

000209 Shanghai

Hello all! I am writing from Shanghai to let you know that we made it. It is around noon on Wednesday. I flew from JFK to Anchorage Alaska where we had a brief stop on our 17 hour flight. In Seoul I met up with four of the other volunteers during our four hour layover. From Seoul we flew to here where we were met by Lisa, our coordinator.

The group is very cool and I think that we are all going to get along well. During the proceeding weeks I have been trying to picture what everyone would be like. I imagined a troop of world travelers who had all studied Mandarin or were expert teachers. Actually, none of the group has a lot of experience in either which is nice because we are all in the same boat. The others are Jason from Dallas who will be at the No 5 Middle school with me, Jessica from New York who is also in Yantai, Shelley from the twin cities who is about 2 hours outside Yantai, Brian who is from KC who is 3 hours outside Yantai.

We are missing one who will be flying in tonight. We are currently at a university here in Shanghai where we will stay till Sat when we fly up to Yantai.

The flights were uneventful and the safety message very comical. The food was great.

It is surreal that after all of the planning and anticipation that I am really here. The arrival was so much easier than India. Maybe because I have done this before I am not nervous any more. It just has not yet sunk in that I am writing email to you from China.

After some badly needed showers we are heading out to explore the city. The jet lag is not too bad but probably because I am running on adrenaline. Lisa's goal is to keep us moving which is good because it is currently midnight of the day before in Boston. I am really excited to explore!

Take care and I will write again soon!

Jeff

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