

Kazakh Kids!

An Internet Newsletter for Kazakh-American
Adoptive Families

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Issue #5

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Staff Sound Off

Here we are, almost at the end of summer. Many things are happening in the world of Kazakhstan Adoptions and we have a lot to share. However, this issue will be a little smaller than our previous issues because Sergey has been very hard at work putting together a web site for all of us to enjoy! He has spent many long hours on this project and it will allow everyone to access and view all of the back issues of our newsletter. I have spent many hours emailing people past issues and this will help save me a tremendous amount of time. Take a look at it and tell us what you think! The web address is:

www.angelfire.com/country/kazkid

We would like to know how you would like our web site to be used. Would you like us to continue to email the newsletter and use the web site for accessing only the previous issues? Or would you like to access the web site monthly yourselves in order to find the current issue of the newsletter? Your input is important and we will do what the majority would like, so please do visit it and email us with your suggestions. Also, please keep in mind when submitting your stories that they will be accessible by anyone on the world wide web and if you would prefer to keep something private than do not submit it for publication.

Word of the newsletter is spreading, in large part due to a mention in this past issue of Adoptive Families magazine. We are now up to 190 subscribers! This is so incredible when you consider we thought there might be four or five families who would be interested in learning more about the Kazakhstani culture. Many of you will be facing your post-placement reports in the coming months and you might be asked how you have incorporated your child's culture in your life and what you have done to learn more. Hopefully you will be able to mention this publication as one way in which you are becoming more educated about Kazakhstan.

A big thank you to the few folks who sent stories and photos to be included in this issue! We would really like to include stories of a personal nature, such as a sibling point of view of the adoption of their brother or sister, a grandparent's perspective on adoption, etc.

I am going to ask each and every one of you to take two minutes and email me for next months issue. Please answer this question:

What are the top 3 things that made a big impression on you about Kazakhstan and it's people?

I think we would all find it incredibly interesting to hear what each of us felt, saw, heard, etc that will forever be indelibly etched in our minds. We all are so different and undoubtedly will have something new to add to the list.

For those of you who are members of FRUA (Families for Russian & Ukrainian Adoption), keep an eye out in your next quarterly newsletter. We were asked to write a short article for their Culture and Heritage section and we submitted a reprint of our article on Kazakh Wedding Customs.

Until next month,

Sergey & Cindy

Kazakh Phrases

We were fortunate to have soon-to-be mommy, Diana Eaton, provide us with this list of Kazakh (not Russian!) phrases. She and her husband will be adopting two girls from Uralsk, and while she has been waiting to travel she has been compiling this great list and wanted to share it with all of us. Thanks Diana!

Numbers	1	BIR
Numbers	10	ON
Numbers	2	YUKA
Numbers	3	OSH
Numbers	4	TORT
Numbers	5	BES
Numbers	6	ALTA
Numbers	7	JETA
Numbers	8	SEGIZ
Numbers	9	TOGIZ
Food	Are you hungry?	Syen ashsinba?
Family	Baby	bobek
	Ball	Dope
Routine	Bath	vanna
Routine	be quiet	teesh-tan
Routine	Beautiful (as in you look beautiful)	odd-ye-emma
Routine	Big girl (as in you are a big girl!)	Dowl-kus
Family	big sister	ap-keya
Animal	Bird	Tota-Kus
	Blocks	Coo-be-key
Color	Blue	Kuk
Food	Boiled water	qaynaghan su
	Book	KITAP
Family	Boy	bala
Food	breakfast	tan-year-tien-ga-us

Animal	Bunny	Koy-Un
	Car	Machine-ah (russian I think)
Animal	Cat	Mu-sick
	clock	SAGAT
	cold	Soolk
Routine	come here	kas-mat-kil
Routine	come here	Mon dah kyll
Routine	come to me	Mah-gan-kyll
Food	Cookie	Pa-chen-ya (russian)
	dance	beel-yeah
Food	dinner	kesh-ka-us
Routine	Do you have to pee pee?	See Es-in-pah pee pee?
Routine	Do you have to poop?	See Es-in-pah cah-cah?
Routine	Do you need to use the potty?	Syen doozgye barasin ba? (or) Syen dairyebkhanaga barasin ba?
Routine	Do you want bread?	none schee-es-en-bah
Routine	do you want milk?	soot schee-es-en-bah?
Routine	do you want soup?	kis-pee-ah schee-es-en-bah?
Routine	do you want to eat?	ta-mak schee-es-en-bah?
Routine	do you want to sleep?	see-ah-nah yuk-tee-ah-sen-bah?
Routine	do you want water?	sou schee-es-en-bah?
Animal	Dog	Eat
	doll	kook-la (russian)
Routine	Don't Cry	zgha-llamav go to the bathroom gar-shock-ca ba-ra-maz
Food	Eat (to eat)	Jehr

