



Renascentia Hall International

Volume 5 Issue 1 ~ Fall 2015

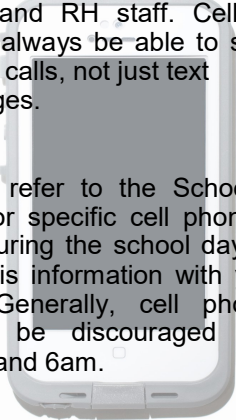
In This Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Mid-Autumn Festival..... | 1 |
| Cell Phone Reminder..... | 1 |
| New Student Orientation | 2 |
| Host Family Orientation | 2 |
| Upcoming Events | 2 |
| Student Permission Travel | 2 |
| Student Profile..... | 3 |
| Graduates..... | 4 |
| Niagara Falls Trip | 4 |
| Newest Partner School..... | 4 |
| Important School Dates..... | 4 |
| New RH Staff & Events | 5 |
| Happy Birthday | 6 |
| Newark Community Day..... | 6 |
| Football Fun..... | 6 |

Cell Phone Reminder

All students must have a cell phone for communication with their host family and RH staff. Cell phones should always be able to send and receive calls, not just text messages.

Please refer to the School Handbook for specific cell phone usage rules during the school day and review this information with your student. Generally, cell phone use should be discouraged between 10 pm and 6am.



Mid-Autumn Festival



Wow, can we really blow out all those candles?

Gone are the days of summer and we welcome a new season with cooler weather, leaves changing into beautiful array of colors and all the wonderful events that fall brings. Renascentia Hall celebrated the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival or Chinese Moon Festival at Skyline United Methodist Church in Wilmington on September 27.

According to tradition, the festival takes place on the 15th day of the eighth Chinese lunar month when the moon is at its fullest and brightest. The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the two most important occasions in the Chinese calendar (the other being the Spring Festival or the Chinese New Year) and it is an official holiday. It is a time for families to be together, so people who are far from home will gaze longingly at the moon and think about their families. The traditional food for Mid-Autumn Festival is the moon cake, which is round and sweet and symbolizes reunion.

Students played a variety of games to get the party started, followed by a talk by Jerry Xiao about planning for college. Next was the Public Speaking competition. This year, Judy Chen won first place and Susan Tang and Adam Zheng shared second place. Judy won a \$100 Amazon Gift card and Susan and Adam each won a \$50 Amazon Gift card.

Host families, students, and staff enjoyed a delicious Chinese buffet. Traditional mooncakes and other desserts were served. Those students



Jifeng Archer Zhang playing the guitar



Xiangyi Olivia Fei playing the

whose birthdays were in the summer or September gathered around a large birthday cake as everyone sang Happy Birthday to them and then the students blew out over 40 candles!

To wrap up the evening, some of the students, parents and staff participated in presentations showcasing their various talents.

These included: Jifeng Archer Zhang (guitar), Zixuan Jake Feng (clarinet), Xiangyi Olivia Fei (guzheng), Dennis Poole (piano), Zerui Jerry Pei (kuai-ban), Baotang Tommy Zu (clarinet), Siyang Sky Wu (piano), You Allen Wu

(guitar), and Lori Ann Ford (voice). Student participants received a certificate as well as a \$20 Amazon gift card. The evening was topped off with the viewing of a full lunar

eclipse.

Thanks to host dad Doug Evans for his help with the setup and technical assistance.



Arscott Host Family & Xiangyi Olivia Fei enjoying Chinese food



Zixuan Jake Feng on the clarinet

New Student Orientation Kicks Off

Eagerness. Anticipation. Excitement. These were the words that described the international students as they arrived in mid August for the Renascentia Hall New Student Orientation. Orientation took on a new look and feel this year as it was held off site from August 16 to 21. Lodging was arranged at the Staybridge Suites in Newark and classes were held next door at the Ramada Inn. The week started off with a trip to Christiana Mall to purchase cell phones and do some tax free shopping. Renascentia Hall staff led discussions on topics including public speaking, cultural differences, homework, time management, appointments, tutoring, and navigating the classroom. Students were provided opportunities for role playing to reinforce the skills they learned. Evening programs including dinner at Joe's Crab Shack followed by a walk along the riverfront in Wilmington, bowling, and a movie. A picnic dinner was held on Thursday night to introduce students to their host families. Orientation ended on Friday at Lums Pond State Park. Students gave short speeches about their goals for the year and then feasted on a delicious Chinese buffet lunch. After the meal, they enjoyed playing basketball, Frisbee, paddle boating and kayaking.



