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Person to Person in Germany

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Nicolette Hegge
Germany, fall 2015
November 16, 2015

Preparing Students for Life after School

Before coming to Germany, my ideas and expectations were vague because I knew that I was going to experience things that went past the stereotypes I had heard or seen on television. I wanted to understand German culture first hand, without a cloud of presumptions over my head. Over these past few months I have pushed myself to be a novice anthropologist. My interview with Sven, a former Linfield student from Germany, solidified what I had already observed, and added new knowledge. We discussed traditions, values, family life, and the school system.

For most Germans, traditions are the backbone of the society and what people look forward to all year. Since I am here in the fall, Christmas is all the hustle and bustle. Sven and I talked about Christmas markets, something that I ask every German friend of mine about because it is a Christmas lover's paradise. Holidays in the winter are overflowing with tradition and cheer, from Christmas cookies, warm alcoholic punch, and simply having a good time with the ones you love. Holidays and time off from work are greatly appreciated in German culture. I have realized that social bonds with friends and family are necessary in order to carry out the many traditions.

After chatting about Christmas, Sven changed the topic to family life and schooling. He addressed that Germany is known for their conservative ways and structured life. Over the recent years, German families are beginning to transition to a more easy going and open family relationship.

It is evident that schooling in German is amazing, and much different than the United States. The school systems prepare students for life after school.