

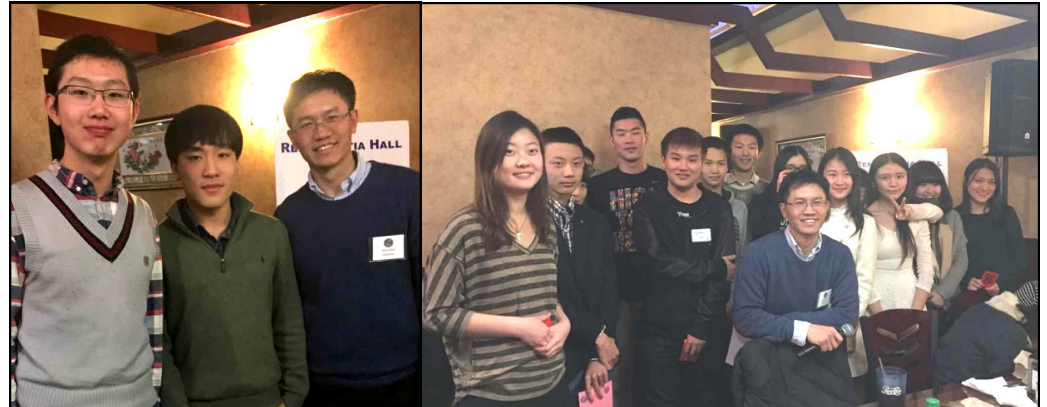


Renascentia Hall International

Volume 4, Issue 5 ~ March/April 2015

Hong Bao at Annual New Year's Dinner

The giving of red envelopes is a custom for Chinese New Year, and it was a focal point of our local Renascentia Hall celebration on Friday, February 20. Director Jerry Xiao presented hong bao (red envelopes) with the amount of money enclosed varying according to the grade-point average of the students. The excitement and anticipation



showed on everyone's faces. These gifts were given out during the annual dinner for host families, school teachers, and international students at



the Hibachi Grill and Sushi Buffet. Over 160 people attended the evening and applauded the Honor Roll students (see next page for a complete list of awards).

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Service Events

Students who need community service hours can attend the New Castle Sailing Club Clean-up at historic **Battery Park and Beach Area**. Please bring work gloves and join in the effort on **Saturday, April 18**, from 9 a.m. until noon. The registration table will be located in New Castle at the sailhouse (end of West 3rd Street). Please let us know if you can come by emailing CSchmidling@Renashall.com so we have a head count. Helpers will receive a coupon for 10% discount at local restaurants for lunch afterwards. If you need approval, please bring your school's log sheet. Also check your church, school, 4-H Office, or local websites www.VolunteerDelaware.org for community service opportunities to meet your school requirements.

4-H Contests — You Be the Judge

The spring 4-H judging contests are quickly approaching for students to show their knowledge of clothing, photography, and wood science. You may participate in one, two, or all three judging events. Free contests are operated on a come-and-go schedule anytime between 4-7 p.m. on **Thursday, April 30**, at the Extension Office (461 Wyoming Road, Newark). The displays will feature quiz questions as well as groups of four items set side-by-side to be judged, and you are given a ranking sheet. The correct answers for rankings are offered at the end. All participants win ribbons and the top 10 judges qualify to advance to the State Judging Contests. Students can review the judging guidelines and study them ahead of time at <http://extension.udel.edu/4h/projects-activities-for-members/4-h-competitions>.

Equine Art Contest — **April 10** is the deadline for entries that include artwork of horse(s), ponies, donkeys, or mules. Students can submit a painting, drawing, or pastel sketch (max size 11x17) or photograph (max size 5x7). Complete rules for competition are online at <https://extension.udel.edu/> Call the County Extension Office at 302-831-8965 for more details.



Honor Roll Achievement

Achieving the Honor Roll at school is a significant accomplishment for an international student. The following students are congratulated for their academic success in 2014.

