

中3 北川 (KITAGAWA)

Last January I went to New Zealand. While I was staying there, I went to school called St.Dominics. It was the first experience for me to go abroad by myself and to stay for two months with my host family, away from my family. I had been homesick until the school started, but once the school started, it was really fun and I enjoyed it a lot. At my school, there were many students from different countries, like Kiwis (New Zealanders), Samoan, Tongans, Chinese, Japanese etc. Everyone has their own background and they were always trying to know each other well. Therefore I learned many countries' cultures and languages. For example, in English we say "I love you." In Samoan, they say "oute alofa ia oe" and in Maori, "Kei te aroha au ki a koe". These sentences are what I learned from my classmates. As I said, New Zealand is a multiracial nation. If you have time to go to school in New Zealand, I am sure you can learn many things from there not only about New Zealand and English.

My school was Catholic so we had to pray in the morning. Also we had a class called religion. In a religion class, we studied about Christ. This class was the most difficult class for me, but it was a good experience to ask questions of friends and teachers. In religion there were so many terminologies that most of them were too difficult for me. When an unfamiliar word came out, I always asked my friend and had to understand it in English, or if I didn't understand the explanation even from my friend, I translated it into Japanese.

I think I did my best during my stay in New Zealand. This experience made me grow. Not only did I improve my English skill, but also staying with my host family made me improve myself. I cherish this experience and people who helped me with this studying abroad program.

Thank you.

