

VOL. 45

# PSP Newsletter

Nacel Open Door Private School Program

## The Great Allentown Fair



Having a new experience is always exciting and nervous. I'm pretty sure that every international student has experienced lots of new things since they left their home country. Not every experience can be good or interesting. However, in my case, it's hard to list all of the fantastic experiences that I had with my host family because there are so many.

I'm staying with the same host family since I came to United States in 2016. When I came back from Korea this year after summer vacation, my host family bought me a ticket to go to 'The Great Allentown Fair' with them. The Great Allentown Fair is a week long festival between August and September that supports the achievements of farmers, gardeners and homemakers. They have fun rides, great foods and pretty things that you can buy. But the best part of this fair are the musical concerts and that was the biggest reason why my host family took me. To celebrate its 165th year, they invited various singers to perform. There were two groups who were singing on the day when my host family took me. First was 'Us the Duo' who were the cutest married couple singers that I've ever seen. Their harmony was amazing. Another group was my favorite group: Pentatonix! Pentatonix is my favorite American a-cappella group. I never heard about them until my host family recommended me to listen to one of their songs. As soon as I heard their songs, I became a huge fan of them. Watching them sing in person brought much happiness to me because I have never been to any of my favorite singers' concerts before. The other reason that made this concert special was that it was a last concert for them to sing on one stage together. One of the members decided to leave the team and sing as a solo performer after their last tour which included this fair. That member, who is leaving, is my favorite person in the group and it was their last official group singing so it meant a lot to me.

No matter what anyone says, it was a great time because I went there with my host family. I think I won't be able to forget this fair even



though the weather was rainy and gloomy. Sometimes bad weather gives you stronger memories. One thing that I want to recommend to you is to spend lots of time with your host family. When you open your mind, you'll start to see how much they are welcoming you and how much they love you. I can't wait to spend another year with my host family. If you have a chance to visit Allentown, PA between at the end of August and at the beginning of September, why don't you try 'The Great Allentown Fair'? I'm sure you will love it.



-14기 박지수

## Back to United States



family. We have been in the swimming pool near our house, and we went bowling in which I never win aaahh T.T, also we went to church every Sunday, and everyone were so happy to see me. But the best thing about August was on the 21st, which was the date for the total solar eclipse! All high school went to Bob Jones University on Monday, the traffic was horrible, and I even started doubting if it was worth going, but later I understood that IT WAS WORTH IT! It was the most magnificent thing I have ever seen in my life, no picture can show the true beauty of the total eclipse. And since it only acquires once in 100 years, I was really lucky to be here at that time.

I love both my host and my real family, but sometimes I miss my biological family, so to get over that, I call my parents every day and talk to them for like a whole hour! But there isn't much time to feel lots of sadness and depression, since you spend half a day at school, then comeback home and do your homework and chores. The time flies really fast. Living here is really nice, and somewhat peaceful, since it's a suburban area. The shops are pretty far from my house, but if you have a car then it's no problem.

-14기 김지선

I Lia Kim(JiSeon Kim) am back from my summer vacation which I have spent in Korea, it feels great to be back. I have brought a full suitcase of Korean candy to my host brother, and he was very happy. A few days after I came back, the school started, I did not realize how much I have missed my friends and classmates, but sadly the people whom I mostly talked to, left my school, but it did not leave me in despair, so I made new friends really fast.

Since I did not take Spanish last year, teachers recommended me to not take it this year either, so instead of Spanish I took Pre-Calculus (12th grade math), so now I do both Geometry and Pre-Calculus, I'm pretty good at math, so it is not hard to keep A's for both subjects. This year I am also taking United States History, American Literature, and Chemistry.

On the second week of school we had Spiritual Emphasis, which is like a sports event, we split into teams and played various types of games like: dodgeball, soccer, volleyball, and kickball. It lasted for about two hours every day for a week. And it helped me to get closer with my classmates.

Then on the weekends I went to a lot of fun places with my host



## Calvary Life



Calvary Baptist Day School, located in Winston-Salem, NC, is a school that I am attending now. Since Winston-Salem is part of countryside, it is surrounded by beautiful trees and flowers. Since fall is coming, trees are expressing their beauty by changing their cloths. The song of birds becomes my alarm clock, squirrels and deers welcome my day with a picturesque scenery. On the roads, sometimes, I can see a skunk that stinks on the road. Everything to me is a valuable experience. Therefore, I love Calvary, providing me an unforgettable experience with the unforgettable sights.

