



## Upcoming Exploration of The Franklin Institute

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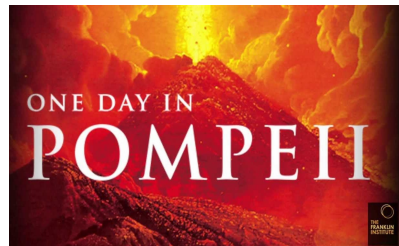
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Renascentia Hall has planned a day trip to The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, PA on Saturday March 15, 2014. Students, their friends, and host families are invited to enjoy this day in the City of Brotherly Love exploring the museum and Chinatown. The day will begin with a presentation in the Fells Planetarium entitled *To Space and Back*. This

technologically advanced Planetarium show is an extraordinary story of human ingenuity and incredible engineering that describes how the technology that transports us through space is used for devices and applications we use every day.



A viewing of the 3-D movie, *Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs*, will also be included in the tour. The film follows researchers and explorers as they piece together the archeological and genetic clues of Egyptian mummies. Scientists today are reconstructing mummy DNA and deciphering ancient texts to gain insight into modern human genetics and advance medical treatments.



Attendees will also view the popular exhibit, *One Day in Pompeii*, which tells the remarkable tale of the city that vanished under thick ash when Mount Vesuvius erupted in the year 79 A.D. Pompeii was hidden from view and forgotten for centuries until its rediscovery over 250 years ago. The artifacts on display are set in their original surroundings, offering an insider's glimpse into

this ancient Roman city. As the floors shake and the walls rumble, audiences will experience the volcano's catastrophic eruption through immersive computerized graphic images and witness the devastation left in its path.

The schedule for the day allows some time for shopping and dinner in Chinatown. Host families will receive a flyer by email with instructions for reserving a seat for the trip.

## The Tatnall School Joins The Renascentia Hall Family

The Tatnall School has partnered with Renascentia Hall to expand their international student program. Tatnall is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory day school situated on a pastoral 110-acre campus in Greenville, Delaware. Founded in 1930 by Frances D.S. Tatnall, the school is composed of four academic divisions that enroll students from age 3 through Grade 12. Tatnall is dedicated to providing students with an excellent education within a family atmosphere. The school's motto, *Omnia in Caritate* (All Things in Love), aptly describes Tatnall's teachers, coaches, parent volunteers, administration and staff. The Tatnall School provides their students with ever-expanding opportunities to enhance academic and social growth. A Tatnall graduate is prepared to succeed as a college or university student and is ready to assume the important role of a responsible member of society in all its diversity. The mission of Renascentia Hall is to cultivate future leaders with a global mindset and is the perfect complement to The Tatnall School. The school will welcome four Renascentia Hall students for the 2014-2015 school year.



## Student Spotlight

Three Renascentia Hall juniors at Salesianum School attained first honor roll status for the second quarter. Yifan Lu is in his second year at the Wilmington, Delaware school, while Yifei (Li) Li and Yilun (Michael) Zhao are new students. In addition to working on their studies, the boys also find time to participate in the highly competitive Math League against teams from area high schools. This spring, Yifan will be participating on the track team, Michael will be building up his strength by weight training, and Li is trying out for the tennis team. Congratulations, gentlemen, on your achievements!



Yilun (Michael) Zhao



Yifan (Yifan) Lu



Yifei (Li) Li

## Host Family Referral

Finding the right host family for an international student is of the utmost importance and we are grateful to our host families who have recommended excellent candidates for the program. With social media taking the world by storm in recent years, it is becoming more apparent how successful word-of-mouth communication can be.

Help spread the word about our Host Family Program by sharing your experience with family, friends, co-workers, church members and community connections. Renascentia Hall offers a Host Family Referral Incentive of **\$100** for every new approved family referred to us.

## Important School Dates

### March 8

- ◆ SAT Test - Salesianum & Sanford

### March 10

- ◆ Spring Sports Meeting for Parents & Athletes - Saint Mark's

### March 10-14

- ◆ Jump Rope for the Heart Week - Sanford

### March 13

- ◆ Father/Daughter Bowling - Ursuline

### March 15

- ◆ Sophomore Semi-Formal - Saint Mark's

### March 17-28

- ◆ Spring Vacation - Sanford

### March 20

- ◆ Spring Sports Parent Meeting - Salesianum

### March 21, 22

- ◆ Blue-Gold Fashion Show - Saint Mark's

### March 24-28

- ◆ Blue-Gold Week - Saint Mark's

### March 29

- ◆ Spartan Athletic Club Concert & Auction - Saint Mark's

## Host Family Corner

*"When Ben first arrived back in August 2013, we were a little unsure as to how he would fit into our family. However, with his easy going demeanor, he moved right into his room and felt right at home immediately. Despite some cool days in September, Ben would be in the pool swimming most evenings.*

*It has been an incredible year having Ben in our family and it is hard to believe that he will be graduating high school and going off to college in the fall. It certainly has been a joy having him in our home. He has attended church with us, travelled to New York for the Christmas holiday with our large family, and most recently accompanied us to Orlando, Florida.*