People	Father	Yeka
Food	Fish	Balak
Food	Fruit	Jee-mus
Family	Girl	kuz
Routine	give a hug	shocktah
Routine	give a kiss	see
Routine	go to sleep	york-time-mus
Routine	Go to sleep!	Bar youkta!
Routine	go to the bathroom:	gar-shock-ca ba-ra-maz
Routine	going	Oat-tram-mus
Routine	Good	shacquesie
Routine	Good girl!	Jac-see Koo! (with the Jac said like Jacque in French)
Routine	Goodbye	kosh sow bolingdar
Family	Grandfather	ata
Family	Grandmother	apa
Color	Green	jazul
Animal	Hamster	Tish-kam
	Happy Birthday!	Tughan kuninmen!
Routine	Hello!	Selem
Routine	Hello, how are you?	Salamatsys, ba?
Animal	Horse	Aht
	hot	bi-ka
	How much	qansha?
Routine	I don't understand	tusinbeymin
Routine	I love you	Men see-ah-nah jacque-see kour-i-man
Routine	I love you	Myen syeni sooyom. (or) Myen syeni zhaksi

		koryem
People	little brother	en-nung
Food	lunch	tue-skus
Food	Meat	Yet
	medicine	Dad-rah
Family	Mother	Sheshe
Routine	No	shoke
Routine	No (gentler)	Zjock
Body Part	Nose	Mudrren (?)
Color	orange	man-der-eeen
	Peace be with you	Asalaam Aleykum
Routine	Please don't cry	Zjill-lah-mah-sha!
Routine	Poop (to defacate)	Ca ca
	Push	Boss
Animal	Rabbit	KOYAN
Routine	Say or Repeat after me	Ite
Animal	Sheep	Koy
Routine	stay by me	mennen-cos-sum-da-tore
Routine	stay in your seat	or-nan-da-or-terr
Routine	thank you	rock-mid
Routine	Thank You	rrrak-mit
Routine	thats all or thats enough!	Bold-da
Routine	Time for bed	Zhoor youktayik
Routine	Toilet	azhetkhana
Animal	Turtle	Tas-bak-ah
Food	Water	Sue
Routine	We love you	Biz see-ah-nah jacque-see kour-i-mas

Routine	Where is	...qayda?
Color	White	ak
Routine	Yes	ee-ah
Routine	Yes	Zjockza

Kids Corner

Here is another great contribution from the Futch family. Trey and Sandy were told this legend by their coordinator when they traveled to adopt their son Jack, and Sandy kindly took the time to send it to us to include in this month's issue.



(We were told that there are several legends about the origin of the doombra – most are similar to this one told to us by our Kazak coordinator.)

Once there was a warlike Khan who had only one son. Of all of his children, the son was his favorite. The Khan was known throughout the countryside for being very violent and mean.

Another tribe made war on him so he sent his warriors to fight. They did not return. After several days, he sent another group of warriors. When they did not return after one, two, three days, he sent his last group led by his son. They also did not return for several days. The Khan told his servants that they would have to discover the fate of his beloved son and tell him the next day. Whoever told him bad news would be tortured by pouring hot metal on them. Whoever lied would also be tortured in the same manner.

The servants knew that the son and other warriors were dead so they didn't know what to do. They went to an old wise man that lived alone on the steppe in his yurt. They told the wise man what their problem was. He said, "Don't worry. Come back tomorrow before you see the Khan and I will tell you what to do."

They came back the next day and the wise man said that he would go with them to tell the Khan. They went to the Khan and the wise man began to play a song on his doombra. The Khan fell asleep and dreamed of the battle. He saw the warriors riding on horses and heard the sounds of the battle. He saw his son fighting and the arrow that hit him and brought him down. He awoke and he knew the whole story. He ordered that the wise man be tortured. The wise man said that he hadn't told the Khan, the song had.

The Khan poured the hot molten metal on the doombra, which made the hole in the middle that is there today.

Culture Connection

Yurts

Kazakhs are traditionally a nomadic people. The nomadic lifestyle helped to establish the unique methods of household management, and specific manners and morals were often formed due to this way of life. Stock raising was the main Kazakh business. Sheep, camels and horses were found in Kazakh herds. Cattle were not often found among the herds because cows and bulls could not move greater distances during migration.

Rich people had thousand of horses and sheep. The poor were hired to graze their herds for living. Some shepherds later preferred to run a settled lifestyle and began farming, cultivating rye, wheat and millet, but their farms were very poor, as a rule.