Calvary has great teachers as well. All of them are devout christian. They never discriminate people and like to help students. Every classes start with praying and every thursday we have a chapel. Teachers encourage students to participate in the class and teach us with unique way to intrigue us. My favorite teacher so far is Ms. Topalu, English teacher for 10th graders. Reading a book was hard and boring to me so far. However, she changed my perspective towards reading a book. Now, I really like it. Ms. Topalu introduced us a book, called "Of Mice and Men." It was really interesting book that help me to feel fun to keep reading it. Everyday, during the English class, we had a discussing time, called "Camp Fire." During this time, we discuss and analyze the story and learn techniques that author used. To help us to understand things, she brought lots of toys to explain it better. Also, we played games during the class which did not make me to feel bored. Beside Ms. Topalu, there are numbers of great teacher who truly cares about students in Calvary.

The best thing that I love about this school is students of this school. All of my friends are good christian friends. They are really healthy friends. What I am meaning in healthy friends is friends who are do not like to do bad stuffs, and lead me in good way. Furthermore, they are friendly. When I first came to this school, I didn't have any friends to eat a lunch together. However, one of my friends asked me to have lunch together. I was so happy to be friend with him, and I could

make more friends through him. All of Chinese students are really good friends with me and I like to hang out with them as well. Now, I have lots of friends.

I am enjoying my school life. I am happy that I have friends who laugh a lot at trivial things, and I am happy that I have nice teachers, and I am happy that I can attend this school. I love Calvary.

-14기 심예근



## What To Do On The Weekend With American Friends In America



When international students from China or Korea first come to the United States, they often think that there is not much thing to do on the weekend with their friends. In Korea or China, it seems that there are so many things to enjoy the weekend as teenagers. They usually go to karaoke, pool hall or internet cafe. Unfortunately, it is pretty hard to find those in the United States unless you live very close to big koreatown in New York or Los Angeles.

However, there are still many variety of things you could do on the weekend with your friends. It is my third year studying in the United States, and from my experience, I can suggest what you can do. I live in West Haven, Connecticut, which is suburban area. My town is pretty far from the city. It is extremely difficult to find something that is Korean near me, so a lot of Chinese students at my school would take a train and go to New York for the weekend or just to go to a karaoke or get their hair cut.

When I first came here, I thought the exact same thing. I believe that every foreign exchange student would think the same, too. It is hard to find something enjoyable to do here.

Nevertheless, in reality, there are various activities you could enjoy with your friends in the United States. For sure, it is completely different from things we used to do in our countries. But, it is still pretty fun to do with friends. I will tell you some examples from my experience. Most of American teenagers love doing something wild outside, sweating out. They love to go to the nearby national parks and hike, they love to play football or frisbee on nearby community center or playground, or go karting. They also love to go to trampoline park, walk around the neighborhood, go to the beach or lake, or go golfing. Most of Americans love playing at least one particular sport, so they like doing some stuff related to those sports. American teenagers also love something that we enjoy to do in our countries. They go to the mall every weekend to do many things. Malls in the United States have lots of things to do : escape room, karting place, theater and shopping. They also enjoy bowling in the bowling alley.

A lot of these activities can be quite expensive compared to how much we pay in our countries. For instance, we usually pay like 5 dollars per one bowling game in Korea, but it is usually like 13 dollars here. However, it is still great to hang out with American friends in an American style.

Not only going out with your American friends is fun, it also helps you learn English much quickly. Listening and reading skills are easily developed as you take classes and do your homework. However, you cannot really learn how to talk to others in English just in class. You need something from outside of the class to better communicate in English with others. This can be achieved by talking to your American friends and hanging out with them.

This is also from my experience. I did not really have American friends in my freshmen year. I always thought that they would not want to hang out with me because I did not know how to speak English very well and I was asian. I started hanging out with American friends since my sophomore year, and my life was completely changed. My english proficiency got really better and my life became so much fun since then. At first, it can be pretty hard to talk to American friends and find something to do here because you would not have any information and be afraid of talk to someone in English. But, once you feel confident about yourself and try, your life in America will be as fun as your life you used to have in your countries.

Studying is important, but relaxing and taking a rest is also important for your academics. You should find something to do on weekend with your American friends for your better and funnier life, and more organized English skills.