*Ben is an avid sports fan and enjoys watching basketball games with "Dad." He loves to eat, and has no complaints about the various different recipes I "invent" each week. His favorite is curry chicken – he can't seem to get enough of it.*

*Online shopping is also one of Ben's hobbies, and "Dad" complains that he is not sure who gets the most packages on a regular basis – Ben or Mom? I would have to give the vote to Ben! Mom cannot compete with Ben's love of fancy sneakers!*

*In exactly 3 months, Ben will be off to China with his parents to enjoy summer at home. We will miss him greatly, but know he will be back to college somewhere close to "home." All I have to do is let him know I am making curry chicken, and I know he will be "home" for some good home-cooked food!!*

- Dr. Velma Scantlebury-White



## NAIS Conference

A snow storm in Delaware didn't stop staff members Jerry Xiao and Clarice Kwasnieski from attending the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Conference on February 27-28 in Orlando, Florida. The event was held at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort with more than 3,200 attendees. School administrators and faculty members in attendance learned about advances in education through general sessions, workshops and presentations. In the Exhibit Hall, 220 vendors displayed products and services related to education and school administration. "It was a whirlwind trip," explained Clarice. "We left Wednesday to set-up our booth before the event opened on Thursday. The exhibit area closed Friday afternoon and we were back in Delaware that evening." The two spoke directly to representatives from more than 25 schools interested in adding or expanding their international student program. Two of the people they met with were the soon-to-be new headmaster at The Tatnall School, Charles Tierney, and his wife Gina. The couple is looking forward to their move from a boarding school in Massachusetts to Delaware this summer. The conference provided a great opportunity to make helpful connections with NAIS members.



## Upcoming Events

### March 15

- ◆ Franklin Institute Trip

### April 26

- ◆ Center for the Creative Arts



## Summer Program

The Renascentia Hall Summer Program will provide international students from age 10 to 16 with an opportunity to have some fun while learning about life in America. Students will attend a day camp at an area school and will spend evenings with their host family. Renascentia Hall will organize weekend day trips to allow exploration of schools, museums, historical sights and other points of interest. This short-term program will introduce American culture and food to students to ease their transition to studying at a U.S. high school. This summer, the two-week session will run from July 19 through August 3. Interested host families should contact Eva McChesney at 302.273.2009 or [emcchesney@renashall.com](mailto:emcchesney@renashall.com). For the Summer Program, the single bedroom requirement is waived to accommodate two students being housed in one bedroom. A stipend will be paid to host families to cover housing, food, and daily transportation to the camp.

## Youth Leadership Workshop #2

On Saturday, March 1, 2014, Renascentia Hall students gathered at the Newark Community Center in Newark, Delaware to participate in the Youth Leadership Workshop #2. The theme of the workshop was "Communication and Working in Groups." The presenters for this workshop were Retired LTC and Host Parent Carl Witte, Retired LTC Mike Wilgen, Director Dr. Jerry Xiao, and Host Family Coordinator Eva McChesney. Prior to the event, students received a homework assignment that required them to assess their individual study habits and time management skills. The results of the self-assessment were reviewed and discussed throughout the workshop. Students who elected to complete the assignment were entered into a drawing. Yuchen (Charlie) Zhou, Feiya (Cassie) Wang and Heng (Chris) Tang won \$25 gift cards. Students also participated in hands-on activities including "The Lifeboat Game" where they were tasked with deciding who to save from a sinking ship and who to throw overboard. This exercise provided the opportunity to practice communication, negotiation, and team building skills. Students also took part in other exercises that focused on the importance of body language and face-to-face interaction. Lunch featured Popeye's chicken and ice cream cakes for dessert to celebrate our students with March birthdays.



## Eye Care Program Launched

Renascentia Hall students will now have access to a vision discount program through Halpern Eye Care. The Total Eye Care Plan offers reduced fees for eye exams, prescription eyewear, and contact lenses. Laser vision surgery is also eligible for a 10% savings through the program.

Students will be mailed their discount card that can be used as often as needed at any of the nine participating office locations throughout Delaware. Host Families are asked to call the toll free number listed on the card to make an appointment for students. Host families who would like to be added to the discount plan can contact Clarice Kwasnieski at the RH office (302.273.2009) for more information. There is no fee to join.



## Students Exhibit Their Musical Talents

The Saint Mark's High School Variety Show is an annual event hosted by the school's Key Club to raise funds for service projects in the local community. Students must audition for the opportunity to show off their talent in the popular event. An assortment of acts are typically featured in the show, including dancing, comedy, singing, martial arts and musical groups. This year's event was held on Thursday, February 27 in the school theater and a group of Renascentia Hall students earned the right to take the stage. Yaolin (Helen) Che (singer), Lin'ao (Leo) Chen (guitar), Meilin (Amber) Liu (singer), Tian (Taylor) Qiu (base), Yaxing (Connie) Zhang (bongo drums) and their friend Chuzhu (Jocelyn) You (drums) performed the song "Payphone" by Maroon 5 to an appreciative audience.



## Happy Birthday



**Wangda (Timmy) Chen**  
March 4



**Meilin (Amber) Lu**  
March 8



**Heng (Chris) Tang**  
March 16