Rex Zhenyu Zhu at Lum's Pond



New students and RH's staff



Students working together

Host Family Orientation

Renascentia Hall welcomed 32 families with a Host Family Orientation luncheon at The Wilmington Christiana Hilton on Sunday, August 9th. New, returning, and potential host families were seated together according to the schools that their students will attend. Guests were treated to a banquet of fresh fruits & berries, seared Atlantic salmon, tomato-mozzarella salad, seasonal vegetables, tossed green salad, and an array of assorted desserts.

The purpose of the orientation was for families to get to know each other for support and making connections. The afternoon session began by Renascentia Hall's staff introducing themselves and host families following suit. Clarice Kwasniewski, Executive Director of Development, reviewed the host family binder with the families. She shared tips on preparing for the student's arrival, recipes, responsibilities of host families, transportation, travel policy for the students, and disciplinary procedures. After the presentation, attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions. Several hosts shared their experiences of life last year with Chinese teenagers.

A second orientation was held at Skyline United Methodist Church on August 18th for families unable to attend the first session.



Families meeting each other

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 10-11

- ◆ Columbus Day Weekend Niagara Falls Trip

NOVEMBER 7

- ◆ U of D Football Game and Hospitality Tent Picnic

NOVEMBER 26-28

- ◆ Thanksgiving Weekend Pittsburgh Trip



Remember that Eastern Daylight Savings time ends on October 31st. **TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR.**

Student Travel Permission Reminder

Students and Host Parents are reminded that if traveling more than 4 hours away from your home address or staying out-of-town overnight a Student Travel Permission Form must be submitted to the Student Advisor at least 10 days prior to the date of the trip. This allows time to obtain the necessary approvals. First year students traveling overnight must be accompanied by a chaperone who is at least 21 years old. Students who travel without permission will be subject to the minimum of Step 2 of the Disciplinary Procedures.

Student Profile

What's Up in the Land Down Under?

Kangaroos, koala bears, and the movie *Crocodile Dundy* are what comes to most people's minds when they think of Australia. Xinyu Cinderella Teng, a junior at Tower Hill School, learned that the land down under is much more than that when she experienced a trip of a lifetime. Here is her account:

This past summer I participated in a school trip to Australia. The best part of the visit was the opportunity to see Australian high schools. Our group stayed with Australian host families for a week and they showed us fascinating cultural differences that regular sight-seeing would not. All students in Australian schools are required to wear a uniform. The difference between American school uniforms and Australian school uniforms is that Australian students must wear a hat. This is due to the sun being extremely bright. I visited Saint Patrick School in Gympie, a small countryside outside of Brisbane. The courses there are comparably easier, and high school students are given much homework. My host sister also told me that many families in Australia own a pool because they can swim most of the year due to the weather.



Feeding a kangaroo in Australia



Standing with friends in a stream in Frazer Island

In Australia you can eat their national animals. Our group sampled barbecue kangaroo burgers. We saw a variety of products and snacks made with kangaroo, crocodile, and emu meat.

Sydney was our last stop. It's a very busy city just like New York or Beijing. What's unusual about the city is that people usually travel by water to go from work to home. They have water taxis and bigger boats that work like a subway. Our tourist guide told us that people in Sydney can often see sharks, sea turtles or snakes on their way to work. There are schools of sharks in Sydney Harbor. Spending a lot of time with my American friends on the trip gave me an opportunity to learn in detail about the culture of teenagers and my school. We talked about what we like to do outside of school. We had the opportunity to stay in a hotel that had a hot tub. We sure had fun and made lots of noise! The seven of us bonded very well during the trip which made going home a little sad. It is very fun to go on a school trip. I'm thankful to my parents who enabled me to go so that I could see the other side of the globe.

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We opted for plane ride on Frazer Island instead of a bumpy bus ride. Frazer Island is one of the rare places in the world that planes can take off and land on the beach.



Barbecue party with Australian host family

Graduates

Twelve students graduated in June 2015 from St. Mark's High School, Salesianum School, and Sanford. School A picnic was held in their honor at Lum's Pond on May 24,

St. Mark's High School

Lina'ao Leo Chen
Chaoyun Brad Guo
Yitao Terry Liu
Meilin Amber Lu
Yiqiao Amiee Shao
Heng Chris Tang
Yaxing Connie Zhang
Yuchen Charlie Zhou

Sanford

Wangda Timmy Chen

Salesianum

Yifei Li Li
Yifan Lu

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

Newest Partner School

Aquinas Academy has joined Renascentia Hall as a partner school. Located In Bear, DE, this private, co-educational day school is operated by Catholic laymen dedicated to promoting academic excellence within the tradition of a Catholic education. With advances in technology, today's education focuses primarily on skill development and short-term outcomes. However, a Catholic Liberal Education embraces excellence in human achievement and frees the person to pursue true happiness. The school believes that a child will imitate what he learns. If exposed to excellence, he will be attracted to excellence and imitate it in his thoughts, words and deeds; if exposed to mediocrity, he will imitate that, too. Renascentia Hall is pleased to offer international students who need or desire small class settings the opportunity to study and succeed at Aquinas Academy.



