



# Renascentia Hall International

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## Traveling to Boston at Thanksgiving

The bus was filled with 39 students and 10 adults for a 3-day outing to historic Boston over Thanksgiving weekend. Our stops included 5 colleges: Yale (left), Harvard (right).



We toured Plimoth Plantation (where re-enactor Pilgrims & Indians sat around cooking



fires in their 17th century village) and the crew on the *Mayflower II* ship explained their travel woes. In Chinatown, the hot pot buffet (left) was a taste of home, and the shoppers posed by the Quincy Market Christmas tree with their pals and packages.

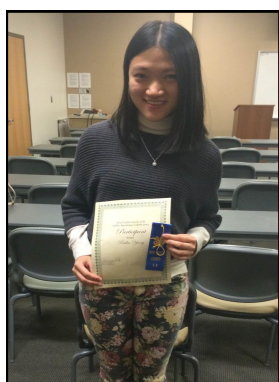


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### 4-H Speech Winner

Congratulations to Ruilin Yang, a junior at Sanford High School, who won first place in the Senior Division at the recent 4-H Public Speaking Contest. The event was held Nov. 13 for all New Castle County 4-H mem-



bers. Ruilin's speech was titled "Waste Less, Live Better." It was an informative oration about how Americans throw away large amounts of food each year. By winning the top award, she will have the opportunity to go on to represent the county at the state level competition in July.

### Christmas Gifts for Community Service

On Friday, December 19, all students are invited to a Christmas Community Service Project lasting from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event will be held at the home of host parents Kathy and Dwayne Cluff in Wilmington. Please consult your RH Host Family List for the address or call the office. During the short meeting, students can discuss our Christmas break social activities and elect 4-H Club officers. Then everyone is invited to create small gifts of edible "Reindeer Food" that will be donated to clients at the Rick VanStory Resource Center (RVRC), a recovery-oriented peer center for people with psychiatric disabilities. The RVRC empowers individuals to access resources and services needed to build independent and satisfying lives in the community. A coat, hat, and glove collection will also be taken up at this gathering so clean out your closets or shop for someone in need. If anyone is unable to attend the meeting but would like to contribute, please drop off donations to the RH office ahead of time. Anyone wishing to run for 4-H President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Reporter should contact Clarice at [ckwasnieski@renashall.com](mailto:ckwasnieski@renashall.com) for more details. Afterward, there's going to be pizza, snacks, and beverages served. Please RSVP to Candise at [cschmidling@renashall.com](mailto:cschmidling@renashall.com) if you can attend.



## Boston Trip on Thanksgiving Weekend plus college tours *(continued)*

Current students gave us a personalized tour of Boston College (left) under the streetlights and Eagle statues across their beautiful campus. At Boston University, we had a tour and afterward we stayed to cheer on their ice hockey team to a 5-2 victory over Colgate (right). Two stops in Connecticut helped break up the bus trip: we enjoyed a candy-making demonstration at the PEZ Factory (lower right) and everyone received a free PEZ souvenir; and the final campus tour was given to our student group at UConn, with plenty of students asking questions about eligibility and entrance requirements. The students said they liked the different sized campuses they toured during the three days, and they realized this was an important step forward in their college decision making process.



Thank you to Renascentia Hall for providing this opportunity and the adult chaperones for making it all possible.



## Study Aid for: Sacred Scripture

Many of our students are enrolled in high schools that require theology or Scripture classes. A Bible translation tool that assists with their homework, reading assignments, and memory verses may be beneficial. One of our host families recommends this online website: [www.unbound.biola.edu](http://www.unbound.biola.edu).

This resource site can display an English and Chinese Bible translation side by side. Students can choose from among several English versions of the Bible as well as the simplified or traditional Chinese versions of the Bible.

We hope you will utilize this ESL tool, especially for assistance with homework review.

Here's an example of the search result for Gen 6:5-9 (comparing the New American Standard Bible and the Chinese NCV Simplified):

*Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

人类败坏、神灭世耶和華看見人在地上的罪恶很大，终日心里思念的，尽都是邪恶的。

## New Travel Permission Policy

Travel provides an opportunity to experience new locations and customs, and Renascentia Hall students are encouraged to participate in excursions to see different places whether with their host family, on RH organized trips, during school-sponsored outings, while visiting family or friends, or touring college campuses. The safety of our international students remains our highest priority. Due to government regulations (SEVIS), Renascentia Hall must be aware of a student's whereabouts at all times. Independent travel requires a high degree of responsibility from the student. Unfamiliarity with an city, misplaced cell phones, and lost wallets are all concerning circumstances for teenagers. Because of these worries, students who are staying their first year in U.S. are not allowed to travel without an approved adult chaperone unless the destination is to their home or relative's.

