



HEIDI FALLON/STAFF

Christina Amrhein will be using what she learned in class in Kenya this summer in her second-grade classroom at Our Lady of Victory this fall.

Our Lady of Victory teacher spends summer learning

By Heidi Fallon
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DELHI TWP. — Christina Amrhein spent part of her summer vacation learning lessons she'll teach this fall in her Our Lady of Victory classroom.

Amrhein was in Kenya for two weeks with a program for educators sponsored by Miami University and the Cincinnati Zoo.

She and the group of 24 spent time with members of the Maasai tribe and observed a village school. Part of the time involved camping out in the Amboseli National Park.

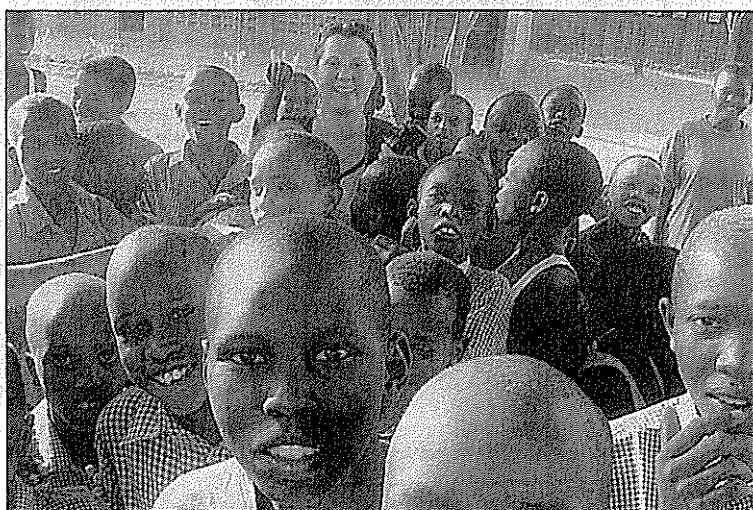
"We camped and really roughed it," she said, admitting it was a challenge for a city girl like her. "We didn't have running water or electricity or any of the things I'm so used to having and taking for granted."

Other than those inconveniences, Amrhein said the experience was one of a lifetime.

"The country is so beautiful and the people we met are wonderful. They are simple, happy people who truly respect the earth."

The focus of the program was to teach teachers how to help their students become more responsible for their own learning.

"I quickly learned that our way of doing things isn't the only way and,



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Christina Amrhein is surrounded by students she met in a Kenya school while studying there this summer.

"I learned a more student-based way of education rather than the teacher teaching."

She also learned that goat is not her favorite entree.

"They tried to Americanize the food they served us, but one night we had goat cooked over an open fire. It started tasting like steak, but that didn't last long."

"I really missed junk food."

While observing in a village

plies she is well stocked with are to students and teachers there.

"One teacher had 75 students in her class," she said, "and had to get special permission to use chalk."

"Students prize their pencils like we do a championship trophy. Pencils to them are a treat."

Amrhein, who has been at OLV the last 10 years, said she can't wait to share all she saw and learned and did without with her second-graders.