-14기 곽현우



# Homestay



나는 이전 다니던 버지니아에서의 중학교를 졸업하게 되고, 한국행 비행기를 타게 되며 훈스테이와도 작별인사를 하게 되었다. 한국으로 돌아와서 우리는 바로 고등학교를 위한 준비를 시작했다. 공부도 하고 여러가지 항목들을 체크도 하면서 시간을 보냈는데, 그러면서도 가슴한편에는 걱정이 도사리고 있었다. 나에게는 무엇보다도 훈스테이가 가장 걱정이였는데, 아마 훈스테이를 끊긴 것 때문에 더 걱정을 많이 했던 것 같다. 그리고 결국 정해진 훈스테이의 정보가 우리에게 도착했는데, 첫 인상은 나쁘지 않았다. 애들이 3명이였고, 엄마 아빠 둘다 좋아 보였다. 그때 유일하게 걱정되었던 것은 아빠가 교도관이였다는 건데, 아마 교도관과 군인이 비슷해 보여서 그랬던 것 같다.

어쨌든 여러 기대와 이런저런 걱정을 품고 광복절에 한국을 떠나 오랜 시간의 비행 끝에 로드아일랜드 공항에 도착했다. 공항에서 기다리고 있던 나의 세번째 훈스테이를 우여곡절 끝에 만날 수 있었는데, 앞으로 살 집에 도착하니 사진으로 보았던 집과 3명의 아이들이 있었다. 첫째는 이름이 로건, 둘째는 브래디, 셋째는 리드였는데, 처음 봤을 때 애들이 반응을 잘해줘서 좀 쉽게 친해질 수 있었다.

본격적으로 훈스테이에 대해 얘기를 해보자. 작년에 버지니아에서 나는 많이 놀러나가지를 못했다. 그런데 이곳에서 느낀건, 이 가족들은 아주 많이 놀러나간다는 점이였다. 매주 적어도 한번씩은 친척이나 애들이 놀러와서 놀고, 또 주말에는 밖에 나가 야외활동을 한다는게 지금까지 내가 겪었던 훈스테이의 환경과 많이 달랐었다. 놀이공원에 놀러 가기도 했고, Corn Maze라는 미로에도 갔었고, 이곳에서 보낸 2달동안 아주 많은 일을 했다.

그리고 이 집에는 큰 개가 있다. 이름은 렉시인데, 처음에는 살짝 당황했었다. 내가 생각했던 것보다 더 컸었는데, 나중에 이 개가 훈스테이의 귀염동이라는 것을 깨달았다. 렉시는 집에서 하루종일 누워있는데, 학교에서 돌아왔을 때, 놀러갔다 왔을 때, 자고 일어났을 때, 어느 때는 보

이는건 렉시가 소파위에 누워있는 거였다. 그리고 소파에 앉아서 쉬고 있으면 렉시가 옆으로 와서 그냥 눕는데, 그 때 보면 정말 귀여운 개라는 생각이 마구마구 듦다. 특히나 밥을 먹을때는 옆에 와서 큰 눈으로 온 가족을 쳐다보는데, 볼 때마다 너무 재밌어서 웃음이 나온다.

아마도 그건 음식이 맛있어 보여서 그랬을텐데, 실제로 여기서 신기한 음식도 많이 먹어봤다. 치킨 수프부터 직접 만든 피자, 애플 크림볼까지 맛있는 음식이 많아서 먹을때마다 새로움을 느낀다.

그리고 이 가족은 내가 생각해도 많이 특이하다. 보통 나는 미국 훈스테이에 갈 때 한국 라면을 잔뜩 싸서 간다. 그리고 다 먹고 나면 한국에서 다시 보내주거나 미국에서 사먹거나 하는데, 이곳에서는 특이하게도 그럴 일이 없다. 이 가족의 첫째, 로건이 라면 덕후라서 라면을 정말 좋아한다. 그래서 라면 자체를 많이 사먹어서 집 안에 라면이 가득하다. 게다가 내가 들고간 불닭볶음면을 소개해준 이후, 가족 전체가 불닭볶음면에 빠져들어 짐에만 몇 봉지의 불닭을 쟁여놨는데, 그것덕분에 내가 바리바리 싸들고간 라면이 소용이 없어졌다. 라면사랑이 대단한 가족이다.



그리고 내가 훈스테이 가족에게 불닭볶음면을 소개해 줌과 동시에, 집에 놀러오는 모든 사람들에게 불닭볶음면에 도전해보라고 권유하는데, 많은 사람들이 매운맛에 놀라서, 그걸 보는 재미도 쓸쓸하다. 게다가 이 훈스테이 아줌마에게는 아주 많은 친구가 있어서, 매주 새로운 사람을 만나고, 불닭볶음면을 소개해 주는데, 이제는 반응을 보려고 불닭볶음면을 주는 것 같이 변질되버렸다.

