



# Arctic Winter Games 2014

*Sunday, March 16*

Greetings from Fairbanks. Here is a little bit from the day. As I am spending more time with the girls, I may not have all the scoop, but let's see what we can do.

We had an uneventful and quite trip north. This year they placed us on busses based on what school we would be staying in. Since they have divided by gender, it has been a new experience having the boys and girls in separate schools. I think it has been good for our athletes as they are focusing on the game. The team seems to be getting along really well. It has been wonderful. We share rooms with the badminton teams, so the girls have named our room The Racquet Club.

We all eat together at Lathrop and take busses to all the venues. All busses lead to Lathrop and connecting busses. The boys are staying at West Valley which is just a couple of minutes walk to Hutch. The girls are staying at Denali and ride the Squirrel line to Lathrop and then the Moose line gets us to Hutchison. The Squirrel line was a bit squirrely in the morning, but they got their nuts in a row by the afternoon.



Both boys and girls had great practices today and are nervous and excited about their first games tomorrow morning. We'll be getting up early and leaving Denali at 7 a.m.

Tonight was the Opening Ceremonies. All the kids came off the busses by country, state and province, with Alaska coming in last to loud music and cheering fans. Governor Parnell and Senator Murkowski greeted the athletes as well as the Host Society members and the Mayor of Fairbanks.

The girls had an exciting day. After practice and showers we were trying to catch the bus back to Lathrop in order catch our bus to Denali where we would change into the uniform then catch a bus back to Lathrop. Sounds easy, right? We ended up on a “sweeper” bus that was going to all schools to help get everyone to Lathrop for staging. It wasn’t looking good. Gretchen called Bill who drove to Lathrop to transport us to Denali and back. It was another 25 minutes before we got to him. The girls were great. We found Bill, he dropped us off and within 5 minutes we had changed and were ready to go.

The ceremonies were upbeat and festive. The North Pole Choir sand all of the national anthems. It was great to hear the athletes from each country join in. We had two fun performances. Once by Solaria who performs a modern version of Inupiat dance and rhythm.

As we were moving along to board the busses, I fell into a snowbank. I tried to get up but each time I just fell over a different direction. For some reason I couldn’t bend in my coat. It was humorous for a while. Soon Heather was trying to help me and I was still falling. She started calling for help and all four girls picked me up in front of an



international audience. We just kept moving along.

The beauty of these girls continued as we boarded the overfull bus, the girls arranged a seat for me.

I’ll try to get the lowdown on your sons, but I have to tell you: spending time with your daughters has been a joy. They get along with each other and have made friends with the other girls in the room. We’ll

spend more time with the boys and Coach Gary the rest of the week.

### *KEEP UP WITH US!*

We have seen KTVA, KTUU and KTVF. We are probably on the news. You can get updates and see pictures at <http://awg2014.org> We understand that you can view the opening and closing ceremonies on GCI. There is also an App for iPhone and Android that will give you results and schedules. Look under Fairbanks Arctic Winter Games.

Until later,

Coach Gretchen

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