Renascentia Hall has revised its student travel policy. A new Travel Permission Form has been developed and will be sent to all students and host families via email. All parents will also receive this form and notification from the Student Coordinators about the changes to the new travel policy. With their parents' approval, international students will be allowed to travel if they:

- will not miss any mandatory classes or school obligation,
- have not violated any major school rules, and
- have not violated any major host family rules.

The new Travel Permission Form needs to be submitted by the Host Family to the respective Student Coordinator **any time** a student will be traveling out of town overnight, with or without their host family. The form must be submitted at least 10 days prior to departure to allow time to obtain permission from the students' parents. Host parents are requested to review the travel itinerary with the student.

Note that many hotels will not allow minors to stay in a room without an adult. Forms not signed by a host parent will not be processed and travel will be denied. Students travelling home during the Christmas break must also submit a Travel Permission Form. **Students who choose to engage in independent travel without first obtaining written approval are subject to Disciplinary Procedures and may be sent home.**

**Any student traveling out of the United States MUST have the original signed copy of his or her I-20 in order to get back into the country. Most students have sent their I-20 to the RH office for safe-keeping. They should make arrangements to stop by the office to retrieve this document before departure. If a student is unable to locate their I-20, they should request a duplicate one from their school. Some schools will charge a replacement**

## Host Family Corner: Life with the Lubins

"At my age, I could go to Florida for the winter, but this is much more interesting," said Susie Lubin about hosting students from Renascentia Hall. "Richard and I just love having the kids here." The Lubins began hosting foreign exchange students about 20 years ago as a special favor for an Astra-Zeneca intern, and they enjoyed it so much they have continued every year. This year the couple is hosting two boys who attend Salesianum: Yifan "Jake" Zhu (10<sup>th</sup> grade) and Yifei "Li" Li (12<sup>th</sup> grade). They were referred to Renascentia Hall by their grandson, a freshman at the school. The Lubins have become friends with host parents Karen and Doug Poole as they also have students attending Salesianum.



"Her two boys and my two boys love to play basketball together after school and on weekends," Karen said. "Susie also hosted a picnic on her patio for Labor Day, and we had fun with five boys and two girls plus their host families."

Susie said the biggest surprise is how much the boys like to eat. "They have not complained about the food, and eat everything I make," she said. "They like to take pictures of all the meals I make. As a joke one time, I put two big rotisserie chickens on the table for the photo with the rice and all the side dishes. But the boys thought I was seriously intending all that food for one supper. We had a good laugh over it."

She is pleased that Li watches her cook and tries to learn how to make the recipes. "But they don't like to do dishes."

Schoolwork is an important part of the day at the Lubin home, and Susie noted how many hours of study both boys invest. As a senior, Li is studying for the SAT test and preparing his college applications. "Li seems to study all hours of the day and night," Susie quipped. "To show you his dedication, he soon will be taking the SAT for the fourth time. He is very close to 2,000 points and wants to try the test again to get that high of a score."



Susie noted that Jake and Li are just like brothers, shooting baskets, playing video games, and quibbling over their shared study room. They have joined the YMCA and like to play basketball with their friends Michael and Tiger. Recently, Jake played basketball in an All-Chinese tournament at UD with Timmy Chen and James Xu.

"I like to watch how Li and Jake are knitting together a friendship," Susie said. "Being only children in their own families in Chi-

na, it is amazing to see how their bond is growing stronger every week they are here."

## Newest Partner School

Marist High School in Bayonne, New Jersey, is Renascentia Hall's newest Partner School for 2015. The private Catholic, coeducational, accredited four-year college preparatory school is located directly west of New York City and the student population reflects broad ethnic and economic diversity. The school offers three acad-



mic tracks: Advanced Placement, Honors, and College Preparatory. Marist has a One-to-One technology program and a Writing Course is incorporated into the sophomore year. Standardized Test Prep is integrated into all year levels. Students interested in health care can participate in the Medquest program that combines theory and practical application with clinical practices and volunteer work to prepare for various health careers in college. An in-school program is available for English help. Electives are offered in art, music, science, technology, and social studies. A Virtual High School program provides more than 200 additional electives through on-line learning, and seniors have the option of choosing online college courses. Champagnat Scholars is an accelerated program for gifted and talented students. Because participation is an enriching experience, all students are required to join at least one extracurricular activity per year. A monthly Activity Period is scheduled during the school day to enable all students to enjoy extra-curricular activities.

## Important School Dates

December 8—Holiday Concert, 7 p.m., Sanford

December 9—All-Catholic Concert, 7 p.m., Salesianum

December 10—Holiday Service, Friends' Central

December 11—Christmas Concert, 7 p.m., Salesianum  
—Evening of Scenes, 6:30 p.m., Tower Hill  
—Choral Concert, 1:45 p.m., Tatnall School

December 12—Caroling in the Quad, 7:30 a.m., Sanford

December 13—Senior Ball @ St. Mark's, 7 p.m.

