



Renascentia Hall International

Volume 6, Issue 3 ~ March 2016

Career Planning Workshop

Mark your calendar for RH's Career Planning Seminar on Saturday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The event will be held at Brandywine Hundred Library, located at 1300 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE. This seminar is open to all students and their host families.

Lectures will be given in Chinese and English. Guest speakers from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Delaware will discuss the college application process for international students and college life. Two experts in the fields of Science and Engineering will explain the specific requirements, expectations, and the criteria needed for each career path. Attendees will be encouraged to ask questions during the workshops in an effort to practice dialoging about these topics. Students should bring a pen and a notebook to take notes. Questions that they would like to have addressed at the seminar can be forwarded to their Student Advisor. Space is limited so RSVP to your RH Student Advisor by Wednesday, March 16.



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Transportation Guidelines

The recent tragic event in Kalamazoo, MI involving an Uber driver serves as a grim reminder of the importance of RH's transportation policy.

Student safety is the most important responsibility of our staff and our host parents. For this reason, we do not allow students to utilize smartphone app-based transportation services. Their regulatory process is not acceptable for our students because background checks are not conducted to the highest level of security. Additionally, is not legal for individuals under the age of 18 to activate and maintain user accounts with Uber and ride share programs. Drivers for these services are not required to ask the age of passengers and many do not question individuals who are clearly minor children.

If a host parent is unable to provide transportation to a student to an extra-curricular activity or airport, arrangements should be made with another RH approved driver, a reputable taxi or shuttle service or by contacting Mr. Wenqian Jin, who is approved by RH. Student Advisors are available to help.

Host Family of the Year – Pam and Bill Kwiatkowski

It's commonly known that teenagers require patience, understanding, boundaries, lots of food, more patience, more sleep than they realize, and a sense of security to thrive. If those teenagers are thousands of miles from their home and families, they may need even more of these things. At RH, we are very fortunate to have so many caring host



families to offer our students this "home away from home" that our students wish to experience.

Being a host parent means attending school activities, teacher conferences, checking homework, driving here and there in addition to transportation to school and back; basically being the natural parents' eyes and ears and heart here in the U.S.

For RH's needs, it means completing the "Making All As" monthly Student Report on time and spending regular quality time with the student as well as keeping in regular contact with the student's RH advisor. Pam and Bill Kwiatkowski have done all of these and more and we acknowledge their dedication to Wenzhe 'Jayko' Ji and Mingyi 'Joey' Bai this school year by presenting them with RH's *Host Family of the Year Award* at the RH Annual Appreciation Dinner on February 12. They received a certificate and a gift card in appreciation for their efforts. Thank you, Pam and Bill, for your generous hospitality!

Important School Dates

Please check your school website regularly for updates

- March 5, 11: Bye Bye Birdie – Annapolis Area Christian
- March 5: Science Olympiad – Red Lion
- March 6: Night at the Queen, Wilmington – Salesianum
- March 7: Spring Athletics Meeting – St. Mark's
- March 11: Fashion Show – St. Mark's
- March 11: No School – Independence, Tower Hill
- March 12: Dinner-Auction – Wilmington Christian
- March 14: Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 14: Blue & Gold Week begins – St. Mark's
- March 14: Spring Break begins—Sanford, Tatnall, Tower Hill, Wilmington Friends
- March 17: Testing – St. Mark's
- March 17: Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- March 17-19: Spring Musical – Red Lion
- March 18: No School – Independence
- March 18: Jazz & Percussion Concert – Annapolis Area Christian
- March 20: Palm Sunday
- March 24: Grandparents' Day – Ursuline
- March 24: Purim
- March 24: Spring Break begins – Annapolis Area Christian, Aquinas, Friends' Select, Holy Angels, Red Lion, St. Mark's, Ursuline, York
- March 25: Good Friday— No School
- March 25: Spring Break begins – Friends' Central, Red Lion, Salesianum
- March 27: Easter Sunday
- March 28: School Reopens – Sanford, Tatnall, Tower Hill, Wilmington Friends
- April 4: School Reopens – Aquinas, Holy Angels, Independence, Red Lion, Salesianum, St. Mark's, Ursuline, Wilmington Christian



2 Sanford Students Win Scholastic Awards

Congratulations to RH's Karida Liu on winning two Silver Key Awards for her "Transition" and "EMOJI" Comic Art. Congratulations also to Ruilin Yang for receiving an Honorable Mention for her Personal Essay. More than 90,000 seventh through twelfth graders across the country submitted work to the annual Scholastic Artists and Writers competition, which is sponsored by the Scholastic Corporation and presented by the nonprofit Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Art work is judged by industry leaders and exhibited in New York City and at local exhibitions around the country. Karida and Ruilin were two of 33 Sanford students who won top awards. "For most young winners," the Corporation has stated, "this recognition is their first experience of being identified as serious artists and writers, and the impact on their self-perception can be life-changing."

The awards showcased the diverse talents of Sanford's artists, as students were recognized for work in eleven different categories: Ceramics & Glass, Sculpture Art, Photography, Digital Art, Painting, Fashion, Editorial Cartoon, Comic Art, Film & Animation, Drawing & Illustration, and Mixed Media. Sanford students earned nine "Gold Key" awards, sixteen "Silver Keys," and seventeen "Honorable Mentions." Work earning Gold and Silver Key recognitions was exhibited at the Art Gallery at Delaware State University in Dover from January 22nd through February 6th.

RH's Honor Roll Students

Renascentia Hall is very proud of the hard work that all of our students do throughout the school year. The following students were honored at the Annual Appreciation Dinner and presented with gift cards for their accomplishments.

