



Let's never forget September 11, 2001  
Please fly an American flag on that date



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## China student enjoys camp in Kentucky thanks to scholarship

by Bonnie Biller

Last month, China Middle School student Brearna French received word that she had been chosen to attend the Tim Horton's Big Brothers/Big Sisters camp.

Rebecca Corcoran, match support specialist at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Kennebec Valley, suggested the ten-year-old and then she was nominated by one of the owners of the Waterville Tim Horton's.

Criteria for admission to the ten day, all expense paid trip include being nine to 12 years old, a member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters and meet various income guidelines. As Corcoran says, it also doesn't hurt to really want to go.

"Brearna is a great kid," she says. "When I called her mother about attending the camp she was so enthusiastic about going. She was mature enough and emotionally ready to go."

The trip included Brearna's first airplane ride and separation from her mother, Keely French, who says it was hard but she's glad Brearna had this chance of a lifetime to experience it.

"We've never been away from each other before," she says. "It was a little difficult with her being gone for ten days, but I guess it's a good thing to start having the apron strings going."

Tim Horton's has six camps dedicated to Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Five are in Canada and one is in Campbellville, Kentucky, which is where Brearna went. She says she especially liked all of the recreational events.

"We did what they called Splashtivities," she said. "We went canoeing and kayaking, we swam and fished, went out on pontoon boats and went tubing. That was neat!"

Other activities Brearna enjoyed at the camp were mountain biking, archery, the climbing wall, rope and harness courses, overnight excursions and she especially liked meeting new friends. One thing she didn't care for were the bugs.

"I got chiggers on my foot," she recalls. "They itched and made little bumps all over my foot, but we got rid of them with nail polish."

The Big brothers/Big Sisters camps were started in 2001 by Tim Horton as a way to foster a brighter future for kids of all walks of life. The company treats 148 kids per session and each camp has six sessions per summer. There is no television, no ipods



Brearna French attended the 10-day Tim Horton's Big Brother/Big Sister camp, in Kentucky, in August.

Photo by Bonnie Biller

and no computers allowed at the camps. Healthy food is served and there is no sugar or sodas.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a national organization providing one-on-one mentoring for kids seven to 14 years of age. The all-volunteer program is part community based and part site based through the schools. There is no federal or state funding and as Corcoran notes, the organization depends on donors and their own devices.

"We have two major fundraisers to raise money," she said, "Bowl for Kids Sake and Golf for Kids Sake. The success of these kids being able to attend camp goes wholly to Tim Horton's."

Brearna learned about Big Brothers/Big Sisters a while ago but had to wait almost a

year before a match was found. Danielle, Brearna's Big Sister is a 22-year-old college student. Brearna's mom, Keely French is so glad they found her.

"She's the best," she says. "She is just so nice and does a lot of activities with Brearna. She takes her to the mall, goes and has manicures, pedicures and facials with her and lots of beach time, too. She is so good for her."

Brearna's grandmother, Cindy French agrees wholeheartedly.

"I think it's great," she says. "Danielle is in college and it's a good incentive for these kids to realize they can go on to better things, too."

Brearna hopes to return to another Tim Horton's Big Brothers/Big Sisters camp and would like to try one of the Canadian



Brearna French with her grandmother, Cindy French.

Photo by Bonnie Biller

ones. She is also interested in possibly becoming a counselor at one of the camps and maybe even becoming a Big Sister herself in the future.

For more information on Big Brothers/Big Sisters, log onto their website: [www.heroswanted.org](http://www.heroswanted.org).

## Family day at Fenway



Left photo, from left to right, Steve Gagnon and sons Nathan and Ryan, all of Winslow, enjoy a game at Fenway Park, in Boston, recently. Right, Steve Nichols, of Kennebunk, captured this cloud pattern just as the rain from Hurricane Earl was ending at 8:15 a.m. on Sept. 4, while fishing on Webber Pond. Steve, who is the Kennebunk Fire Chief, and his wife Diane summer at Green Valley Campground, in Vassalboro.

## The end of Earl



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