

Ally is staying with the Orre family while she's in the U.S. The Orre's have two girls who also attend Pleasant Hill High School who have been able to help Ally get acquainted with her new school. Nicole Orre (12) and Ashley Orre (10).

Ally first got started on this exchange because of Ashley Orre. Ashley had been the first one to look into doing an international exchange student program. Her family had not wanted Ashley to stay with a host family that they were not familiar with. Ashley and Ally's parents had known each other and had conducted the plan for both of the girls' exchange. Ashley will be leaving Pleasant Hill next in the beginning of next year to Australia to attend school with Ally.

The most profound factor at our school for Ally is that we get to wear what we want (within appropriate school guidelines). School uniforms are required at her school. The girls must wear a light blue dress in the Summer; and a skirt and a white top along with a jumper



and jacket plus a tie in the winter time.

"I like that you don't have to wear uniforms at this school," said Ally.

A couple things Ally is looking forward to are our holidays. In Australia they don't celebrate things like Halloween and Thanksgiving. Some main holidays that take place in Australia are Australia Day, which is at the start of the year in January.

They also have a fairly new holiday, it's a long weekend for the Grand Final for their Australian football called "Footy."

"It's kind of different going to a small school where everyone knows everyone," said Ally.

In Australia, Ally takes classes like photography, Indonesian, and French. Most schools their require you to take two language classes. However, we do have a couple courses that her school does not have.

"My favorite classes here are Publications and vocal, because we don't have a choir at our school or anything like it. I like Publications

because it's really different than anything we have in Australia. We don't have a yearbook and we don't make our newsletters at our school, the people in the office do that."

His school is much larger than Pleasant Hill. One difference between here and Oldenburg, is that teens must be at least 17 to drive with parents, and are eligible to get their license when they are eighteen.

Though Roman is tall, don't be afraid to talk to him. He speaks English well. He started taking English classes when he was in 4th grade.

