

Hi Everybody, I am back with more news of Monte Rosa.

The update on the Olympics.....well they never end, the competitions go on. The teams – Kikoman, Oto Moto, Poker Facem International Super Star and Daghestran. The games were hard fought and of course we have to say thanks to our SUPPORTERS....you were noisy !!!! During the football and basketball matches it was as if we were playing indoors the noise was so loud, but then the games were so good, extra time, penalty shoot outs. I think some of us should play for professional football teams, it is a shame none of the scouts for clubs were there or some of us would have nice contracts. Even the girls were good, we, in FAIR PLAY had some girls on the teams and they were really good.



The basket ball was amazing, two of the guys, Luis and Jose, were like NBA players, brilliant athletes and their Dunk shots were incredible, they were really really good, they just kept going and no-one could stop them .



Mr Cornaz, another Swiss tennis man organised the tennis, we played mixed doubles. It was a bit mixed as some of us are not so hot, but it was fun and maybe I will take up tennis, seriously. Everyone wanted to play table tennis so there were a lot of games, some people are very good and others got better all the time, some of the matches seemed endless ( 32-34 even 46-44) and we were playing to 11 points , so you can guess how tight it was between some of the guys. All the activities are coached and supervised by the teachers, who of course also join in to give their team a helping hand. It is good that they join in and are not just teachers. Teachers, oops classes, I am making progress!!!!!!!, honest Mum , I feel better about trying to speak another language and actually it is fun, apart from English I have also learnt quite a bit of French, some Spanish, a Japanese hello, a Mexican wave , Arabic words...and I don't need to speak my language (Russian)

because I am pretty good at that , here we are all learning so we just try and no one minds if you make mistakes, so you pick things up easily....it is a good start . And we are teaching the teachers they all try to learn as well.

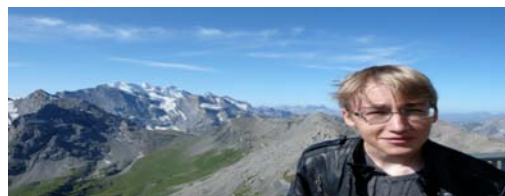
The days fly by, even the morning classes seem to fly by and then Wham back in action. Horse riding with proper classes not just a trot in the forest. Archery which is cool, we try to imitate William Tell that fine Swiss Folk hero but I find it hard to hit the target let alone the bull's-eye, it is not as easy as you might think.



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Last Sunday we saw something special, the Tour de France, live in front of our eyes, in Switzerland. They did a stage here climbing / cycling up to Verbier. First there were the Security on motor cycles zooming by, then the technical cars, the crowds were enormous, a lot of shouting, shoving and pushing to get a good place and then the cyclists, applause as they swept by us in a flash and this strange whooshing noise as they disappeared, except for the poor guy who was last, all alone, but still going. ... it was a great experience which will rest in my memory for a long time.



Wednesday comes all but too soon for many, again as the bus pulls off for the excursion. We left behind friends who were heading home, on our return, new friends to be will be there waiting, not realising they are about to become part of a big family. We went to Bern the Swiss capital this week, a small but pretty city with lots of bear statues, good shopping, and another long hike up a bell tower but worth the effort, and I must say running up and down the stairs of Monte Rosa to class is excellent fitness training. On Friday a group will leave for the Top of Europe tour, a trip which brings them to the top of the Jungfrauoch by a train, which passes through that well known climbers challenge, The Eiger. It is a good trip and in a small group it is a lot of fun. There is an ice palace and you can even try summer skiing on a (small) piste but it is a good experience as there is nearly always someone who has NOT played in snow before.....and they get pelted with snow. There is also a visit to the Schilthorn , four cable cars up and James Bond waiting at the top----- and a breath taking view of the mountains.



And so it is time for me to stop, there is so much to tell, but really, Monte Rosa has to experienced. There is work to be done but we also have fun, it is a good place to be for a few weeks, some students stay the whole summer and never get tired of it but do secretly wish for a day off just chilling out, that doesn't really happen because we don't want to miss a thing.

More news will follow, but I am heading back to my other home. Remember Swiss Time on Time, and that phrase on a T-shirt, "Monte Rosa –where memories exceed dreams", it's true.

Again thanks to my teachers for their help with this.

