Patrick and Rona McQuillan have been hosting international students for 5 years. For those good years, Patrick and Rona shared and opened their home to 9 international students already. To remember all of them, Rona decided to get a big aquarium and so far they have 9 fish, all named after the students they had including the one they have right now.

Patrick and Rona wanted to have a big family that’s why they open their house to host international students. Rona said, "every one of them has different personality coming from a different culture. I am honored to be a part of their learning process especially hearing them speak English fluently in just a small amount of time." Rona also mentioned that their kids easily get attached to all the students they’ve had.

For international students, living with host family is an opportunity to eat delicious, authentic, and home cooked meals, and to make remarkable relationships with the incredible people. For host families, hosting students can be a great and unique intercultural experience. However, it is always a bittersweet goodbye as international students leave for their next adventures. "But I know they will never forget all the new and good things they learned with us. We all have unique memories to each one of them," said Rona.

Patrick and Rona have suggestions for both host families and international students, "Hosting a student is always a challenging role. You have to learn their culture so you can engage with them. And as for the international students, communication is always the key to have a very good relationship with your host family."

**Homestay Q & A**

Q: How can host families handle long shower problem?

A: You can set a time limit on the shower as long as it is a reasonable duration. Many international students from certain countries may not know that you can actually run out of hot water in American homes, as people enjoy energy-efficient tankless water heaters which provide endless hot water. Therefore, it is important to explain that American hot water system is very different so that students can learn to live in harmony with other residents of the household.

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MEET OUR HOMESTAY STUDENT

Queenie, one of our international students from China, has lived in the U.S for 9 months, and stayed with her host family from the first day of her American life. Cooking and homesickness are the two reasons why Queenie decided to live in a homestay. As she explained, “cooking for myself always is a serious problem for me. I’m so glad my host mom is a brilliant cook! My parents were worried about me that I would feel homesick, which I did indeed. Luckily, my host mom offer me a family in America.”

From Queenie’s point of view, a host family with pets and share the same hobby with her is perfect. She likes to go hiking once a month with her host mom and have party with neighbors and friends. “But I have to say, I like to go shopping with my host mom best! She will tell me everything I want to know and never feel bored with me,” said Queenie.

Under Queenie’s impression, an American family is totally different from a family in China. Americans like to live in houses with gardens rather than in small apartments. In addition, she found out her host mom is a unique person who shows her how to live well and happily. “My host mom is a very independent female. She’s an expert for this kind of life—to have a healthy diet, exercise, and love people she cares about. She is always helpful, and she’s my mentor of life,” said Queenie.

Queenie also felt the American passion for pets. She said, “they love pets and consider them as friends—talk to them and play with them with toys.” That’s very new to Queenie because she never had had a pet before she came here. However, Queenie got a cat friend Charlie who always makes her laugh. “I never feel lonely when he stayed with me, although, he chewed every data cable I had.”

GLOBAL RECIPE PORK DUMPLINGS from CHINA

Ingredients
100 (3.5 inch square) wonton wrappers
3/4 pounds ground pork
1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger root
4 garlic cloves, minced
2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onion
4 tablespoons soy sauce
3 tablespoons sesame oil
1 egg, beaten
5 cups finely shredded Chinese cabbage

Directions
In a large bowl, combine the pork, ginger, garlic, green onion, soy sauce, sesame oil, egg and cabbage. Stir until well mixed.

Place 1 heaping teaspoon of pork filling onto each wonton skin. Moisten edges with water and fold edges over to form a triangle shape. Roll edges slightly to seal in filling. Set dumplings aside on a lightly floured surface until ready to cook.

To Cook: Steam dumplings in a covered bamboo or metal steamer for about 15 to 20 minutes. Serve Immediately.

Source: http://allrecipes.com/recipe/14759/pork-dumplings/print/