MEET OUR HOST FAMILY

Joe and Rachel Berg have been hosting three OC international students in the last 5 years. However, in fact, they hosted other organizations’ international students for about 20 years. Currently, they are hosting a student from Japan whose name is Tasuku. They decided to host international students because they have always loved getting to know people and culture from all over the world. Another reason is to help international students have connections with people here because they have travelled several times, and they understand how it feels like to be alone in a foreign country.

Berg family has been creating lots of memories and rewarding experiences with the international students. They said that it is wonderful to share some interesting experiences and activities with them such as snowboarding or showing how to use a lawnmower. “It is memorable to see a student gain confidence and enjoy all the new experiences together,” said the family. Besides that, since most of their students usually lived with them from 6 months to 3 years, the students have really become part of the family. Even though they might have gone through some bad times, it is chance for them to show their true side with each other, and understand others more.

They also shared their most challenging memory. They said that it is a challenge for some students to live in a big family setting. Since most of the students might be the only child in their family, it might be hard for them to learn how to be thoughtful for other family members and share thing with them.

As an advice for other host families, Berg family suggested, “Just to be real and genuine. We all mess up and to not try to be perfect. Have fun with each student and make time to really get to know them. Enjoy the quirks.” Besides that, they also provided an advice for students. They suggested that it is important to seize the opportunities to practice English, and to understand as much culture as you can.

Homestay Q & A

Q: My homestay student plans to travel overseas during Spring break. How can we check travel advisories?

A: You can visit the following websites for travel advisories. Please also refer your student to our office to discuss the travel plan.

- **U.S. Department of State: Level 1 ~ 4**
  https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Level 1 ~ 3**
MEET OUR HOMESTAY STUDENT

My name is Vy and I’m from Vietnam. I came to Nightingale’s family last Fall quarter and I’m staying here this quarter. I’m so lucky to be a member of their family. We live in Bremerton, quite close to Olympic College. It takes me about 20 minutes to walk to school, which is very nice. My first impression of the house was that they plant lots of plants and sunflowers (it was autumn when I came). I’m really pleased to have a nice host mom, two cute little host siblings, and a huge dog. Later, we then have a huge bunny. Although we don’t spend much time together, they are always sharing, caring and understanding.

Last quarter was an unforgettable memory for me. I got to visit apple festival with my host mom and met her friends, they took care of me all the time. I feel very welcome. My host mom took me to Portland, Oregon to spend our Thanksgiving with her family. Her family is awesome! Her uncle is really funny! Spending my days in Portland, I learnt to knit from my host mom. Even I had some problems while knitting, she would help me fix them. I knitted a head band on my own for the first time! It was really fun! I also have lots of fun going to the grocery store with my host family. My host would ask me what I like to eat, what I need (our house is now filled with Asian food lol). We have lots of things in common, so it is very easy for me to adapt.

I appreciate how my host family treat me. I’m so grateful. If you want to have a good host family, please communicate with them! You have to talk, and figure out what goes wrong, what needs to be fixed. Communication is the only way you get to know new people that you live with. Be nice. Be humble. Good luck!

Global Recipe  Banh Gai from Vietnam

Ingredients

- Glutinous rice flour: 500g
- Tapioca starch: 100g
- Boehmeria nivea leaf: 400g
- Peeled mung beans: 350g
- Refined sugar: 300g
- Shredded coconut: 100g
- Pork fat: 100g
- Sesame: 100g
- Grapefruit extract: 20 ml
- Dried banana leaves: 1 big bunch
- Bamboo strip
- Cooking oil
- Steamer

Directions

1. Tear “Lá Gai” (Boehmeria nivea leaf) into 2 parts, remove the midrib of leaf, clean carefully with water then let drain.
2. Boil “Lá Gai” until they are well-done then take out to drain, then cool down.
3. Mix Glutinous rice flour, tapioca starch 150g, sugar and “lá gai” extract into a small pot then mix together.
4. Roasting sesame and cook mug beans
5. Take pork fat out then dice and mix with 2 tbsp of sugar
6. Mix pork-fat sugar, grinded mung beans, shredded coconut, grape fruit extract, sugar.
7. Take some dough into your palm then then put the mung beans stuffing into the middle.
8. Wrap the dough in order that it covers all stuffing inside and get the round shape.
9. After kneading, rolling lightly in roast sesame plate.
10. Making this step again until the ingredient is out of stock.
11. Place the dough into the banana leave
12. Steaming it