

Exchange Poland 2016 / 17



Monday

Today the Polish students will arrive in Holland. First, we will have our normal lessons for the day. So, the day is pretty normal. In the evening, I went to the P&R Westraven to pick up the Polish students. For this week Kaja was staying with me. The Polish students were supposed to be at the parking place at 18.20. But they were in a traffic jam and they arrived way later. Because I was so thrilled by the fact that the students were coming and the news of that they were arriving later was not spread yet. I was way too early at the parking spot. But gladly a lot of people had the same problem so I was not alone.



At 19.00 the Polish students arrived at the P&R Westraven. I really loved this moment because everyone was really happy to see each other again. It was 5 months since we have seen each other in Poland. There was a really good vibe and after greeting everyone, me and Kaja went home. In the car, we listened to music and I introduced her to my dad.

At 20.00 we arrived at home. Her first reaction was so nice! She was amazed by our house, and she told me she loved it and she was looking out to stay here all week. Then we had dinner with the family (my mother, father and one of my brothers). We prayed before dinner, what was new because we normally never do that. But it was a nice experience. After the supper, I made some tea for Kaja and we cached up.

Tuesday

This was the first real day of the exchange, and we needed to be at school for the first period. So, for Kaja and me, this meant that we needed to wake up at 6.00. In the morning, everything went quit well. I arranged that Nino, Romée and me could cycle together. For people who are not used to ride a bike it went really well.

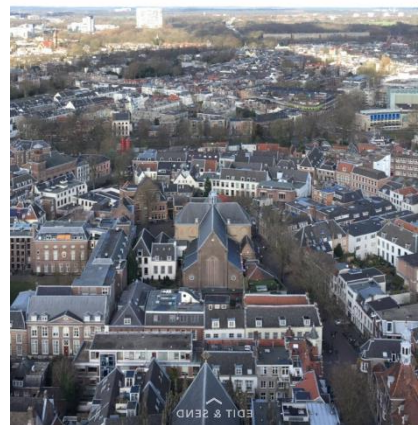
First, we had an introduction. Mister van der Poll told us all about the schedule. And answered our questions. The second period we had an Economy lesson. In the lesson, we played a really fun game. The group was divided in two. The Polish and the Dutch students. The Polish students were the managers and the Dutch where applying for a job. So, you had to get the best deal (with like the financial things).

With the third period, we had a History lesson. We talked about which historical things from Holland and Poland are the same, watched a short movie and then just talked with the teacher.

Our fourth period was a Geography lesson. In this lesson we did some photo assignments. After these lessons ended, the group had to split in two and we cycled to the Dom square.

With my group I first went to the Dom under. This is a museum about what lays under the Dom square. There are a lot of ruins and broken pieces of buildings that once stood there.

The Dom church was next on the list. We had a guided tour through the church. There was only a little problem. The Guide that was leading us around didn't speak English that well. So for the Polish students it was really hard to understand. But although that was a little problem I thought it was quite interesting. Because I've never been in the Dom church before. Then the whole group came together and went up in the Dom tower. Again there was a guide that showed us the different levels in the tower. Upstairs we had an amazing view. We were really lucky with the nice weather.



And you could even see Amsterdam from there!



In the evening, a few people arranged that we could go to jumpsquare with all the students (only the ones that wanted to). And this was really cool. We were there for one hour. Around ten o'clock we went back home. Kaja and me dropped off Nino and Maciek at their house. At home we drank some tea and took a shower and then went to sleep.

Wednesday

Today we had a really long schedule. The group had to be at school at 8.25 AM. So again I had to wake up at 6 AM. First, we had some lessons. We started with a English lesson from miss Visser. We sat in little groups and did some work she gave us. She actually learned me something new. But how it's named, I keep forgetting... RE was our second period. The tables had to be in rows, so you could face the person that was first sitting next to you. After that, we got a little sheet with questions and as a Dutch student I had to ask a Polish student the questions. It was about the main questions of life. The results were more surprising that I expected. Then we had a Chemistry lesson. The teacher prepared some little experiments for us. That was fun to do. We had some time to work on the booklet and then we went to the pancake restaurant.