훈스테이에서는, 내 생각보다 재밌는 일이 많이 일어난다. 대체적으로 나이대가 어려서 그런거일 수도 있지만, 자유롭고 활기찬 분위기때문이 아닌가싶다. 앞으로 4년동안 지낼 곳인데, 좋은 점 밖에 보이지 않는다는게 너무 좋고, 이 곳, 로드 아일랜드의 사람들 덕분에, 더 있고싶고, 재미있고, 편한 미국생활이 되지 않을까 싶다.

## DANCE DANCE 'MERICA



"Blue, White, and Red dance will take place this Friday 7pm to 10pm. Time to get your dancing shoes out everyone!" "Hey Jiwoo are you going?" "Of course, I am!" My favorite time of the year came again: SLA dance. In our school, we annually host a blue, white, and red dance or America dance at the beginning of the school year. I love all dances but I particularly enjoy this one better because it is one of the moments that I feel something culturally different with Korean schools feeling true American sprits. On September 22nd, I had a chance to escape from stress for couple hours and spend entertaining night with my friends.

The dance felt extra special this time. I was now more used to the school culture comparing to past couple years. I have been going to this dance since my freshman year but every year feels different and it is an enjoyable experience. I first started attending to Mount Saint Charles Academy as a freshman. Our school is a college preparatory school that includes both middle school and high school so lots of our grade was friends to each other even before freshman year. To be honest, I was so lost with everything till first semester of my first year. The slang friends used were hard to comprehend because they were different with the Standard English I have

been learning in Korea, it was hard keeping up what is going on between friends, and the culture itself was slightly different with Korea. Trying to adjust myself into the complete different environment often gave me an anxiety and made me depressed. However, now I can say that I LOVE my school so much and happy with my decision coming to Mount.

I remember my first America dance. I was pumped to dance a night away but nervous in other side because I really was not close with people in our grade. Drive to school, I constantly thought 'do not act awkward, do not!' It is funny to recall that memory but I really was confused the whole time with my emotion. It was successful being active, not timid. People complemented on my clothes and soon started to jam out music with me. I started dancing and they did too. The circle was formed and I felt I finally became part of their culture. It was fun and also felt some sort of barrier was gone that night.

To my friends who are thinking about studying abroad or who just recently started attending to school in US, I wanted to tell you key to make a best experience in a short amount of time is NOT being shy. You do not necessarily have to go up to people and just ask let's be friends, but try to complement their hairstyle, shoes,

or anything. In our Korean traditional old saying, there is a phrase "complements even make whales to dance". Do not hesitate to be brave, and once you do it, you will find yourself in more pleasant position.

Some might think America dance as just a fun event or exciting night. However, this dance is very important to me because it taught me a lesson and abled me to assimilate more with school and friends. Every time I go to this dance, I think of the first time I went and that makes me smile. Go America! Go Everyone! Show true you through Music and forget about complicated thoughts!

-14기 정지우



## Be confident in asking questions



It is a great challenge for anyone to learn something new in an unfamiliar country with a different culture. I graduated middle school in US last year, and last year was my first year in the States. This year is my second year, but everyone knows that the middle school and the high school are very different, so I was nervous and burdened as it was the first time I started. I'm sure that everyone who is starting a new life here is very nervous.

The most asked question among my friends who are preparing for studying abroad was "Is it difficult to study in the United States?" I had the same question when I first started. But there was no one around me to ask, so I had to face it myself. To be honest, it depends on what subject you are taking and how much you understand the lesson. However, if you are having difficulty in the class, there is a very easy and obvious solution that works common to all subjects. It is just asking the teacher. I bet some of you will go "Hmm.. Isn't asking teacher for kids who are getting low grades in the class?" My answer is "No." This is the most important thing that everyone should know if they are going to school in America. For me, first couple weeks in highschool was very hard. History and Physics were the two subjects that I was having hard time with. I thought the only way to figure this problem out is to ask teachers. So I went to them and asked some questions that I needed help with. Surprisingly, it helped me a lot. It helped me studying for tests, reading the book, and understanding the lesson and the subject. I can say that after you ask something to your teacher, you will feel so much more confident with that subject.

The main reason why asking a teacher is helpful to us is that asking teacher helps you to maintain good relationship with teachers. Being in a good relationship with teachers are very important at highschool. Not only because they help us to keep good grades, but also helps us

with lot of other things such as friends problem, or mental issues. The reason having good relationship with teachers are because they are your good mentor, and they are kind of your supervisor, or parents at school. I know this may sound weird, but it is true! As you get closer to teachers, they will open their mind wider to you too. Teachers are also humans. They like to be in good relationship with their students.