High Honors: Lijin Judy Chen, Haozhe Jacob Dong, Xiaohen Gavin Du, Yukang James Li, Zikang Millo Li, Yuhan Karida Liu, Shiyun Susan Tang, Mengqi Bella Tuo, You Allen Wu, Siyuan Sky Wu, Ruilin Yang, Zhichao Frank Yu, Yifan Jake Zhu, and Baotang Tommy Zu.

Honor Roll: Xiangxi Olivia Fei, Songheng Li, Yichen Johnson Guo, Runlai Eric Jiang, Yihan Kong, Xinyu Cinderella Teng, Qianhui Angela Zhang, Jifeng Archer Zhang, and Beibei Beverly Qin.

Upcoming Events

- March 19: Career Planning Seminar—Brandywine Hundred Library**
- April 9: Christina Watershed Clean Up Community Service Opportunity**
- May 6: Wilmington Blue Rocks Baseball Game, Fireworks and Monkey Cowboy Rodeo**

RH's Annual Appreciation Dinner and Chinese New Year Celebration

A total of 169 of RH's host families, students, school personnel and staff gathered to celebrate the Year of The Monkey at Hibachi Grille and Supreme Sushi Buffet in Wilmington on Friday, February 12. Winter Camp students and their host families also joined the festivities. Many lucky attendees won gift cards for Amazon purchases or dinner at the restaurant. Host families were recognized for the support and encouragement of the students. New this year, host families were acknowledged for their years of service and the *Host Family of the Year* award was presented to Pam and Bill Kwiatkowski (see story page 1.) Students were honored for their academic achievements (see story page 2.) Children received traditional Hong Bao "Lucky Money" in red envelopes. Everyone had fun catching up with each other and enjoying delicious foods. Scenes from the evening below capture the delight of the dinner.

Host Family Service Awards

4 Years

Lori Ann and Mark Ford
Barbara and Dennis Morrell
Joyce and Carlton Witte

3 Years

Yeda and David Arscott
Mayte Castro
Karen and Douglas Poole
Cenona and Eugene Rodriguez

2 Years

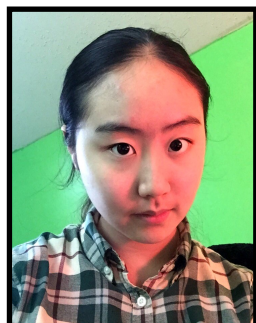
Godwin and Vida Adansi
Ruth Blume
JoAnn Bruch
John Ciotti
Cathy Edge
Vivian and Mike Gallagher
Kayla and William Holland
JoAnne and Robert Pheris
Lee and Janet Hsu
Christopher Huey
Karen and Daniel Kegelman
Pam and William Kwiatkowski
Susan and Richard Lubin
Marie and Wayne Luzzo
Elaine and Christopher Mastro
Laurie and Frank Principe
Christine Salvaggio
Candise and Dale Schmidling



生日快樂 Happy Birthday!



Zezhong John Xu
March 8



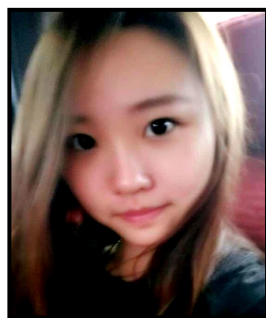
Yuijiao Jenny Tu
March 15



Runlai Eric Jiang
March 16



Songheng Li
March 18



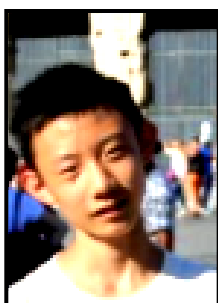
Yijia Angela Hao
March 18



Wei Vitaly Chen
March 20



Baotang Tommy Zu
March 23



Haozhe Jacob Dong
March 23



Wenzhe Jayko Ji
March 24

We Wish You A Happy Birthday!

Host Family Re- Enrollment Time

It's that time of year again...Would you like to continue hosting an RH student next school year? We will be sending you a re-enrollment form shortly and ask that you complete it and return it as soon as possible. We will match current students first and then our new arriving students. As always, thanks for all that you do for your international student to make them feel at home in your home. Host Families who re-enroll by March 30 will receive a \$250 bonus on their September stipend payment.

Host Family Spotlight: The Witte Family

Carl and Joyce Witte are certainly not newcomers to hosting international students. Five years ago, Carl and Joyce were asked to host Chinese students for the summer. They enjoyed the experience so much that when they were asked four years ago to join Renascentia Hall's Host Family Program, they said, "yes".

Carl and Joyce are in their second year as host parents to Kexin (Rachel) Li and Qizhou (Alice) Liu. Both students attend St. Mark's High School and are in the 11th grade. At school, Rachael participates in the math and science club. On Saturdays, she serves as a teacher's aide at the Chinese Cultural Center in Hockessin, Delaware. Rachel enjoys painting Chinese still life in water color. Alice can often be heard picking out tunes on the keyboard. She loves animals and will often play with the Wittes' dog. "Both girls are becoming quite comfortable in the kitchen," remarked Carl. On a recent Saturday, Rachel planned and cooked an entire multi-course dinner for herself and several friends.

A typical school day in the Witte household starts off with Carl getting breakfast for Rachel and Alice, which includes fruit, a boiled egg, or a rice dish the girls prepared the previous night. Known to the girls as Grandpa and Grandma, Carl and Joyce certainly have welcomed them as part of their family. They eat dinner together each evening and clean up together. On the weekends, the Witte family may go shopping, make new dishes, do leisure activities, as well as take out-of-town excursions so Rachel and Alice can experience various cultural and entertainment activities. Carl & Joyce's granddaughters, Melanie (9) and Evelyn (4) often join in the family fun and look up to Rachel and Alice as big sisters.



(from L—Joyce, Rachel's mom, Carl, Alice, Bryan, Rachel, & Rachel's little sister)