Again, in two groups we went to the pancake restaurant. We could all choose a pancake from the menu. Maciek couldn't choose so he and I both ordered a different one and then shared the two pancakes. So he could taste both.

From 4.00 till 5.30 we had some shopping time. With a little group we went to some shops. We showed the Polish students the bookstore and a few clothing stores. Which I thought was a great thing. And they liked it too. Then you had time to go home and eat because in the evening we would go to the observatory to look at stars. But because I live really far away, Nino, Oscar, Jitse, me and all our exchange students ate in the city and then just chilled in the park for two hours. It was a little boring.

The observatory was nice. Mister Wielinga guided us in the building and gave a short presentation. At 10 PM we could go home. It was really cold on the bike!
At 11 PM I came home. Kaja and me both went to sleep quite quickly.



Thursday

I think the teachers were a little crazy because we had to be at school at 7.50 AM (I'm not joking). I felt a little guilty that I lived so far away. Because we had to wake up at 5.30 AM to get on time. And Kaja was so unbelievable tired. When we arrived at school, there was a bus waiting for us. We drove for like an hour and then we were in Amsterdam.

In Amsterdam we got a tour through the city. Mostly the red-light district. He told about how these people live and how bad they have it. I was shocked about all this info and I noticed that almost everyone was. It was real heavy information.

After this tour we did a trading game. Everyone was divided in groups of 3. With your group you got one euro to start the trading game. This was so funny! I think we won. Our group came back with a plastic crow.

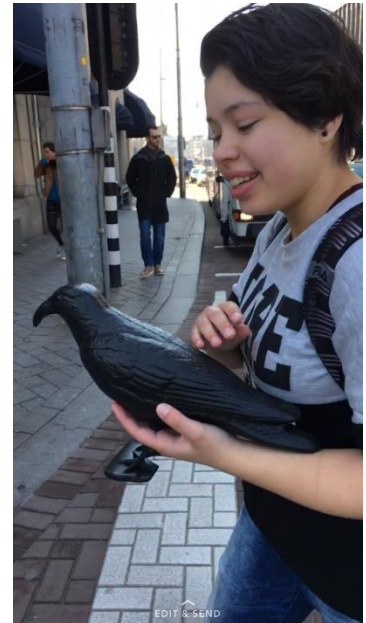
We had some lunch at the Scarlet Chord shelter. We sat at two big tables and there was a lot of food on the tables where you could just choose from.

Again we had some shopping time. So Anne and I went together to some shops. What was also really fun because I've never been in Amsterdam to shop.

Then we went to the Anne Frank museum. This was really interesting. I learned a lot here. But I need to say that it was a little boring. There is much information, but there is not so much to see.

In the bus back to Utrecht a lot of people fell asleep, because everyone was extremely tired. But the day was really nice.

In the Evening me and Kaja baked cakes. One cake for Kinga and one for Emma.



Friday

We needed to be at school at 8.15 AM. We had to be in the bus for 1,5 hours to arrive at the Zaanse Schans. Where we got a tour through the little place. I could never image to see so many tourist at a place that is so small! And the guide even said that it was n't busy at all because it was early in the morning... even though there were so many tourist it was really nice to see the things that people from other countries think is really Dutch.

Then we went to the bus again and drove to Volendam. Here it was less busy and crowded. We ate some “kibbeling” with the whole group and we sat near the water. Which was really beautiful.

For our next stop at the climbing park we had to sit in the bus for an hour. And people say that I fell asleep while this ride. But I’m sure I didn’t! When we arrived we threw a little surprise party for Kinga and Emma. It was my idea and organised it together with Nino and Anne. They really liked it! Also the climbing park was really nice. They had a lot of routes but still it was a little too easy. It was really cool to do with the group.

In the evening we had dinner at school with our parents. Every parent made a dish and brought it to school.

At home Kaja already had to pack her stuff. And everything went so fast...

Saturday

It’s real... the students are going home today. After such a great week they needed to go back to Poland. At 9.00 we needed to be at the P&R Westraven.

I’m really going to miss all the people because in these two weeks of the exchange we became really close. And everything was really worth it.

It was amazing!

Britt Heijlond

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