High Honor Roll:

Jacob Dong, Sanford School
 Manling Li, Sanford School
 Ruilin Yang, Sanford School
 Jake Zhu, Salesianum
 Frank Yu, Tower Hill
 Bella Tuo, Ursuline
 Aiko Zhao, St. Mark's
 Vivian Wang, Holy Angels

Susan Tang, Sanford School
 Karida Liu, Sanford School
 Yifei Li, Salesianum – Principal's List
 Allen Wu, Tower Hill
 Judy Chen, Tower Hill
 Cassie Wang, St. Mark's
 Millo Ling, Tatnall
 Angela Zhang, Friends Central

Second Honor Roll:

Johnson Guo, Tatnall School
 Yifan Lu, Salesianum
 Charlie Zhou, St. Mark's
 Brad Guo, St. Mark's
 Jason Ju, St. Mark's

Edison Chen, Sanford School
 Tiger Wang, Salesianum
 Aimee Shao, St. Mark's
 Amber Lu, St. Mark's
 Alice Hu, Friends Central

Special Awards — Most Improved:

Nancy Wang, Red Lion Christian Academy
 Kevin Zhu, St. Mark's High School
 Rain Sheng, Red Lion Christian Academy

Scholastic Art Awards:

Bella Tuo, Ursuline – 2 Gold Key awards and 1 Honorable Mention
 Millo Ling, Tatnall — Gold Key award

Athletic Awards:

Terry Li, Tatnall – Silver Medal in 100 m breast stroke
 Bill Huo, Friends' Central – Gold medal in relay for school championship

4-H Photography Award:

Yifan Lu, Salesianum – 2nd place ribbons and Honorable Mention

Newest Partner School

Since the school received approval from the Department of Homeland Security to accept international



students, The Independence School began partnering with Renascentia Hall. Located in Newark, DE, the award-winning school educates students between early childhood through grade 8. Our company receives many requests from Chinese parents wishing to start their child's education in the U.S. before high school. The Independence School is able to accept students who possess strong academic skills. The first RH student to enroll at the middle school was Yaojie "Jeffrey" Huang, who moved with his mother to Delaware in February. He is doing well with his 8th grade studies and learning more about the area of Newark, DE.

At The Independence School, children are challenged every day to stretch themselves to be both the best student and the best citizen. Academic excellence, creative experiences, and unlimited opportunities are the school's strengths. Academics are balanced with both a strong arts program as well as athletics. The sequential, spiraling, and structured curriculum delivered to groups where the right expectations are set leads to the success of each student. Leadership skills are developed as students are asked to be part of the community and work as a team. Eighth grade graduates are highly sought after by area high schools, where they are recognized for being well-prepared for the rigors of high school. With excellent faculty and remarkable facilities, The Independence School is the perfect place for an international student to begin an American education.

Student Spotlight



Vivian Wang, a sophomore at the Academy of the Holy Angels, attended the Members' Day held at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York City on February 20. Along with 750 people, Vivian participated in the conferences and heard speakers marking the 70th anniversary year since the founding of the United Nations. There were guided tours of the office plus briefings by top UN officials, who addressed some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (South Korea) posed with Vivian

Several students attended from various schools and they were

eager to see the workings of diplomacy up close for themselves. Congratulations to Vivian for making the most of this unique opportunity.



Students at the United Nations Headquarters, New York City (Middle: Vivian Wang)

Important School Dates

April 3 — Good Friday = No School

April 3-12 — Spring Break at Wilmington Christian, Sallies, St. Mark's, Red Lion Christian, and Ursuline

April 2-7 — Easter Break at York Catholic School

April 16-19 — Band Trip at St. Marks

April 17 — International Night at Academy of Holy Angels

April 17 — Conferences/No School at Sanford

April 18 — Clean Up at Battery Park, New Castle; 9 a.m.

April 18 — ACT Exam at Salesianum

April 18 — Upper School Film Festival at Friends Central

April 24-26 — Spring Musical at St. Mark's; 7:30/2:30 p.m.

