

May 11, 2011

We were fortunate enough to have three Russian girls from The Russian Folk Troupe stay with our family in Lakeland, Florida. In February, Svetlana (14 years old), Alena (14 years old), and Viktoria (13 years old) lived in our home for a week. It was a wonderful cultural experience for our family and our school community.

The girls spent the entire week with my children, Anna (12 years old) and Aaron (17 years old). Svetlana had been to the United States a number of times in the past, and could speak English reasonably well. During the day they attended and taught classes at our school, All Saints' Academy. They taught many different classrooms about Russian culture, music and dance. They ate meals and spent the evenings with our family. Everyone enjoyed learning about the similarities and differences in our cultures including: clothing, music, education, food, housing and daily activities. Highlights of the week included: Putt-Putt golf, playing games, swimming, eating sushi and shopping.

The week culminated with The Russian Folk Troupe's performance at All Saints' Academy and was enjoyed by all. The group was extremely talented. I think our children were impressed how independent and mature these students were at such a young age.

We were honored to host the girls and appreciated the opportunity to expose our children and community to the Russian culture. It was a unique and educational experience. In addition, the kids developed friendships that they will continue to foster with the help of Facebook. We hope to be able to meet the girls again either in Florida or possibly even in Russia.



Donna and Bret Henricks