Teachers are always happy to help you. Some students think that if we ask teachers about something, they will think that we are having hard time in the class, or we are not doing well on that class. But that is not true. You should know that teachers are very enthusiastic about the students' enthusiasm for help. So if you have any questions, it doesn't matter what kind of question it is, reach out for help, and ask teachers. I would say this is the only and the best way to solve problems at highschool. I know that going to highschool is a big challenge for every single one of you. I am also pretty sure that everyone will have at least one subject that makes your brain hurt. So, what is the best way to solve that problem now? Everyone should say "asking teachers." Even though you are confident with all of your classes, just go to the teachers and ask them how they are doing, and they will be glad to have a conversation with you. Remember, asking is not only for students who are having hard time, but also for students who want to keep their good grades and the relationship with teachers. Good luck to everyone who is starting a new journey here, good luck to everyone, and don't get overwhelmed or embarrassed by highschool. If you enjoy your highschool life, there will be nothing exciting than highschool. Thank you.

-14기 최정환

## It Is Pretty Easy To Make Your GPA High And Get The Best Grade You Can Get

It is not that hard to get good grades even though you are not good at English when you first come here. Getting good grades is pretty simple in American high school. There are several things you need to keep up for your grade.

First, you need to do your homework as hard as you can and must turn it in before the deadline. In Korea, you do not really get a lot of homework, and homework does not really take a big part of your grade. In Korea, midterms and finals are entire part of your gradebook. However, in American high schools, homework is very significant. Homework is a big portion of your grade, and to follow the class, you need to do your homework. Even though the homework is just reading the textbooks, you should do it. You might think that teachers would not check if their students completed homework or not if it is just reading assignment. But, they might give you sudden pop-quiz and you eventually need to read textbook pages for the tests that are coming up.

Second, you need to focus on class and always carefully listen to teachers' instructions. In addition to this, you need to be respectful and polite to your teachers. In America, grades entirely depend on what your teachers think. It is definitely about how you performed on assignments, but it is also about how your teachers think about yourself. That's why you always need to behave. Besides, American teachers often give you an opportunity for extra credit. Sometimes, they do not really announce it or post it in the classroom. Rather, they just throw a word in the class. You need to listen carefully for those for better grades.

Third, when you are working on an essay or writing assignment, you should collaborate and cooperate with your friends. This is from my own experience. I had Honors Biology class in my sophomore year. This class was known for the toughest class in our school taught by the strictest teacher in my school. She thought working together is very important, because when you grow up and are hired, it is all about working together with your group. She let students work in group and revise each other's essay. From her, I learned that collaboration can be really helpful for your grade, especially you're foreign exchange student whose primary language is not English. I often ask my friends to revise and look at my essay for any grammar mistakes or something that does not sound natural or right for Americans to read. This would really help you improve your English skill and your grade as well.

Fourth, you need to use a lot of resources for the tests. You should try to use everything that has been uploaded on google classroom, which American high school teachers usually utilize. You should use the quizlet, which is very great website that helps you memorize terms. You also need to use google doc to make a group shared document for study guide. My friends usually make a study guide every time we have a test. We work together on the document to put stuff and information in. This have helped me a lot for countless tests and quizzes.

Lastly, you always need to study even for like 20 minutes for every subject every night. American teachers like to give you pop-quiz, which is unannounced quiz. You always need to be prepared for those quizzes. They are really important and you should know ahead for those.

If you keep all these followings, it would be pretty easy to keep your GPA as high as you can possibly obtain. Even though English is not comfortable for you, you just need to listen carefully, do what you are supposed to do, and read every night for following assignments, quizzes and possibly pop-quizzes. Getting good grades are easier than it looks, and you will be able to perform greatly and go to the college you have always dreamed of if you know what you are supposed to do.

## My Best Friend



One of the most common concerns between International students is making new friends. I was also the one who had no idea how to make friends at the beginning of the school year. Language barriers can be one of the reasons, but building a friendship was especially hard for me because I came to Pope John Paul II High School in the middle of the year, after everyone had their own groups.

But as you know, if you try hard to do something, nothing is impossible. I always tried to talk to friends, ask them questions, and be nice to them. At this point, I want to recommend you to talk a lot with American friends. It doesn't mean to ignore other international students. It's still important to have good relationship with everyone else. However, talking with American students will help you a lot to improve your English talking skills. Also, try to find a friend who is interested in different cultures. There are at least three students who will be interested in hearing about the story from another country. The friend who I'm going to talk about is also one of my friends who loved to learn about different cultures.

