



Bianca, 17

Bianca asked for extra time to think about what she would like to say to kids in other countries, but on the day we made the recording, she knew exactly what she wanted to say.

What have you been doing this week?

Well, this week I started with having a day off on Monday, but I've been doing a lot of calculus homework the entire week. I was lucky enough to go to a conference today, on women's philanthropy,* and I was so excited to meet a lot of people who are involved in supporting many philanthropies which deal with feeding the hungry in my area.

Why did you get to go to the conference?

I got to go to the conference because I am on the service council at my school, and I was one of the ten in the county* who was invited. I was able to meet Barbara Bush's* granddaughter, and she was speaking about her charity that she has had for about ten years, which is called FEED, which basically feeds hungry children in America as well as around the world.

What does the service council do?

What the service council does is try to get my school united in doing service projects or raising money for local food banks.* We also put together Christmas care packages* for abused as well as neglected children.

What did you do for the Labor Day holiday?

For the Labor Day* holiday, I was doing a lot of studying to get ready for my calculus and Spanish class. But we also had a barbecue* for dinner and we ate as a family, which is something we always do on holidays and long weekends.

Can you tell me a little bit about your family?

My parents came to America from India, and they met in college. My grandmother is Portuguese, and I am very close to her. I also have a younger sister, named Capri, and she is fifteen years old.

Does your family have any special traditions?

Yes, we have lots of special traditions, and they are really all important to me. I grew up cooking with my grandmother and my mother, so baking cookies for Christmas is a huge tradition. We love Italian food, grilled chicken, and salads.

What do you want to do after high school?

I would love to go to college and pursue my passions for Spanish, history, and business.

Do you have an idea of a career you'd like to follow?

I would love to somehow bring all of these passions together by doing a type of corporate job, but I'm not really quite sure yet.

Is there anything that you would like to say to kids in other countries?

I'm so excited to be able to talk to you guys* and to share part of my culture with you guys. I hope one day to travel to your countries and to learn a little bit more about how small the world really is.

A Few Words

Philanthropy: Here this means an organization that gives money to help poor people.

County: Each state in the United States is divided into smaller areas called counties.

Barbara Bush: The wife of George Bush Sr., President of the United States, 1989–1993.

Food bank: A place where poor people can get free food for their families.

Care packages: Gift boxes with food treats and useful items for people who are away from home. These children are probably living with special families because their own families do not take good care of them.

Labor Day: This holiday honors workers and is always on the first Monday in September.

Barbecue: Cooking food outside over a charcoal fire.

You guys: An informal phrase that is used when speaking to other people, either men or women.

Discussion Questions

1. Bianca met a member of a famous family. Which famous person would you like to meet? Why?
2. Do students in your school do service projects together? What are they? Do you do service projects through other organizations?