



二〇〇九年九月

Dear Family and Friends:

Long time no see! August and September have been "Bizzz-Zee!" I hope you enjoyed your last month of summer and are even now being wow'd by nature's beautiful autumn colours.

Here are a few bullet point update items:

GOOD NEWS	NOT SO GOOD NEWS
<p>The August children's group of 35 kids at the Int'l Fellowship was exciting!</p> <p>I moved to a new house only a five min walk from my front door to the school's front gate.</p> <p>I sold my big bike and down sized to a smaller one.</p> <p>I'll be home for a Christmas break.</p>	<p>I have to <i>wait</i> three more Sundays b4 my next round of lessons.</p> <p>The previous residents called this house a "roach" house...I found this out AFTER I moved in.</p> <p>Car purchase was put on hold until further notice from my BIG boss.</p> <p><i>**Nope, can't think of anything "not so good" about this news.</i></p>

If you're wondering why there was no August update...here's a little peek. Of course, as always, there is more to the story, but this will give you an idea.

Seems everything came to a head at the end of August...one of my best friends here moved to another city, my credentials for obtaining a driver's license were not accepted, then came the MOVE! I ended up moving twice in two weeks...yes, you read that right. Thinking about that still makes me break out in a cold sweat. Then came three weeks worth of cleaning and setting up the new place...including night watches for roaches. Eeewww! After nearly a month of night watches, a million little prayers, and two empty cans of "Raid," I am resisting pride concerning the 90% roach-free zone I've carved out on this side of the elevator. (Why don't you stand up and do the happy dance with me!)

As I look ahead to October, I can tell it's gonna be a good 'un! It started off with a bang, celebrating the country's 60th year. Also, I have a trip planned to a rural area in two weeks where I'll be part of a team to provide a free English Saturday to the poorest of the poor in our area! I can't describe the anticipation I feel about this event! I hope there will be lots of pics and stories when I get back to send you at the end of the month.

As you keep this place and me "in mind" over the next several weeks, please ask for a thick covering as well as an uncanny ability to navigate the path ahead. Thanks everyone for reading this far...and now, for what you've really been waiting for...the pictures. Love you all! ENJOY!!! --a

NEW HOUSE...



A five minute walk from the school (yellow bus) past the lighthouse to my new house. I use a "lift" now instead of stairs.



Upon opening the door, I'd welcome you at the "entry". Immediately to the right is a little dining space. To the right of the dining space is the living room. (This pic was taken after I had finished cleaning only one of the three leather sofas.) Thanks to IKEA for the tables and rug! The brand new washer is located on the back balcony. →





Behind the entryway is the 1st of two bedrooms. Mine is the blue one.
The "fancier" one is the guest room...of course!



Between the two rooms is the bathroom. To the left of the entry is the kitchen and kitchen balcony. I spent DAYS cleaning these two rooms alone. You would think I was exaggerating if I tried to explain how much oil was on the kitchen walls and windows, fridge, floors, etc. And don't get me started on the bathroom...



If you look closely at the galley kitchen you'll notice there is no kitchen sink; that's because it is outside on the kitchen balcony. I'm hoping to enclose it with sliding windows.

However, if I leave it as it is, I have an excuse not to do dishes when it rains or when it's freezing outside. I guess if I'm desperate enough, I can wash them in the shower or with an umbrella...or with mittens?

SEAGULL CLASS PICNIC...



Picnic on the back playground. Students picked snow peas from bushes brought in for the picnic. Then they washed them, took them to their teacher (who is cooking them below). While the teacher cooked, she told them a story using her lapel mic (like a trade show worker). While she chatted, the children decorated their plates with veggie slices of cucumber and carrots (below).



In one of the groups, a girl was too lazy to reach all the way to the main bowl for the veggies...so as the kids next to her reached to get each piece, she alternated taking pieces from each of the other's bowls. Eventually the kids caught on and put a stop to it ... immediately!!!

AROUND SCHOOL...



Parents day fun for the small rabbits of Pearl Class. Students crawled to a basket and put in a treat for a paper animal attached to the basket; carrots for the rabbits and fish for the cats. They had to choose which matt to crawl on depending on what item they were given.



Left: Falling down in shapes is now a staple method of teaching and a fan favorite! Our newest English teacher gives it a try and likes the results.

Right: Teaching our oldest class (5-6 yrs old) about kinds of stores, buying things with money, and using the right grammar to do so. This experienced English teacher gets into the act as well, posing as a "shopkeeper," or as some students say, "shock-peeper!" Some of the grammar phrases include:

- Q: Where do you want to go? / A: I want to go to the _____ store.
- Q: Where are you going? / A: I'm going to the _____.
- Q: How much is/are the _____? / A: It's \$_____.
- Q: Do you have any _____s? / A: Yes, I do. No, I don't. They are over here/there.

TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATION...



A special "Teacher's Day" celebration was held at a huge theatre downtown for over 1200 teachers and staff. I was one of two who represented the foreign teachers staff...which means I had practices to attend and lines to learn...in English, and Chinese. Above Left: Dance teachers from various schools performing. Above Right: Former Miss Universe now has a child in one of our schools. She spoke about the quality of her child's early education. The policeman to her right is the head of police in the city. He also has children in our schools.



The result of our practices – good reviews. The newest Chinese/English teacher at my school has been a good help to me.

E-BIKE...



While shopping around for a smaller bike, I notice this one has CRUISE control on the handlebar. (Cracked me up). My NEW BIKE!!! Which also has a cruise control feature – I'm not laughing anymore! On long rides, it's awesome!

See you in November!

*In my haste to get this bit of news out, I haven't had anyone look at it for typos, etc.
If you find any glaring mistakes, please accept my apologies beforehand. ;)*