

130 UKRAINIAN PRISONERS RETURN HOME IN ORTHODOX EASTER PRISONER SWAP

Reporter: Tymofii Panasenko

A group of 130 Ukrainian prisoners have been returned from Russian captivity in a “big Easter prisoner exchange” over the last few days, said Andriy Yermak, the head of Ukraine’s presidential office.

“Military, border guards, national guards, sailors, employees of the State Special Transport Service. Privates and sergeants were captured in the Bakhmut, Soledar, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson areas. Our people are going back home,” Yermak said. However, it is unclear how many Russian prisoners were sent back. There have been many large-scale prisoner exchanges throughout the week. Last Sunday, 106 Russians were exchanged for 100 Ukrainian prisoners of war.

The Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy commented on the holiday as “the victory of good, the victory of truth, the victory of life,” and he stressed the importance of Ukrainian unity in the face of Russian aggression in his Easter address.

Russian attack on Sloviansk

Friday afternoon, several Russian S-300 missiles slammed into Sloviansk, with an eighth hitting the nearby town of Kramatorsk. Eleven people were killed, including a 2-year-old toddler, and more than 20 people were wounded, local authorities said. The missile made a direct hit on the building, throwing debris all over the surrounding area. “I knew all the ones who were killed,” said Lilya, who had lived in the adjacent apartment block since 1977. “It’s horrible.”

Sloviansk mayor Vadym Liakh announced Saturday that free train service would begin Tuesday, offering citizens the chance to move to safer areas in the Donetsk region, as well as accommodation, meals, and social benefits. In a statement posted on his Facebook page, the mayor noted the town’s current population is 50,000 — up from 20,000 last summer. Elsewhere, in another part of Sloviansk, a deep crater marked a missile impact point in the middle of a children’s playground. The hit had thrown dark, rich soil into the seats of a swing. Friday had been rainy and cold, and the playground was empty when the missile struck.

THE CARDIGAN VIEW

By Chance Zhu

I see walls of red brick,
And fields of green grass.
I feel freezing winds,
And shiver in class.
I smell blooming flowers,
And skies clear as glass.

As the seasons pass,
Our home changes.
From falling leaves as red as the sun,
To blankets of snow as white as the clouds,
Then acres of lively green grass.

In all the changes that take part in this place,
One thing seems to stay the same in this space.
It is the brotherhood,
The boys around us.
The relationships we build,
The connections we make,
These are things that we cannot forsake.

Savor your time in this place we believe,
As one day you will be forced to leave.
Enjoy the sights and learn something new,
Oh How we will miss the Cardigan view!



*Above: Photo of Released War Prisoners. Al Jazeera.
Russian attack on Sloviansk. CNN News.*

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT YEAR

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. LEROY

Reporter: Jake Lim

Many students have been graduating from Cardigan each year. However, for the past few years, we haven't seen a shift this big among the members of the faculty. There have been a lot of questions throughout the community, and Mr. LeRoy may be able to answer some of them.

Q1) How many faculty members have decided to leave the community this year?

The Escalantes, Mr. & Mrs. Leroy, Ms. Kidder, Mr. Welsh, the Edsons, Mr. Forse, Mr. Wight, Mr. Hemphill, Ms. Dobin, Mr. Germain. MR. Kreuzberg.

Q2) What is so different about this year than any other year that causes many people to leave?

Six years ago, we hired 16 new faculty members. Which was high for any school. For the past 4 years, it's been around five to seven who left. This year being 13 it's more than usual, but there are different reasons why. The first reason is location. People want to be closer to their family. For example, the Edsons are moving to Florida. The Escalantes are moving to California, closer to the boys. Some people leave for personal aspirations. I want to become a head of school, and get back to a high school; so this is a great stepping stone. Mr. Forse always wanted to be a lawyer. Mr. Hemphill and Ms. Dobbin are leaving to be closer to the family, to the Pomfret School. It's a higher number but I think it's a lot of personal reasons that people are looking for. A lot of teachers have been here for five, six, or seven years. A lot of independent schools after Covid are hiring more as well. Lots of Lakes Region schools are hiring more. This is a busy time for the hiring season. We're ahead of the game since we already hired nine new people. We are losing some faculty members, but I also think that it is an opportunity for new people to come in, and since we are such a supportive community, we can help other people become good teachers. We are bringing experienced teachers in as well that have been teaching for numerous years.

Q3) What results this would bring to the community?

I think the returning faculty and the students will come closer together as a community because they know that they are going to have to work together to support each other; half of the school is going to be new students, and we are going to have 13 or 14 new faculty members. So they are all going to have to work together to welcome these new people, but also to understand what Cardigan culture and the

community is like. I strongly believe that the community coming back next year will be very tight together.

Q4) What actions does the administration plan to take in response to this?

The new adults coming in will participate in the new faculty mentor program and work closely with department chairs, but also some of the faculty will match with other faculty members, called the "welcoming committee members". During the summer, they will develop friendships that help them adjust to life at Cardigan but also with logistical problems as well.

Q5) What are the positives and negatives of this event? Your personal views?

Negatives: it's always tough losing faculty members. There are strong faculty members in the group that people have built relationships with, connected with, and losing them is tough. However, just like students graduate here, we have new students come in. So with the fact that we're able to have new faculty come in and continue to build that culture and work with them, we have to be optimistic; people leaving are excited about that next step in their life. Very few people stay in one school their whole life. The tough part is losing people that you are really close to. But also bringing new people with strong backgrounds, new ideas, the thoughts of 'how do we make Cardigan better'. We're gonna have some really strong teachers coming in from many different schools and different backgrounds, and they are going to suggest or bring in new experiences. I think it's really valuable to have new voices too, but it's hard to say goodbye.

Q6) How do you think the culture shift will turn out to be?

The soul of Cardigan, the mission of Cardigan, will stay the same. The people that come in are going to bring their ideas, but realize how magical this place is. That we're in this for the boys. For you guys. We're gonna do everything we possibly can to make you a better student, a better athlete, a better artist, a better musician, a better individual. It's not just about the school. It's supporting all the boys here, to help them mature and develop so they're prepared for wherever they go after Cardigan. The culture won't change, but people change. Seeing the fact that how consistent the traditions and the culture have been here, that's going to stay the same. If someone from Cardigan comes back four or five years later, there will be different faces, still a lot of the same faces, but the feel of Cardigan, what Cardigan does, it'll be exactly the same. I taught here 20 years ago. I left for 11 years, and when I came back, there was a lot of new building, there was a lot of new people, there was a lot of familiar faces there were there, but the feel of Cardigan stayed the same. What Cardigan does for middle school boys, exactly the same.