



Renascentia Hall International

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Spreading Christmas Cheer

More than 30 RH students and alumni/graduates came to the Christmas Community Service Project on Friday, December 19. The event was held at the home of host parents Kathy and Dwayne Cluff. Students took turns scooping up batches of a snack

mix called "Reindeer Food" and filling more than 100 treat bags. These will be given as gifts to clients at the Rick VanStory Resource Center (RVRC), a recovery-oriented peer center for people with psychiatric disabilities in Wilmington. Mrs. Cluff



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told the group that this donation might be the only Christmas gift some of the clients would receive. Each student also took home a bag of the salty-sweet snack mix for their host family to enjoy. After cleaning up, the students participated in a short 4-H meeting. They recited the 4-H Pledge and reported on the trip to Boston in November. The students also discussed the Christmas break activities sponsored by Renascentia Hall.

The next announcement spurred interest in upcoming 4-H contests for photography, art, directing, or cooking. Students can find entry forms in the 4-H News Flash that was emailed earlier this month or on the New Castle County 4-H webpage. Due to the large number of students and graduates attending the 4-H community service meeting, the dinner afterwards was moved to a nearby Pizza Hut.

Fun During Winter Break

Several international students traveled home for the Winter Break, and the rest of them enjoyed outings together with Renascentia Hall. This year's "boredom busters" included an afternoon of ice skating at the University of Delaware (photo below), movies at Penn IMAX Cinema, dodgeball at Stratosphere Trampoline Park, and lunch at TGIFridays. We hope all students enjoyed their time off from school.



Hosting Winter Camp

Eight potential students came to Renascentia Hall for the Winter Camp in February, which included opportunities to shadow at top high schools. Everyone also had a chance to talk to school administrators about enrollment procedures and tour prospective high schools they might like to attend. Their host families cooked dinner together, took them to a pottery and painting class, plus everyone enjoyed trips to Washington, D.C. and Philly, trampoline park, and a weekend of sight-seeing in New York City.



Victoria Zhao stayed with Rose & John McNulty

Host Family Corner

If anyone wins the award for “Most Positive Host Parents,” it would have to be Pam and Bill Kwiatkowski, first-year family with Renascentia Hall. With a ready smile, Pam tells how she was recruited by her life-time friend Karen Poole. She and Bill accepted a late-arriving RH student named Jayko Ji, who is a sophomore at Red Lion Christian School.

“Immediately we knew we would have to help Jayko stay on top of his schedule because this is a tough school, and he had to catch up from missing the first few weeks,” Pam said. “We asked him to leave open his bedroom door in the afternoons while he is working on



homework so we could make sure it was all getting done. There is a lot of homework for these kids, and we want to help him be successful.” In fact, the Kwiatkowski were very proud that Jayko raised all his grades from first semester to second semester.

Pam said she and Jayko often play educational games online which were recommended by Mrs. Walker, the school’s resource advisor. “We use the Vocabulary Workshop’s website and Jayko loves thei Hangman Game. There is either a snowman melting or a starving man who has no food—which cracks us up.”



They also play the ‘Know It or Show It’ game on Prentice Hall School’s website to review for World Civilizations class. But it’s not all fun and games at the Kwiatkowski home. Pam is busy taking care of her elderly father each day, too. She said that Jayko helps with the kitchen chores (there is no dishwasher in their farmhouse which has been in Bill’s family for three generations), and makes his bed every day.

For a couple months, Pam and Bill also welcomed into their home another Red Lion student, freshman Frank Lyu.

“Bill never had any children of his own, and helped raise my two for a short time,” Pam said. “He is so great with both the boys, and he has started a woodworking project that they will take back to China.” She said Bill has been making wooden toys, birdhouses, and Amish-style furniture for years and wanted to share this skill with his host sons.

At Thanksgiving break, the Kwiatkowski’s also hosted Charles Wang while his host family was traveling. “We don’t mind because the more, the merrier,” said Pam, who had 35 people over for Thanksgiving Dinner. At New Year’s Eve, the Kwiatkowskis took their students to Longwood Gardens for the lighted trees, paths, choirs, and stayed for the fireworks at the very end. For spring break, they are planning another RV Camping trip, like they did over Halloween weekend.

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Career Seminar Held

Many of our students attended the Renascentia Hall Career Seminar to better consider their goals for college and future jobs. On February 15, our Director Jerry Xiao discussed his own engineering profession and the high demand for students who excel at math to enroll at university within any avenue of mechanical, chemical, and industrial engineering.

Our second speaker was Dr. Lee Hsu, who spoke with passion about how computer science touches nearly all jobs in the future. “To be successful in the modern world, I tell students they must take at least two computer courses in college,” said Dr. Hsu. His video showcased a sushi-making robot which can produce 3,600 pieces per hour. “Since it was designed by a person, we will need more people who can write code for an ever-increasing number of robots in the workplace.”

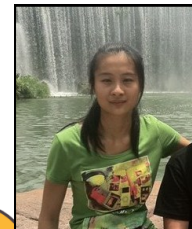


The question-and-answer time was full of lively discussion: “I thought the career seminar was really helpful,” said Songheng Li (freshman at Salesianum). “It gave us a very clear direction on how to better prepare for college applications, and Jerry shared some good ways to make studying more efficient. I hope Renascentia Hall can have this kind of meeting more frequently.”

Happy Birthday 生日快樂



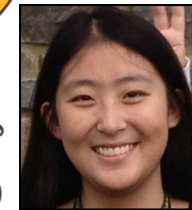
Hantao Yang
Jan. 2



Una Lin
Jan. 9



Zhichao Yu
(Frank)
Jan. 16



Jing Bi
(Nancy)
Feb. 1



Lijin Chen
(Judy)
Feb. 2

Shiyao Ju
(Jason)
Feb. 12



**We wish you a very
Happy Birthday!**