There was variety a handy crafts that existed in the territory of Kazakhstan. Mainly it had been considered as a home trade business and would be what we would now call a "home based business". Women alongside other members of the family performed the work in these small cottage industries that mainly consisted of weaving and embroidery.

Men worked at the art of processing metal, trees and bones.

The necessity of constant migration from one pasture to another with animals was the main reason for constructing light, very strong and comfortable dwelling – “urta”. It was easy to deliver it from place to place using horses or camels. All of the home’s items were made of unbreakable material and suited very well to mobile lifestyle.

For a man who is inexperienced it is an impossible task to fix the yurt, but Kazakh women could put one together in 2-5 hours.

The process of installation is as follows:

A) The lattice walls (kerege) are fixed forming a circle - 8 wooden poles are used for it.

B) Long curly poles are then fastened to the kerege, forming the arch of the yurt. They are joined together with an arch hoop – “shanrak”. The hole in the ceiling is used as a flue and window. If there is need, it can be closed by felt.

C) Around the walls a thick mat is affixed. It is made from burned steppe reed. The mat defends the yurt from wind and dust and allows good ventilation as well. Outside the yurt is covered with thick felt (the Kazakhs are world renown for their felt production) that is firmly fastened.

D) The floor of yurt is covered with mats made from sheep’s wool. They save help to retain the heat and serve as an obstacle for poisonous spiders and snakes. The scent of sheep's wool deters them from entering the yurt.

E) The door of the yurt is double leaf as usual, decorated with wood engraving and incrustated by bone and metal.



Inside the gentle feathery carpets and warm woolly mats create a comfort and serve as decoration of interior. You might find inside the decorative fabrics or colorful strips – “bashkura”. They hang down on walls from ceiling to floor.

The ceiling (if it is possible to name it that) is decorated by hanging fine tapes with several lines of knots and clusters of colored wooly threads.

You may see the yurt spelled and pronounced many different ways, but the most common is “yurt” and “urta” or “yurta”. I have also seen a yurt called a “ger” on some web sites.

Would you like to check out some modern forms of yurts? How about installing one in your backyard as a studio or guest house? It is possible to buy custom-made yurts made right here in the USA! You can find them made of traditional materials or something similar or of high end exotic woods. Check out these web sites:

www.yurt.com
www.yurtpeople.com
www.nbyurts.com

For yurt decorations and other traditional household items, check out:

www.tribalmx.com/yurtfurnishings/yurtfurnishings.html

Just some fun “surfing” spots to hit!

Noteworthy Notes

Here are some items submitted by various readers.

From Susan Goatley of Valrico, (Tampa Bay Area) Florida:

“I have taken on the task of organizing 2 picnics per year for families with Kazakh children. Our next picnic, which will be our third, will be on November 3 at Phillipe Park in Safety Harbor, FL from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. I am sure our group of families (with Maine Adoption Placement Services) would not mind if we opened our picnics up to Kazakh families who used other agencies.”

To contact Susan, email her at baaa.goatley@worldnet.att.net (Don’t you love that email address?)”

Virginia Tillyard (tillyard1@juno.com) read an interesting, but in her words “Rather chilling” article in the July9, 2001 issue of New Yorker magazine about

oil, corruption and Kazakhstan. Written by Seymour Hersh, the title of the article is "The Price of Oil".

Mom-to-Be Shannon Barker (Irish0616@hotmail.com) gave me a good laugh when she emailed me her best response to the question "Is that your real child?". Her come-back will be "No, she's an artificial one made by Mattel!" Glad to see you are doing some deep research and giving a lot of thought to your adoption responses ahead of time, Shannon! ☺

Kazakh Kuties

I have had some computer problems and was forced to replace a fairly new computer with another one (luckily still on warranty!). In the course of transferring files over I am afraid that I have unfortunately lost the photos of a few children that some of you sent to be included in our newsletter. I apologize and I ask that you resend them to me so we can show off your sweeties! We ALL want to see them. Here are a couple we have to share that I managed to save.



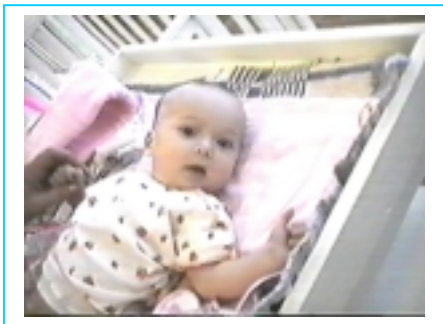
WARNING: Cute Alert! Cute Alert! Isn't this a beautiful group of kids? Kim and Dan Conlin's brood is just adorable. From left is Cassidy (4 ½), big brother Chris (11 ½), little Lia (16 months old from Vietnam), and their Kazakh Kid Caleb (3).



