



Sian '24

China

The best year I've ever had started with the handshakes with Mr. Lines and Ms. Priolo on the boat dock, which happened right after the first swim in a lake in my life. That was the beginning of my new life. [At RLC] there is time for hobbies, sports and outdoor activities. I could finally have some free time for crochet and draw pictures. To just a walk by the lake every day during sunset makes me so happy.

At RLC I am grateful to be in the string ensemble. I had never played the violin with a group of people before. I played basketball in a team again after so many years. I tried mountain biking, sailing, canoeing, and so many other fun things for the first time. In good weather, we had English lessons outside by the lake. I have spent almost my whole school years in classrooms, so that was special.

In the very first lessons, I told every teacher that I am new in this language environment, and that I worried about my English. I told them I might have many questions to ask after classes. I still remember Mr. Leavitt saying that having questions could be fun and he would love to answer them.

At RLC, academic time is no longer painful. I love discussing math with Ms. Pacozdy. I've had time to learn computer science, which is exactly what I am going to do for my university study. Thanks to Mr. Lines for taking us to skating in winter and for the long drive to the University of Waterloo for the open-house event, which brought me closer to my dream. I'm grateful for my friends. Their companionship in my first year studying abroad alone is invaluable. ... playing video games, such as Goose Goose Duck, with Avery and Angel. Once we forgot about the time and spent nearly 6 hours on it. It was crazy, but unforgettably happy.

I'm also grateful for the snow. Grateful for the Aurora Borealis.

This past year was a year with miracles happening every day.

But one year is too short. There are so many things I haven't done, so many things I haven't seen. ... I was enchanted to be here, to be a member of the RLC family. This is where my true life began and I will cherish it as long as I live.