Camila, who I met at PJP II High School, was a girl who

loves K-POP and that was the beginning of our conversation. We also loved to know about each other's country and tried hard to understand the different cultures. I wasn't really interested in Mexican songs until I met her. But now, listening to Mexican songs is one of my favorite things to do during my free time. I was so surprised that I can become best friends with someone who I have known less than a year. One of the memories that I liked the most was having a sleep over with her. When she visited my house, we sang Mexican songs, Korean songs and American songs almost all night long. (Of course after getting permission from my host family.) We also had camped in our back yard which was a special experience that I won't forget. On her last day of school, Camila's host family asked me and other friends' to help prepare a surprise farewell party for her. It's hard to forget that moment when she hugged me and started to cry. That was when I really felt that she and I will be best friends forever. Even though she left United States and went back to Mexico this summer, she is still my best friend and will be my best friend forever. I'm so glad that I'm still in contact with her. I really hope nothing bad happens to her and that she'll remain safe with the horrible earthquakes that are happening in Mexico. We promised to visit each other's home country together when we grow up so I'm looking forward to see her again someday.

It's still not too late for you to try to make friends! Don't be afraid and have confidence in yourself. You'll be surprised how many students will want to be friends with you.

-14기 박지수



## Spirit Week



Every year, around this time, we always have a special week called spirit week. During this week, there are different themes for each day and students need to dress up accordingly. Some, usually teachers, select the best dressed people and have a competition against other grades. This year, our theme for Monday was Pajama day, for Tuesday was Twin day, for Wednesday was American day, for Thursday was Fan day, and lastly for Friday was Blue day. On Monday, Pajama day, I dressed up like I just woke up from sleeping. I wore a blue pajama pants that my host brother presented to me and a white pajama shirt. Some of them brought their teddy bears or dolls that they hug while they are sleeping. Also, some of them wore their dressing gown. For the competition, the Junior won since they wore amusing pajamas: shark, little mermaid, and unicorns.

On Tuesday, Twin day, I was twin with one of my friends called Alex. We both dressed up with black cloths which was pretty unremarkable compared to other people. Some people dressed up like Cinderella even if one of them were a guy. Besides these people, there was a number of people who wore funny cloth such as crayon-like cloth and cheerleader uniforms(guys wore it; it was hilarious). Unfortunately, the Senior won the competition.

Wednesday was American day. Since it was American day, we had a time to pray for this country in the morning. We call it "See u at the pole." We prayed and praised together from 7:30 to 7:50. People wore clothes that represent American as well. People painted their hair by blue, red, and white. Also, some brought their flag with a cloth that the flag was drawn. Moreover, there were some hilarious people who wore Trump mask. It was great to see

people's patriotism. Senior won the competition and all of my graders disappointed because one of our sophomores wore a Trump mask, and he was not even selected.

Thursday was Crazy Fan Day. Students wore clothes as a fan of something that can be any things. Most people wore cloth as a fan of the sport team. However, there were few who wore funny custom. There was a guy wore like a Skywalker in Star Wars. It was hilarious to see these creepy customs.

Friday was Homecoming day. Each grades had each themes. Valentine day was for Freshman, Thanksgiving day was for sophomore, Saint patrick day was for Junior, and Christmas was for Senior. Each grades should have decorated the float and wear the custom according to their themes. Sophomore got second place for the float decoration. Also, we voted for the Homecoming court. Selected girls choose boys to escort them and walked on the field after the big soccer game.

It was really fun to spend a spirit week and memorable to me. Hope I can enjoy this spirit week again in the future. I love Calvary.

-14기 심예근



## 중학교에서 고등학교로



2016년, 난 St. Matthews school에 8학년으로 가게 되면서 유학생활을 처음으로 시작하게 되었다. 처음이라 아는 것도 없고, 뭘 해야 할지도 몰라서 계속 방황했었다. 그리고 길었던 1년을 뒤로하고 학교를 졸업했다. 한국에 와서 고등학교에 갈 준비를 한 다음, 2년차 유학생활을 시작하기 위해 지난 8월 인천공항에서 로드 아일랜드 주로 다시 비행기를 탔다. 비행기 안에서 이런 저런 생각을 하다가 장장 15시간의 2개월만에 다시 미국땅을 밟았다. 홈스테이 가족을 만나고, 시차와 환경에 적응할 시간을 좀 가졌다. 잠깐의 시간이 지나고 9월 달에 La Salle Academy에 입학을 하게 됐다.