April 25 — National History Day at Del Tech

April 25 — Ag Day "Farm to Table" at Univ. of Delaware

April 27 — No School at Tatnall

April 30 — Spring Concert at Salesianum; 7 p.m.

April 30 — Chorus Rehearsal at St. Mark's

New Faces on our Staff

Renascentia Hall is pleased to welcome two new members of our staff:



Yang SongYang Song joined the staff of Renascentia Hall in December, 2014, as an International Student Counselor. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University School of Education, Yang holds a master's degree in School Counseling. Yang works closely with high school students, providing individual and group counseling, helping students with their academic achievement, personal/social development, and college preparation.

"I love working with students," Yang says, "Having experienced what they are going through, I can relate to our students. My goal is to help them ease the transition, adapt to the education and everyday life here in the United States, and to guide them to achieve their goals

in education and future career path."

Mike Aaronson brings years of educational experience to his new duties for Renascentia Hall in California and China. He obtained his associate's degree in liberal arts from College of the Desert, and his bachelor's degree in recreation studies from California State University Long Beach. Mike has done postgraduate studies in the area of special education specifically in mild to moderate disabilities. Mike has worked for city governments in California including the City Offices of Palm Springs and Lakewood where he developed and supervised recreational and educational programs including summer camp, after-school tutoring, sports leagues, and city event planning. As a teacher, Mike has worked at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. He has taught in classrooms tailored to children with developmental and emotional disabilities. He worked in READ 180, which is a reading intervention program, and as a vocational liaison for students with disabilities who are transitioning out of high school into adult life and society. Mike has also worked as a summer cabin counselor, mountain bike and traverse leader for Camp Walt Whitman, one of the top Summer Camp programs in the U.S. In this position, Mike has led mountain traverses through the White Mountains of New Hampshire for small groups of high school students as well as mountain biking trips from New Hampshire to Maine.



In Memory

We were saddened on January 26 that host father **Alan Blume** died at his home after an illness and stroke the previous year. In traditional Jewish custom, he was buried on January 29 in the Jewish Community Cemetery in Wilmington. The Shiva (reception) was held at the family's home on the next three evenings to receive visitors and condolences. Both Manling LI and Susan Tang, sophomores at Sanford School, reside at the Blume home. Host mom Ruthie writes us that the girls are doing very well and have been supportive of her during this difficult time. Renascentia Hall extends its sincere sympathies to the entire Blume family.

Upcoming RH Events

April 11

- ◆ New York City Bus Trip — Visit the Big Apple including a Broadway show "The Phantom of the Opera" at 2 p.m., Times Square, New York University, and dinner at John's Shanghai. \$200/student

April 18

- ◆ Community Service Project at Battery Park in Historic New Castle; 9:00 a.m.

May 16

- ◆ Hershey Park Bus Trip — 60 rides, roller coasters, shows, and chocolate!

May 24

- ◆ Graduation Picnic — Lum's Pond and GoApe Zipline Treetop Adventures

May 29

- ◆ Salesianum Graduation; 7:30 p.m.

June 6

- ◆ St. Mark's Graduation; 3:00 p.m.

Referral Bonus

To our current host families: We thank you again for all the work you do for the international students: offering patience, good meals, driving, and the overall support you continue to give as they adjust to American culture and to your family. We also value the support you give our company as well. For those of you that may not be familiar with our Host Family Referral Incentive, we'd like to reiterate that for every approved family you send our way, we will **send you \$100** to say thank you for spreading the word about our homestay program. Please feel free to share your experience with friends, family, co-workers, church, and community connections. There is a "Host Families Needed" flyer in your email that can be printed for display at the library, church, school, or community center. You may adapt it for any newsletters where you may have an affiliation. Thanks for assisting with our recruiting efforts!