Greg and Chris Criner adopted These two cuties in February Using EAC as their agency. Garrett and Grant are both Very happy and healthy boys Despite an original diagnosis For Garrett of a possible heart Defect. They are now 12.5 and 11.5 months old and doing great. Look for Chris's helpful article in this issue about the feelings surrounding selecting your child/children.



This is Garrett at 3 months old (referral) and on the right at 8months old.



And here is Grant at 6 months (referral) and 9 months old



She's Home! In Issue 2 we showed you photos of Laura Murawski and told of her impending adoption by parents Jim and Sue. Here she is, safe and sound.



Laura with her BIG brother Michael (4 ½ years old, adopted from Russia). Big sister Sarah isn't pictured.

Candid Questions

One of the most difficult parts of the adoption process is selecting your child. You feel as if you are being put in the position of “playing God”, and with scant medical information available it can feel more like you are rolling the dice in Vegas rather than making a well-informed decision. How do you deal emotionally with the roller coaster ride of referral time? Here are some pointers from Chris Criner (bigmoose@bright.net), mother of recently adopted Garrett and Grant.

I recently tried to answer another couple’s questions about how we made our decision and I had to admit that I let my husband make the really “hard” choices. I knew before we began the process that I wouldn’t be able to do that, after all how could I say no to any child after waiting so long? It was the part of the process I hated most, but like physical labor it is but a dim memory now and from the time we first saw them and held them in our arms I was confident that these boys were the answers to our prayers for children.

The things that helped me “get past” the issues around “choosing” were:

- 1) Not holding firmly to the belief that there was only one “right” child for us (or in our case 2 children), but rather that once we made our choice the child(ren) we adopted were ours and we are as committed to them as we would be to bio children. For better for worse, in sickness and in health, until death do us part. We hold our marriage vows as sacred before God and consider our adoption “vows” to be the same.
- 2) As adoptive parents I did come to understand that we didn’t need to feel guilty about the choices we’ve made. In adoption some choice has to be made, for without it no adoption would take place. It is simply part of the process and we need to use our experiences and resources to make the best choice we can for our families.
- 3) Most importantly I realized that no matter how much information we are given or how many experts we consult, in the end adoption is one of the biggest leaps of faith we will ever take in our lives...but how different is it really from having a bio child? We have no guarantees of the outcome either way.

Hopefully Chris’ words will help some of you out there who are still in the referral stage. It can be hard to have peace about this part of the process, but believe it or not you will get through it and the best is yet to come!

Shopping Around Shopping Around

From time to time, as they are pointed out to us, we will feature items that are available for purchase that will help you connect with your child's culture. This month we have a **WONDERFUL** set of dolls to share with you that Mary Jane Capron is purchasing and reselling. All proceeds will go be used for orphanages in Kazakhstan where Mary Jane has contacts. For those of you who haven't already tried, finding items such as these dolls is nearly impossible, as most items of this nature tend to be lumped together with "Russia", and as we all know Kazakhstan is unique and stands all on it's own!

According to Mary Jane, these dolls are made by a Kazakh woman in a small village, and her contact for the purchase of the dolls buys them from this woman. The dolls are very nicely detailed and the female dolls have earrings sown on. The clothes are typically Kazakh-ornate (they look much like the traditional outfit I bought our son Matthew while in Kazakhstan). The hair takes many hours to make, as it is a fine gauge yarn and each strand has to be sewn into place. They are about 2 feet tall and very beautiful. The photo below features a wedding doll (on the right) and a standard female doll. There is also a male doll available and we will try to show you a photo of it next month. Also available are Uzbek dolls, should anyone be interested.



Aren't they stunning? I know Mary Jane can already count on one order from us! If you are interested in ordering them, they will run \$30 each for the standard boy or girl dolls, and \$40 for the more ornate Wedding doll. Shipping is not included. Contact Mary Jane Capron at MJC656@aol.com for more information, and thanks for sharing them MJ!!!

Well folks, that's all for our 5th Issue. We can't thank you enough for submitting so much material. It sure makes our job easier and we think it makes for a much more enjoyable and interesting newsletter. You don't have to be a writer, just send us your thoughts and we'll work with it! Also, keep those photos coming.

We look forward to hearing from you about the web site as well, and be sure to send a quick email answering our "Question of the Month"! Enjoy the rest of your summer and we'll be in your mailbox around the 1st of September!

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