오리엔테이션때 학교에 방문했을 때 첫번째로 학교의 규모에 압도당했다. 작년에 있었던 중학교는 1층짜리 건물에 운동장도 흙이였는데, 이곳은 4층짜리 건물에 캠퍼스 자체가 장난 아니게 넓었다. 1층에 있던 식당도 크고 운동장도 인조잔디로 되어 있어서 보자마다 탄성이 나왔다. 그 때가 국제학생을 위한 오리엔테이션이였는데, 더 신기했던 건 나를 포함해 국제학생이 30명이 넘는다는 것 이였다. 작년에는 나와 다른 한국인 학생 1명이 전부였는데, 이곳에서는 나를 제외한 다른 30여명이 모두 중국에서 온 학생이였다. 주위에서 모두 다 중국어로 이야기를 하고 있어서, 뭔가 나 혼자만 한국인이라는 생각에 앉아있으면서 많은 생각을 했었다. (물론 지금은 친해져서 영어로 잘 이야기 하고 있다.)

9월에 처음 고등학교에 등교 했었는데, 역시나, 학교가 큰 만큼 학생도 장난 아니게 많았다. 학교 선생님이 오리엔테이션 때 말씀하시길, 이 곳은 9학년 수 만해도 300명이 넘는다고 하셨는데, 실제로 와보니 장난이 아니게 사람이 많았다. 복도가 학생으로 가득 차 움직이기도 힘들 정도로 많았는데, 수업이 시작하자 많던 인파가 싹 하고 사라졌다.

이곳에서 신기했던 건 수업을 돌려서 듣는다는 거였다. 중학교에서는 매 요일마다 듣는 수업과목이 정해져 있어서 기억할 수 있었는데, 이곳에서는 7개의 수업 과목을 사이클을 돌려 듣는다. 6교시로 이루어진 수업 때문에 한 과목씩 돌아가면서 드랍이 되는데, 7일 주기로 다시 같은 수업이 돌아오기 때문에, 적응하기가 힘들었다. 게다가 수요일은 더블 드랍(double-drop day)이라고 수업 두개를 빼먹기 때문에, 중학교와 다르다는게 확 느껴졌다. 이렇게 복잡한 구조 때문에 여러 실수를 했었는데, 수업을 헷갈려서 다른 수업에 들어가기도 했고, 쉬는 시간이 10분인 중학교에 비해 5분으로 훨씬 짧았기 때문에, 준비를 하다가 늦는 일

도 부지기수였다. 이제 좀 적응이 됐으니 망정이지, 아직도 정말 헷갈리는 시스템이다.

학교 첫날에 담임선생님이 9학년은 모두 10시 반에 점심을 먹는다고 하셨다. 그 말을 듣고 엄청나게 충격을 먹었었다. 보통 점심은 12시쯤에 먹는게 정상이였던 나에게는 10시 반 점심은 가혹했다. 아침 5시 반에 일어나 6시쯤에 아침을 먹고 10시 반에 점심을 먹고 8시쯤 점심을 먹기 때문에 활력을 잃지 않기 위해서는 점심과 저녁 사이에 간식을 먹어줘야하는데, 사실 저녁을 두 번 먹는듯한 느낌이 듈다. 그래도 점점 적응이 되고 있어 좀 편해지고 있는 편이다.

클럽 이야기를 좀 해보자, 중학교 때, 나는 최대한 많은 클럽에 들어가고 싶어했다. 그래서 처음 학교에 가자마자 어떤 클럽이 있는지 찾아봤었는데, 그 때는 호스트 가족의 사정 때문에 3개정도밖에 듣지 못했다. 나중에 가서는 하나를 또 못하게 되 결국 2가지 클럽 밖에 하지 못했는데, 이곳 홈스테이의 도움 덕분에 학기 초반임에도 불구하고 4개의 클럽에 들어갈 수 있었다. 또한 클럽의 개수가 많아, 결정장애인 나를 더 괴롭히긴 했지만, 들어갈 클럽을 마음껏 고를 수 있다는게 좋았다. 결국 고심 끝에 펜싱 클럽, 봉사활동 클럽, 수학 리그 팀, 토론 클럽, 이렇게 네 개의 클럽을 일단 들어갔는데, 모두 재밌게 즐기고 있다. 특히나 펜싱 클럽은 지금 가장 즐기고 있는 클럽이다. 많이 인기있는 스포츠는 아니지만, 색다른 재미 때문에 하면 할수록 더 즐기고 있다.

