



Student Ambassador

Karina Melani

Santiago, Chile



"People are always happy and friendly and when they see you they smile and say hi even if they do not know you."

Howe
Sound
2013

Karina Melani from Chile worked closely with her agent in Santiago to ensure the best placement for her. "I chose Sea to Sky School District because it was in Canada and I always wanted to visit the country and know its culture. I am very happy with my decision."

Karina is attending Howe Sound Secondary in Squamish. We asked her about her new school and community. "Squamish is lovely. What I like the most is the nature, the fresh air and the people I have met. The kids at school are very nice and I have made really good friends."

Karina really likes her classes and is taking a variety of academic courses. She likes the Canadian system and the personal attention she receives from the teachers. "I really like how the teachers teach us. For example, I was having some difficulty with English and my teacher took extra time to work with me. I really appreciate that!"

Howe Sound Secondary has allowed Karina to explore a new field of study in animation. She really enjoys this course and is considering taking further classes. Karina also enjoys all the activities available at school and in Squamish. She is involved in ice-skating, skiing and snowboarding and plays the violin. "Canada gave me the opportunity to participate in activities not always available in my country. I am very happy that I have met people with the same interests as mine."

We asked Karina if her homestay family was a good match for her. She said; "My host family is very nice and relaxed. They embraced me from the very first day and they introduced me to their friends and neighbours. Grandmom Nona, says all the time that she will miss me a lot. I really love her."

Karina is seriously thinking about returning to Canada to attend university.

She would like to pursue her interest in animation and attend Capilano University "I would like to come back to Canada and study animation at Capilano. I think I will really enjoy this as a profession and career."

Karina has mixed feelings about going home to Santiago. "One part of me wants to go back home but part of me wants to stay here because I don't want to leave all the good friends I have made. I am going to miss this place I love!"