Heading Home — Student Travel Reminder

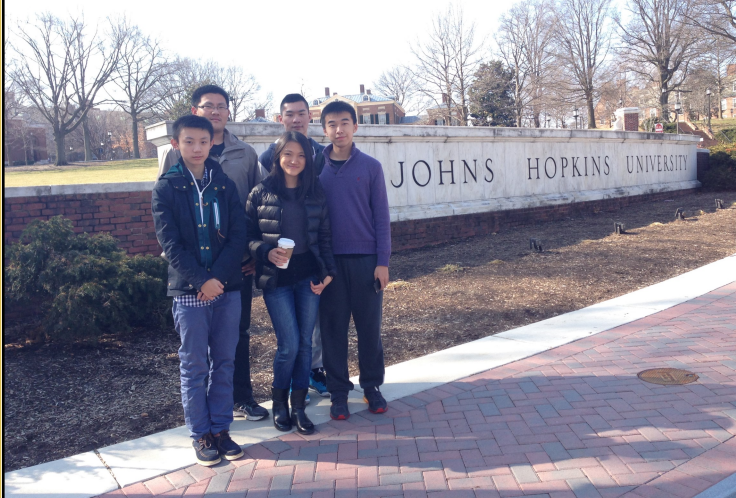
Students and Host Parents are reminded to plan ahead for traveling home at the end of the school year. Leaving personal items behind is at the discretion of the host family. Renascentia Hall can help students rent a storage facility upon request. Students are not allowed to skip any half-days or full days of class, nor can students who are seniors opt out of the graduation ceremony. Make sure the departure flights are convenient for the host family's schedule and don't forget to consider carpooling or joining together for shuttle services. Please email the Travel Permission Form to your Student Coordinator at least 2 weeks prior to the trip. Overnight stays must be accompanied by a chaperone who is at least 21 years old. Students who travel without permission will be subject to Disciplinary Action.

Baltimore Trip

Led by Renas Hall staffer Yang Song, the March 21 field trip for Renascentia Hall included a full day at the nearby city of Baltimore, Maryland. First, group visited the National Aquarium which is world famous for its 225,000-gallon ringed tank called Shark Alley. They attended the morning dolphin show with amazing tricks and flips.

Everyone enjoyed lunch afterward at Miss Shirley's Café at the Inner Harbor.

In the afternoon Yang gave a guided tour through the major buildings at Johns Hopkins University



campus, including the Undergraduate Admission Office, Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts & Sciences, and the Whiting School of Engineering. They also were able to explore the Milton S. Eisenhower Library and the Brody Learning Commons because RH staffer Yang Song is a recent graduate and her student ID card is still active.

Inspiration & Insight

“A Union that can only be maintained by swords and bayonets, and in which strife and civil war take the place of brotherly love and kindness, has no charm for me.” — *Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee*

(The Civil War ended 150 years ago this week on April 9, 1865)

Happy Birthday 生日快樂



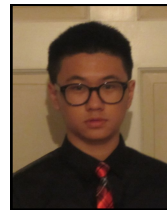
Wangda Chen
(Edison)
March 4



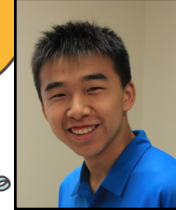
Meilin Lu
(Amber)
March 9



Jingyi Hu
(Alice)
March 16



Heng Tang
(Chris)
March 16



Songheng Li
March 18



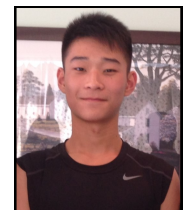
Haozhe Dong
(Jacob)
March 23



Wenzhe Ji
(Jayko)
March 24



Mengqi Tuo
(Bella)
April 6



Yi Su
(Jerry)
April 13



Yuanhao Lyu
(Frank)
April 17

We wish
you a very
Happy
Birthday!



Golden Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Host Parents Richard and Susie Lubin of Wilmington on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 4. They are hosting Jake Zhu and Yifan Li at Salesianum this year. All their Chinese and American friends send their best wishes!