



Thank You for a Great 2013

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Winter Fun



Aimee Shao frolics in the snow

The year's end always brings with it a sense of relief along with a tremendous feeling of accomplishment. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the natural parents, faculty and staff at our partner schools, agents, host parents and host siblings, and our international students for your support and shared belief in the overall goal of the Renascentia Hall International Program.

We appreciate your cooperation as we have expanded - moving to a new office, enrolling new students, partnering with new schools, employing new staff and adding new events and activities to our offerings. We know that our program has provided many valuable cultural experiences during 2013 and we could not have done it without your help.

As we forge ahead in 2014, we look forward to your continued participation. We value your assistance and suggestions. Be assured that we have no intention of slowing down and we greatly anticipate sharing more momentous achievements and memories with you this year.

Annual Appreciation Dinner

Each year Renascentia Hall invites school staff and faculty, host families, and our students to a special dinner in thanks for participating in our program. This year, the dinner will take place on Friday, January 24 at 5 p.m. at the Hibachi Grill & Supreme Sushi Buffet located at 4403 Kirkwood Highway in the Kirkwood Plaza Shopping Center, Wilmington, DE. **Please contact Eva McChesney at emcchesney@renashall.com by January 17 and let us know that you will be attending this complimentary event.**

Ursuline Academy Joins The Renascentia Hall Family

Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, Delaware has partnered with Renascentia Hall to develop an international student program. Ursuline is a Catholic, independent, college preparatory school serving girls age three through twelfth grade and boys age three through fifth grade. Founded in 1893 by the Ursuline Sisters, the school provides a nurturing educational environment, emphasizing academic excellence and service to others (serviam). The mission of Ursuline Academy is the development of the whole person in a faith-centered community built on values of academic excellence, respect, and social consciousness. Ursuline Academy empowers students for leadership and service in our global society. The goal of Renascentia Hall is to cultivate leaders with a global mindset and is the perfect complement to the mission of Ursuline. The first Renascentia Hall student, Yangning (Nancy) Ning, started at the school as an eighth grade student on January 6.



Student Spotlight



Our two Sanford students earned Honor Roll status for their academic performance during the first trimester. To receive this distinction, a student must obtain a grade point average of between 3.00 and 3.49 for Second Honor Roll, and a grade point average of 3.50 or better for First Honor Roll. Ruilin Yang made First Honors by receiving A's in all her classes. She participated on the volleyball team and was a member of the stage crew for the fall play. She has excellent time management skills and completes every assignment to her best ability.



Wangda (Edison) Chen made the Second Honor Roll. The students were recognized at a school assembly and received certificates for their accomplishment. Congratulations, Ruilin and Edison, for your achievement!

Host Family Corner



My husband and I were nervous to join Renascentia Hall and accept an international student into our home. We don't have children and were nervous about making that life transition. We were very lucky with Aimee. She is an exceptional student and her English is excellent. We have had fun introducing Aimee to new experiences, family, and friends. Her Halloween themed birthday party was a blast! It was so nice to see many of the other students and families dress up and act silly at that event.

Aimee has gained some new friends and a new American family. Even though she may not realize it right away, she is making memories and experiencing moments that she will remember for the rest of her life. This year will hopefully make a long-lasting impression on her.

Brianne Gates

Important School Dates

January 10-11

- ◆ One Act Plays - Salesianum

January 14

- ◆ Sophomore Guidance Meeting - Salesianum

January 14-17

- ◆ Semester Exams - Saint Mark's

January 16

- ◆ Martin Luther King Dinner - Salesianum

January 17

- ◆ Student Dance - Saint Mark's

January 20

- ◆ Martin Luther King Day -

CLOSED - Saint Mark's, Salesianum & Ursuline Academy

OPEN - Sanford - *Day of Service*

January 21-24

- ◆ Feast Week - Salesianum

January 23

- ◆ Parent/Teacher Conferences - Salesianum

January 24

- ◆ Pep Rally - Salesianum

January 26

- ◆ Celebration of the Ursuline Sisters - Ursuline Academy

January 27

- ◆ Saint Francis De Sales Holiday - Salesianum

January 27-31

- ◆ Catholic Schools Week

January 29

- ◆ Family Fun Night - Saint Mark's

Upcoming Events

January 11

- ◆ Youth Leadership Conference

January 24

- ◆ Annual Host Family Dinner

January 24 - February 8

- ◆ Winter Exchange Program

February 1

- ◆ Career Planning Seminar

February 16

- ◆ The Franklin Institute & Philadelphia Tour Outing

Holiday Activities

The Christmas and New Year's Holiday vacation allowed our students some much-needed time to relax and recharge. After the excitement of moving to a new place wears thin, students can start to feel homesick for their natural family and friends back home. Some of our students took advantage of the long break by returning to their native country or traveling to visit relatives or hometown pals now living in New Jersey, New York, Florida, Rhode Island, Michigan and California. For the students who stayed local with their host families, several activities were planned to keep them occupied. As the break started, students were invited to Boomers Family Fun in Avondale, PA for a night of laser tag, sports and fun zone games. Christiana Skating Center in Newark, DE was the destination for an evening of roller skating slips and slides. Another outing brought students to the Penn Cinema at the Riverfront in Wilmington, DE to watch their choice of movie including a feature on the towering IMAX screen. The students ended the evening feasting on seafood specialties at Joe's Crab Shack.



Ruilin Yang takes a hike in Brandywine Park



Students gather for a holiday sleepover



Nancy Bi opens a present



Cassie Wang hits the slopes in Michigan



Charlie Zhou helps decorate the tree

Youth Leadership Conference

Get ready for an exciting and informative day on Saturday, January 11. Students will learn tips for building effective communication skills at the Youth Leadership Conference. These skills are vital for success in school, career and personal relationships. Through a variety of workshops and lectures, attendees will gain insight on how we perceive ourselves and how others perceive us. This event is the first of a three-part series that addresses the topics of self-management, goal setting and leadership.

The Conference will be held at the Newark Senior Center (200 Whitechapel Drive, Newark, DE) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All students are expected to attend and host families are welcome to join this educational day of activities. Lunch will be provided. **Please contact Eva McChesney at emcchesney@renashall.com to inform her of the number attending by Friday, January 10.**

Happy Birthday



Siyi (Christy) Xu
January 18



Baichun (Patrick) Guo
January 13