

From the Inner West Courier in Sydney....

Canadian enjoys a taste of Tempe

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Tiffany Birtch at Tempe High with students Shanii Bruveris-Tan and Lauren Vickery.

THIS Canadian vice-principal got a taste of Australian teaching at Tempe High School.

Tiffany Birtch, from Ontario, Canada, was at Tempe High from August 2 to 13 as part of a principals' exchange program between NSW and Ontario.

She sat in on classes, shadowed Tempe's deputy principal Socrates Dassaklis and answered questions about Canada.

"I was asked lots of questions on Justin Bieber," she said of the curious students at Tempe.

"I also tried anything different, like Tim Tams, lamingtons and meat pies.

"I don't think Vegemite would ever become a staple for me though."

It was a change from Canadian staples such as Tim Horton's coffee or beaver tails, a breaded sugary donut, she said.

Ms Birtch joined the program to learn about the Australian education system. "The students at Tempe are learning how to be successful in the graduation process," she said.

Some of the major differences she saw were uniforms, exiting exams such as the HSC and selective schooling.

“There’s a different management style and a restorative justice system rather than suspension,” she said.

She plans to travel to Darwin and the Blue Mountains before returning to her Canadian school, Glendale High School.

Mr Dassaklis will be hosted by Ms Birtch when he travels to her school in 2011.