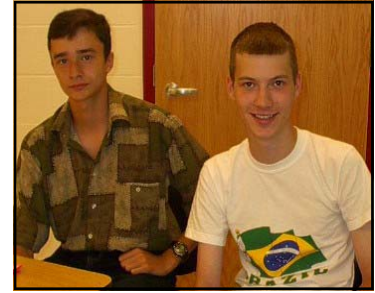


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Mahar Regional School District

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O.K. (L) and Y.G. (R), from Kazakhstan.

Meet the Kazakhs

M.M. and C.S.

What are your full names?

Oleg K.V.
Yuriy Y.G.

When did you guys start learning English?

Oleg: I started taking classes in third grade.

Yuriy: I started learning when I was five, but not from a school. I had a tutor come to my house.

When you came here, what was different than you expected?

Oleg: The white socks. I didn't know that everybody here wears white socks. I brought a lot of black socks with me and now they are useless.

Yuriy: It's been pretty much what we expected and we're really excited to be here.

How are the living arrangements here different than back home?

Here, most people live in their own houses. In Kazakhstan, everybody lives in sixteen-floor apartments, and very few people have houses. Most people have their own gardens there too.

Do most people your age have jobs?

No, hardly anyone in school has a job. During the school year you have to get permis-

sion from the school and you parents to get a job. They make it very hard to get a job while you are going to school. During the summer, you can get a job though. A lot of people work in construction.

How do our schools differ?

There are a lot of differences. We have a 6-day week. Sunday is our only day off. We are given 18 mandatory subjects. Also, there are 2 kinds of schools based on language: Russian or Kazakh. And this is really different; to play sports you have to join a club outside of school.

Do you drive cars back home?

No. You have to be 18 to get your license. Not many people drive, especially women.

And why is that?

I don't know...they like to go shopping and spend their time doing other things. There are also a lot of jokes made about women drivers.

So, how do you get around?

We walk to wherever we need to go. If it is too far away we take busses.

What other privileges do you have when you are 18?

Well you can buy alcohol and cigarettes when you turn

18, but that law isn't enforced very strongly. Most anyone can buy alcohol and cigarettes without any problems.

Do you live in a city?

Oleg: Yes. I live in a city called Pavlodar, which has 300,000 people.

Yuriy: Me too. I live in a city called Semipalatinsk, or Semey for short. It also has 300,000 people.

What do you eat back home?

Oleg: We have fast foods, but we also have traditional dishes like sashlyk, pelmenie, manty, and besbarmak. We also drink a lot of tea; it is part of every meal. We also have sausage, but it is made out of horse meat.

Yuriy: Some traditional dishes are bayrsak, which is like fried dough balls and Kurt, which are balls of beef that are a bit sour. Also, we like to drink ayran, which is camel milk. Another drink is kumys, which is horse milk that is aged, mixed with a little bit of alcohol.

You guys have camels?!?

Well, we don't have them as pets but they are on farms outside of the cities, mostly in the south.

"...the white socks. I didn't know that everybody here wears white socks. I brought a lot of black socks with me and now they are useless."

Oleg

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