



to

Last July, I had the opportunity travel to Winchester thanks to the Jumelage Organization between St-Germain-en-Laye and Winchester, which are sister cities. I had already been to the United-States two years ago but with my family so this trip was different. I stayed during 3 weeks at Mary Beznak's house, member of the Jumelage.

During those three weeks, I worked as a counselor at Kidstock Summer Theater. I had the opportunity to be with the 4-6-years-old children, the youngest ones at Kidstock. During the first week, I just helped the other counselors to do what was needed to be done and the two following weeks, I had a group of children of my own. Every day, we did some drama, dance, music, art and played many games, all related to drama. At Kidstock, every week has a theme and all the activities of the week are related to this theme: we had, for instance, dinosaurs, Aladdin and dogs & Spain. At the end of each week, on Friday, a play was set up; it included the songs we learnt during the week and some drama scenes so that the parents could see what their child had done during the week. I really loved working there; I had always loved being with children and taking care of them. The kids were amazing and they showed so much passion in everything that we did with them, so much that they were also very tiring!

Moreover, all the other counselors have been very nice with me. They welcomed me so that I could really be part of Kidstock and helped me to do a great job, by taking time to explain to me how everything worked. I learnt how to take care of children but at the same time I learnt how to make the kids listen to you and developing a real relationship with them.

Furthermore, I was able to improve my English. Indeed, with children, spontaneity is the most important thing so I had to be able to react very quickly in English in order to tell the children what they could do and what was forbidden. At the beginning, I was just observing how the other counselors did and then I was able to put into practice everything that I had learnt and seen!

When I wasn't at Kidstock, I had time to do many other things. Thanks to the Jumelage, we had the chance to see many different parts of this country. For example, we went to Harvard University with John McConnell, who also organized a barbecue afternoon for Bastille Day. Tony and Kitty Galaitsis also invited us for a pool party, which was very nice. Finally, Susie Vrotsos made us a Tour of Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Mary, who hosted me, also made me discover many things in Winchester and outside. We went to a lecture about Virtual Reality in Boston, went to the cinema in Cambridge, listened to some readings of plays with a friend of her, Ghislaine, for example.

I also had the chance to go to Boston several times, with Izzie (a student from Winchester who went to St-Germain thanks to the Jumelage and stayed at my house there) and with Elisabeth Cregger which took us to see a baseball game. Finally, I was lucky to be able to go out with Kidstock's staff members, they invited me to join them for a pool party and to go to a Mexican restaurant in Somerville.

I would now like to thank all the people that made this experience possible and so amazing: my parents, my grand-parents, all of the members of the Jumelage and mostly Marc Miloutinovitch, Marie-Hélène Genin, Jacques Paugam, Annette Lanigan, John McConnell, Susie Vrotsos, Tony and Kitty Galaitsis, all of Mary's friends, Albert and Martha, Edward, Ghislaine, all of Kidstock staff, Brian, Bob, Lucy, Eileen, Shannon, Jeremy, Matthew, Sara, Nick, Rachael, Ana, Beatrice, Jack, Danielle, Emma, Nicolina, Colleen, Courtney, Sarah, Keith, Katie, Olivia and last but not least thank you so much Mary for having welcomed me as you did and being such a good host!

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