Important School Dates

Please check your school website regularly

- October 1-2 Spirit Week- York Central
- October 9-11 Alumni Weekend- St. Mark's
- October 10 Parent Conferences - Friends' Central
- October 10 Red Lion Goes Green 5K at Glasgow Park
- October 11-17 Homecoming Week Red Lion Christian
- October 12 Columbus Day No School – Independence, Friends Central, Tatnall, Salesianum, St. Mark's, Wilmington Christian, Red Lion, York Central
- October 13 Sharing Our Stories- Friends Central
- October 13 Five Guys Burgers (Concord Pike) Fundraiser- Wilmington Friends
- October 14 PSAT – Wilmington Christian, Salesianum, Sanford, Red Lion
- October 19 Fine Arts Fruit Sale- Wilmington Christian
- October 20 Admissions Open House- Sanford
- October 23-24 Play "Sense & Sensibility" Friends Central
- October 23 Parent Conferences – Independence
- October 24 ACTs- St. Mark's, Tatnall. Homecoming – St. Mark's
- October 25 Pumpkin Fair– Friends Central

Niagara Falls Trip

Pictures are great, but getting close enough to touch Niagara Falls inspires genuine awe. Millions of gallons of water rocket over Niagara Falls every minute – about 750,000 gallons each second! There's no closer place to feel Niagara's flow than to stand next to it at Niagara Falls State Park, America's oldest state park.

Join us on an exciting 2 day trip to Niagara Falls on Saturday, October 10 through Sunday, October 11. The cost is \$180 for RH Student or Host Sibling, \$250 for Host Parent or Guest. The package includes: deluxe motor coach transportation with movies, one night hotel stay (2 per room) at the Wyndham Garden Williamsville Buffalo Hotel with indoor pool, dinner, breakfast, lunches, Cornell University Tour and visit to the school's Dairy Bar.

Only a few seats remain!

Contact Danielle Lu

**302.273.2009 or
dlu@RenasHall.com**

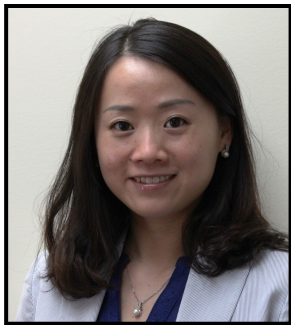


New Faces on our Staff



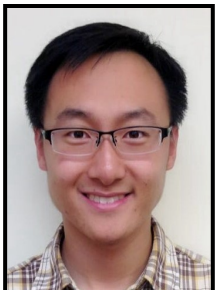
Catherine Jiang joins Renascentia Hall International as the Director of Student Affairs. She has a dual degree in Early Childhood Education and Music Education. After working in China and the United State for over 20 years, she has developed a strong reputation for her patience, understanding, and professional skills. Besides firsthand experience in teaching, she has led and participated in a number of research studies in educational reform in order to provide students a better education that help them succeed. In addition, Ms. Jiang is well acquainted with the differences of Chinese and American educational system. She knows how exciting and challenging it is to study and live in the United State. She said, "My desire at Renascentia Hall is to provide help and support using my professional knowledge and experience to those who want to successfully complete their high school education and be admitted into top ranked universities."

Karen Krauss holds a master's degree in School Counseling and has instructed and coached numerous international students at the University of Delaware's English Language Institute. Karen is RH's Student Counselor. Her experience as a substitute teacher for many local primary and secondary schools affords her a unique perspective on the challenges facing today's students. "I enjoy seeing a student achieve his or her goals. I am passionate about keeping the joy of learning alive in my own life but especially for the students I work with," she says. As the mother of two university students herself, she understands the concerns that parents may face while raising young adults in today's global community. She appreciates the need for clear and regular communication to help all stakeholders navigate through complex social and academic problems. In her spare time, Karen loves to travel, cook, learn about world events and cultures, and sing in her church's choir.



Yue He has always had a passion for the education field. She joins Renascentia Hall as Associate Director of Student Affairs. After obtaining her master's degree in Educational Psychology from University of Georgia, she returned to China and started her teaching career at Sichuan International Studies University-Chengdu College. She later transitioned to work in an educational consulting company that provides services to Chinese students who aspire to receive further education abroad. Her main responsibility was to develop and maintain relationships with American schools. In addition, Yue has worked on several significant projects. She served as a translator for an NPR program reporting on Chengdu, which later shifted the focus to after-quake relief work after a 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck Sichuan. She also worked as the assistant to Communication and Reporting Officer of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their post-disaster relief work in Sichuan. In 2008, she involved herself in the Asian Games hosted in Guangzhou, working as the Housing Manager for Aramark's catering project. Yue has a strong desire to offer support and assistance to Chinese students as they overcome challenges and difficulties along their way of transitioning to their lives and study in America.

