

EMG Haar – Bellingham High School, WA

GAPP 2016-17 – Making a Mark on our Lives!



Das von Zari für die aktuelle USA-Austausch-Runde designte Logo zeigt sehr anschaulich, was die Teilnahme am German American Partnership Program bedeutet: GAPP ist das Bindeglied zwischen deutscher und amerikanischer Lebensweise – und die vielen tollen Erlebnisse mit der Gastfamilie, in der Schule sowie mit der ganzen GAPP-Gruppe drücken dem weiteren Leben einen ganz besonderen Stempel auf.

Besondere Momente für die ganze Gruppe sind immer das gemeinsame Wochenende auf San Juan Island (bei dem diesmal Square Dance auf dem Programm stand – angeleitet von einem professionellen „Caller“, der die Figurenkommandos singt) sowie die von den Deutschen für ihre „Amis“ gestaltete Farewell-Party, bei der natürlich auch einige Abschiedstränen geflossen sind – ein Zeichen für die enge Verbundenheit mit der neuen Familie!

Einen kleinen Einblick gibt dieser Eintrag von Eva-Maria Huckemann über ihr letztes Familienwochenende in Amerika:

“This weekend was special, because it was my last one in America.
One more reason to enjoy the last few days!!! Time has passed way too fast!

On Saturday I woke up at 9 am on the sofa in the living room with a beautiful view beyond the Alki Beach in Seattle. My exchange partner, his sister and I spent the night in their grandfather's (Mike) apartment. After breakfast in front of the TV we hit the road to downtown. We parked the car by Seattle's Great Wheel. After buying some tickets we had an amazing view of Seattle from the Wheel.

To be honest, I do prefer the Great Wheel at the Oktoberfest; but I liked especially the view because all those tall buildings in Seattle are so striking. We continued our trip with the Seattle Aquarium. The beauty of the underwater environment was impressive.

Unfortunately I didn't see any sharks, but that was not bad. We all got very hungry, so we went to a burger house near the Aquarium. I ate a delicious burger with fries. Typical American but so good! After that we went shopping in Seattle. That was a lot of fun and I enjoyed spending time with the family very much. [...]

It was already late in the afternoon so we had to go back to my host family. Grandpa Mike gave us a ride back home. On our way we stopped at the Old Spaghetti Factory. But I was still so full because of lunch so I just ate a salad. The portions were so huge that we took it home. After dinner we continued our way home.

At 11pm we finally arrived and I immediately fell asleep. It was a wonderful day in Seattle and I'm so thankful that I've had this opportunity.

On Sunday I woke up very late. I was still tired but I went to the living room where I had a conversation with my host parents. We had breakfast and after that Tiani (mom), Tucker (my exchange partner's stepbrother) and I went grocery shopping. We had to buy some stuff for the cookies I had to bake for the Farewell party the next day. And of course the birthday cake for Sophia who would turn 16!!! Back at home Julia and Peyton arrived and we started baking M&M Cookies. That was so much fun. But we had some trouble because our recipes were German but Americans normally bake with cups. But we managed it and luckily we had Peyton's help.



When the cookies were done we baked the cake for our friend Sophia. This would be a surprise for her at school. While waiting for the cake to bake in the oven we tried doing Henna Tattoos. That was much fun and I did my first one. Later we tried to get the cake out of baking mold. Sadly we damaged it, so we tried to fix the cake. It was like a puzzle putting all those pieces together. But in the end we managed it and we called it a "masterpiece". Zion (my exchange partner) arrived home. He played music the whole morning at the Middle school because he's a DJ.

At 5pm we all had a ride to Sophia's house. The host mother of her had organized a surprise party. Finally Sophia arrived and she was so happy. Of course she didn't guess that we all arranged a party. It was an amazing evening. We all listened to music and sang along. The bonfire gave us warmth and we almost forgot that this was our very last weekend together in America."

Konstanze Gerlich (Fachbetreuung Englisch, GAPP-Koordinatorin/Begleitlehrkraft zusammen mit Susanne Hillinger)