



NEW BRUNSWICK
French International
Student Program

NewsLETTER



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ALSO,
IN THIS
EDITION...

✈ Sara from Colombia at
l'Université de Moncton

✈ Gabriel from Mexico
Drops Puck

✈ Annetta from Italy
Wins Bronze

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Uliana in her Grade 8 math class at Carrefour de l'Acadie School in Dieppe.

Our First Student from Russia

By: Renée Morel, Newsletter Editor

Uliana arrived from Moscow at the end of January for the second school semester at the [Carrefour de l'Acadie](#) in Dieppe. At home, she has both English and French classes, and her Mom is fluent in French.

"My French isn't that good, so before leaving Russia I was worried that this would be a difficult experience, but it's going well. It's easier than I thought it would be," shares the 8th Grade student.

It's also going very well with her Canadian host family; she has two little brothers, five and eight years old. This is the first time she's away from home, so she misses her parents and older brother. "We keep in touch by Skype and WhatsApp, so it's not too hard," she adds.

She makes friends easily and she's keeping busy. "I like photography and making videos. I have friends at school and in the international group, and I also stay in touch with my friends in Russia.

In fact, Uliana is quite active on [YouTube](#). She started a vlog (video blog) a couple of years ago, which now has 13,000 followers! "Since I arrived in Canada, I talk about what's happening in my life here," she explains.

The video she posted in February generated many comments. "They asked me for more information about the program, and I also told them that it's a really wonderful experience." ★





Josephine and Tamara at the Château Frontenac.



A group of 51 international students from both the French and English programs in front of a statue in Old Quebec. Photo credit : Luc Gagnon.

March Break in Quebec City Area

A group of eleven students from our program travelled to Quebec City during March Break last week. This annual bus trip is an optional activity organized by our [NBISP](#) colleagues in the province's English schools. They had lots of fun participating in many outdoor adventures, as well as shopping and visiting historical sites. Maryse Bélanger and Luc Gagnon from Dalhousie, who have welcomed several international students in their home over the last few years, went along as chaperones. Luc is an avid photographer. Visit our [Facebook page](#) for more of his great photos. ★

Polyvalente Louis-Mailloux in Caraquet Special Celebration for Leah and Barbara



Leah from Germany and Barbara from Italy were given a warm goodbye ceremony at the end of the first semester at the [Polyvalente Louis-Mailloux](#) School.

Both students made a lot of friends and got a chance to practise with the girls' hockey team. Barbara returned home on January 28th, but Leah surprised her host family by asking them to stay until the end of June.

"I found that 5 months was too short, especially since everything is going so well," explains the Grade 10 student. "I'm really enjoying myself and I really like going to school here." ★



The special cake for Leah and Barbara was decorated with the flags of Germany, Italy and Acadie.

Leah from Germany (on the left) surprised her host family and decided to stay on for the 2nd semester and Barbara returned to Italy at the end of January.





Nicole is ranked 140th in her age category in national competitions in Mexico. Here she is with her coach, her Dad and her little sister, who also plays tennis.

A Passion for Tennis

Nicole from Mexico



Every Wednesday and Friday after school, Nicole Perches Arrendondo, keeps up with her tennis practice. The Grade 9 student at [École Saint-Anne](#) in Fredericton puts in about five hours ever week, which is about half the time she usually practises back home in Mexico. She's been playing since she was eight years old.

"My Dad and Mom play tennis, and one day I started playing. I liked it, and then I started focusing more and more, and now I really enjoy it," explains Nicole, who is currently ranked 140th for her age group at the national competition level.

When she decided to learn French in New Brunswick, finding a community where she could continue practising was a top priority. And although she is the only girl in her age group at the tennis club, she is enjoying the challenge. "The boys I play against are more advanced, but I think that's better for me." ★

Gabriel Drops the Puck

Hockey Tournament in Campbellton



Photo credit : Rachel Blanchard.



Gabriel also did some volunteer work at his school's annual hockey tournament in Campbellton.

He sold tickets, moved tables and provided water and snacks to the players.

In January, the Grade 10 student at the [Polyvalente Roland-Pépin](#) School, was invited to drop the puck at the annual girls' hockey tournament. He's also made a lot of progress since he arrived at the end of August.

"I had two years of French classes at school in Mexico. It wasn't much, just the basics; a few verbs and conjugations", he explains.

"The first two weeks I couldn't understand anything and I was really frustrated. Then after the second week, it was on a Wednesday, I came out of my math class and I understood everything the teacher had said. From then on, I started speaking with my friends and my family, and that really helped improve my French." ★





Sara from Colombia Returns to Study at French University in New Brunswick

In 2013–2014, Sara Ramos spent the full year in Grade 10 at [École Mathieu-Martin](#) in Dieppe. “When I arrived home in Colombia, I told my Mom: I am going back to Canada for university. It doesn’t matter where, but I’m going back,” she shares with a smirk.

Since January, Sara is enrolled in a bachelor’s degree in sociology through a French immersion program at the Université de Moncton. The fact that she was still in contact with her host family, played a major role in her decision.

“My Mom and I didn’t want this experience to be a shock. I already knew the region, and people who could help me with groceries and in case of emergency.” The Colombian student was also accepted at Mount Allison, an English University in nearby Sackville. “The main reason I chose the Université de Moncton was because I really wanted to master three languages,” she adds. ★

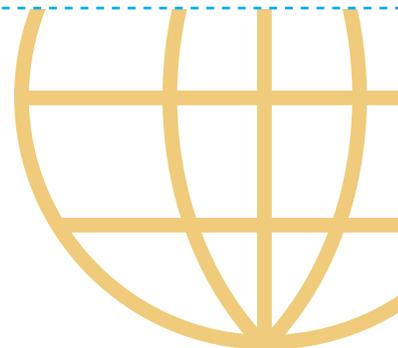
Sara is studying sociology at the Université de Moncton. She started her first semester of a four-year B.A. program in January, and lives in residence on campus.

Annetta on the podium Figure Skating

Congratulations to Annetta Bonnano from Italy! The Grade 12 student, attending school for the first semester at the [Cité des Jeunes A.-M. Sormany](#) in Edmundston, won a bronze medal at her first ever figure skating competition! She was featured in our last newsletter, working towards fulfilling her lifelong dream of becoming a figure skater. In addition to perfecting her French language skills, all her hard work and determination paid off at a regional competition held in Eastern Quebec on December 4th. ★



In our last Newsletter, Annetta had shared with us her dream of becoming a figure skater. Congratulations!



PLACE AUX COMPÉTENCES

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