Karen Jack was recently hired by Renascentia Hall as the Host Family Coordinator. She has a background in marketing, sales, event planning, and case management. Karen obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration/Marketing from Millersville University. Her career background includes working for various non-profit organizations as well as running two businesses. She has traveled internationally to Europe, Guatemala, and Mexico. Karen and her husband Tim reside in Kennett Square. Her personal interests include going to church, cooking and baking, ballroom dancing, decorating/designing, singing, playing the piano, and entertaining. She looks forward to bringing her key personal values of integrity and service to the staff, host families, and international students of Renascentia Hall.



Siyuan (Michael) Geng earned his Master of Accounting degree from the University of Delaware. He is working at Renascentia Hall as a Student Advisor and Assistant Accountant. His primary responsibility is matching students who are in need of tutoring with the best-valued tutors. Siyuan enjoys playing basketball and traveling in his spare time. Growing up in Jincheng, China, Siyuan received his Bachelor of Management degree in Wuhan Polytechnic University. Before coming to the United States, he served as an Intern Audit Assistant. Siyuan believes that his 2 years of studying and living in the United States has changed his life more than anything else has in his life. He, therefore, is passionate to help other students transition to life abroad and embrace a new phase of life. "Staying in your comfort zone and feeling comfy? Then you're not making any progress in your life," he says.

Meijiao Jiang is Renascentia Hall's Accountant and a Student Advisor. She has been living the United States for 20 years. Mei attended to high school in New Jersey and earned an Associates degree in General Business from Delaware Technical College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Goldey Beacom College in Delaware. Her goal is become a certified accountant within the next year. She has been married for thirteen years and has two beautiful kids, Ryan (12) and Amy (8). Her background is in payroll, personal tax returns, and accounts receivable and payable.



Newark Community Day

Renascentia Hall students spent a delightful, end-of-summer Sunday volunteering at Newark's annual Community Day on the University of Delaware campus. Our students interacted with people passing by Renascentia Hall's booth by teaching them some simple Chinese words as well as demonstrating



Qian Charles Wang, Feiya Cassie Wang, & Zezhong John Xu showing words in Chinese

how to write their names in Chinese. Participating students earned community services hours for their time. Once they completed their assignment, the students had a chance to check out the many different activities and organizations that make Newark the vibrant city it is. They sampled local foods, shopped at vendor booths, and got to hear and see performances by local artists.

This community wide event features musical performances and hundreds of vendors and is sponsored by the city of Newark's Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with UD, the Christina School District and the Downtown Newark Partnership.



Xiaochen Gavin Du writing person's name in Chinese



Zhongfengjing Steve Lin helping people learn Chinese

Football Fun

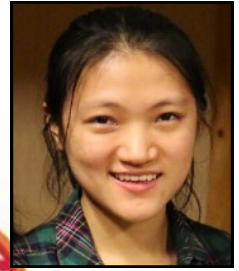


Come enjoy a favorite American fall pastime as we cheer the University of Delaware Fightin' Blue Hens football team on to victory. Make plans to join us on Saturday, November 7 for UD Homecoming. We have arranged for a premium tailgate experience before the game in the Hospitality Village. Under our tent we'll feast on premium picnic fare including chicken tenders, a cheesesteak bar, vegetable platter with dips, Blue Hen sugar cookies and beverages. The \$46 ticket price includes the buffet and a ticket to see the Blue Hens take on Albany. Watch your email for more information.

Happy Birthday! 生日快樂



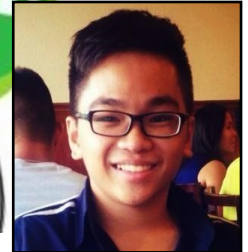
Jinhao Zhao
(Chandler)
October 1



Ruilin Yang
October 5



Qian Wang
(Charles)
October 8



Thien Do
(Jack)
October 28

We Wish You a Happy Birthday!!

Host Family Referral Incentive

Host families, we are grateful for all of the work you do for our international students; offering patience and friendship, providing good meals and transportation, and the overall support you give as these young people get comfortable with American culture and life with an American family. One way we show our appreciation to you is with our **Host Family Referral Incentive**: For every student that is placed in an approved host family that you refer to us, we send you **\$100**. Current host families are our best recruiters of new host families. Please spread the word about our Homestay Program. There's a "Host Families Needed" flyer in your email that can be printed for display in libraries, schools, churches and community newsletters. When you share your experiences with friends, families, coworkers, and neighbors you may be talking to our newest host family! Thank you for all of your support.