



Food for Thought

February 10, 2012
A week in Vasa – DAY 5



Almost fluent

Today was our last day at school. So we revised one last time all the words we now know and yes, we are definitely able to start a conversation with a few words in Swedish!

Some students also told me that they had already been crying this morning, because they realised we would have to leave very soon. Of course, this is a sad moment and it won't be very easy tomorrow morning, but we all know that we have friends in Finland now.

By the way... Did you notice that we did not learn how to say *goodbye*? Maybe because we all wish we could stay together!

A food blogger

Anna Granér is a former student of the school and now works on websites, including the one of the local newspaper, Vasabladet.

She has also created her own food blog. So she explained why she spends so much time doing it, how she chooses the recipes she posts, and what good pictures are.



We also had a look at other websites and there is no doubt food drives people crazy sometimes. Anna showed us two very surprising and original blogs; in one of them (365 days of breakfast), a woman deals with all that she has for breakfast, each and every day of the year, while another blog was made by a man who has taken pictures of all the coffees he has drunk for months or even years!

But of course, there are blogs that teach us how to cook and give us very good tips, too. So if you would like to find useful sites, you can visit Anna's blog – <http://blogg.vasabladet.fi/mat/> – or another site called *cannelle et vanille*.

Anna also advised us to add some of our recipes on the blog. Showing the pictures was great, of course, but one might want to try them, too!

Attending classes

Today the students attended a few classes. Some of them studied philosophy while others chose biology, English or history. But as Diane-Christine said, that was mainly the opportunity to see what school is like in Finland.

Do we teach the same subjects exactly? Do students and their teachers have the same relationship? What do we have in common and what are our differences?



Evaluation



Just before lunchtime, the students were asked to evaluate the week. What did they like? What could be improved?

I guess our Finnish friends read our students' comments just after getting the sheets back, but I am sure all our students really complained about one thing: they had so much fun that they do not want to leave so soon!



Farewell dinner

Tonight, we all had dinner at Berny's, a restaurant near Vasa and we enjoyed very nice food, such as herring, white fish and salmon.

The students had brought a guitar and had rehearsed a few songs. So we listened to beautiful music once again and we all spent a very good evening there. Diane-Christine had also brought the lyrics of a song that we sang together: *Vem kan segla förutan vind?*



That song was really appropriate tonight as some of our students were crying already! Here are the words, in Swedish:

**Vem kan segla förutan vind?
Vem kan ro utan åror?
Vem kan skiljas från vännen sin
Utan att fälla tårar?**

**Jag kan segla förutan vind,
Jag kan ro utan åror.
Men ej skiljas från vännen min
Utan att fälla tårar.**

To hear various versions of that song, click here:

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=vem+ka+segla



Today's artist

For the last newsletter of the week, I must admit I had no idea who I could write about. So I googled words like *Finnish painters* and *Finnish photographers* and here is what I found:

<http://www.institut-finlandais.asso.fr/programme/evenements-passes/item/431-stephanie-lacombe-les-finlandais-a-table>



Stéphanie Lacombe is a French artist who photographed people in Finland while they were having dinner. What a coincidence! Her photos are really original and you should really have a look at some of those that belong to a series called *Finns at the Dinner Table*.

**Last but not least I would like to thank all the teachers and staff at Vasa
övningskola! What a fantastic team!**



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