December 14—Christmas Concert, 2 p.m., St. Mark's  
—Christmas Concert, 2 p.m., Ursuline

December 18—Early Dismissal @ Red Lion  
—Instrumental Concert, 1:45 p.m., Tatnall School

December 19—Early Dismissal @ Tower Hill  
—Choir Caroling Party, 6 p.m., York Catholic

December 22—No School @ Tatnall, Sallies, Red Lion, Wilm. Christian, Friends Central, Sanford, Holy Angels, York Catholic

December 23—Early Dismissal @ St Mark's, Wilm Christian, and York Catholic

December 25—Christmas Day

December 31—New Year's Eve



## Upcoming RH Events

Email [CSchmidling@RenashHall.com](mailto:CSchmidling@RenashHall.com) for Registration  
Please RSVP one week prior to each event  
\*Parents provide transportation\*

### December 19

- ◆ 4-H Christmas Pizza Party & Community Service Project, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. (Kathy & Dwayne Cluff's house)

### December 29

- ◆ Lunch at TGIFridays 11:30-1:00 p.m. (650 S. College Ave.) and Ice Skating (\$10) at University of Delaware Ice Rink 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. (547 S. College Ave.)

### December 31 – New Year's Eve

- ◆ Blue Mountain Ski Trip (PA)—lift ticket, ski lesson, and ski rental approximately \$150; transportation provided.

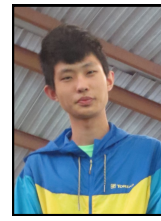
### January 2

- ◆ Stratosphere Trampoline Park (510 S. Justison Street), Riverfront; jump from 3-4:30 p.m. with waiver pre-signed [www.WilmingtonTrampolinePark.com](http://www.WilmingtonTrampolinePark.com), (\$13) and
- ◆ Dinner at Riverfront Market (on your own) and
- ◆ Penn Cinema IMAX Theatre (401 S. Madison Street, Riverfront) approximately 7 p.m.  
See listing of movies at [www.PennCinema.com](http://www.PennCinema.com) (\$10-15)

## Happy Birthday 生日快樂



Yunqi Zhao  
(Aiko)  
Dec. 3



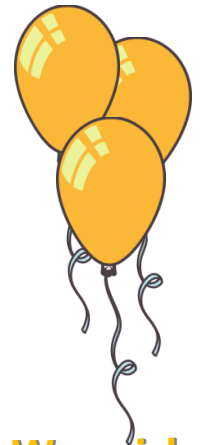
Zhuohao Wang  
(Tiger)  
Dec. 4



Binyu Wang  
(Wystan)  
Dec. 17



Yilun Zhao  
(Michael)  
Dec. 28



We wish a  
**Happy  
Birthday  
to You!!**

## Direct Deposit Now Available

Renascencia Hall is pleased to announce that Host Families can now elect to have their monthly stipend directly deposited to their bank account. The election form will be emailed to host parents next week. Starting with the January stipend, payments will be made twice a month. Payment for the first half of the month will be processed on the 16th. Payment for the second half of the month will be processed on the first day of the next month. Host families who temporarily host a student will continue to receive \$35 per day per student. This amount will be deducted from the monthly stipend of the host family who is seeking alternate accommodations. Reimbursements will be remitted as received on the next payment date. Any questions about direct deposit should be sent to Sherry Chen at 302.273.2009 or [sherrychen@renashall.com](mailto:sherrychen@renashall.com).

## Inspiration & Insight

### Thanksgiving is an important time:

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."  
~ John F. Kennedy

## College Prep Seminar Held

Our director Jerry Xiao held a College Preparation Seminar on November 19 for students to begin thinking about college applications. While geared mostly toward juniors, the seminar was open to all interested students. RH staff members helped shuttle students to St. Mark's High School for the after-school training. Each student received an SAT Prep workbook to help them train for this important test. They were also urged to take the ACT, which is more objective than the SAT. Jerry advised the students to take both tests in January or February to determine which one is best for their individual ability, and then practice to take that test again at the end of the school year. Additionally, Jerry stressed enrolling in challenging classes and AP credits, but not if the pupil would have trouble earning a passing grade. He described the different types of colleges and suggested the students consider smaller liberal arts schools rather than large universities. Participants were encouraged to meet with their respective College Counselor at each school to develop an initial list of colleges to investigate and visit, if possible. Many representatives will come to the high schools for presentations and this provides a perfect opportunity to learn more about them. Jerry advised developing a relationship with a teacher now who could get to know the student and write a personal letter of recommendation for them. Students were offered tips for getting involved in extra-curricular activities which build character and leadership skills, rounding out a student's academic profile on college applications. Many colleges base acceptance more on this type of participation than solely on grades. St. Mark's junior Jack Du admitted after the session that he learned something and was eager to get started preparing for college.