작년에 있었던 중학교 같은 경우 전교생이 500명 정도인데, 이곳은 전교생이 1600명 정도나 된다. 아까 말했듯이 사람들이 많고 전체적으로 중학교보다 훨씬 더 복잡해서, 예상했던 것보다 친구를 사귀기가 어려웠다. 매 수업마다 주변 학생이 바뀌었고, 서로가 모두 초면인지라 수업이 처음엔 정말 조용했었다. 그래도 며칠 같이 있다 보니 주변 애들과 친해지고, 같이 다닐만한 애들도 사귀어 처음 걱정했던 친구 걱정은 좀 덜었다. 하지만 두번째 해라서 애들을 사귀기가 좀 더 쉽겠지 하던 내 생각과 다르게, 실제로 좀 어려워서 당황했었다. 그래도 인내심을 가지고 기다리니 친구들을 사귈 수 있었다. 처음 봤을 땐, 모두가 전부 우람하고 낯설었지만, 알고 보니 꽤 재밌고 좋은 애들이여서 다행이라고 생각했다.

생각보다 중학교에서 고등학교로의 이동은 어려웠다. 작년에 느끼지 못했던 점도 많았고, 작년에 배웠던걸 써먹을 기회도 많았다. 고등학교로 오니 해야할 일들은 더 많아졌고, 그만큼 책임져야 할 일들도 같이 많아졌다. 수업의 수준은 훨씬 더 높아졌고, 학교와 학생의 규모가 커짐과 동시에, 활동반경이 늘어나 적응하는데 어려움을 겪었다. 하지만 클럽활동이 다양해지고, 수업이 더 어려운 만큼 더 재밌어졌고, 사람이 많아진 동시에 더 많은 관계를 쌓을 수 있었다. 이제 정말 많은 일들이 일어났던, 이곳 로드 아일랜드에서의 두 달이 지나간다. 어려웠던 점들을 발판삼아 더 많은 것들을 배울 수 있기를, 앞으로 남은 8달을 보며 바란다.

## How to make friends easily!



It is very exciting to start a new journey. I am pretty sure that most of you all are curious about a lot of things. It is good to have a lot of questions about something because it is not good to be so confident about everything. Especially in this kind of situations, we really need pressure to get ready for things that we will face soon. For me, educational pressure was a big stress. But, making friends are also a thing we have to face. It is hard for someone, and it is easy for someone too. For me, it is easy to make friends. Being easy to make friends does not mean that you can make friends quickly. Although if you make friends quickly, you will have much more fun throughout the school year. Also, you can get a lot of help from your friends if you are having hard time doing something. Going back to the point, I am going to tell you my way of making friends today.

There are so many ways to make friends. But the most important thing you should know is that if someone is interested in you and wants to get close to you, you should never miss that opportunity. I have often seen cases where someone came to you and missed the opportunity and never became a friends. It is a way to wait for them to ask you something, but I would prefer you to ask something to others first. I know it is hard to ask something to somebody that you don't know before they ask you, especially if you are in a foreign country. But if you come first, they will admire your courage. If you worry that they will ignore you, do not worry. If your sincerity is communicated to them, they will also naturally approach you.

It is also important to ask an appropriate questions. If you ask personal questions to people you meet for the first time, they will be embarrassed for sure. When I first met someone, I always start the conversation with greetings like "hi, how are you?" or "how's everything going?", and

then I introduce myself. If you want to try something different, I would recommend you to start the conversation with compliment. Everyone likes to be praised. Of course, I like to be praised, and I know how it feels when others tell me something that makes me feel good, so I often praise their clothes, shoes, and looks when I start a conversation. Then the other side will feel better and naturally speak up. Other important thing is to use polite manners. Two common manners are to use "Please" and "Thank you." This takes a huge part in conversations. The reason we should keep our basic manners is that not only we have to make good first impressions when we meet people who do not know, but also because people like more polite people to keep their manners.

I know a lot of you are struggling with friends problems. It is always hard to make a new friends. But if you open your mind and start enjoying it, there will be friends by your side and you will be confident at making friends. I wish every single one of you a best luck, and don't get frustrated just because you didn't make any friends at school. You can reach out for help, or you can ask teachers because they will be around you everytime. Thank you, and have a wonderful school year.

-14기 최정환

# 제 14기 통신원 자기소개

**이름** 곽현우(Daniel Kwak)      **학년** 11학년

**학교** Notre Dame High School, CT

**취미/특기** 사교성이 좋고 토론이나 말을 잘하는 편입니다. 수학을 잘하는 편이며 꼼꼼하여 노트필기를 잘합니다. 취미는 노래를 듣고 추리, 재난, 과학 소설이나 영화를 보는것을 즐기고 인터넷 검색도 즐겨하는 편입니다. 노래하는 것을 좋아하고 자동차와 비행기에 관심이 많습니다.

**희망대학** 항공기 엔지니어, Cornell University or UC Berkeley

통신원에 참여하게 되어 영광으로 생각합니다! 이제 유학 3년차에 들어가는데, 저의 기사와 제가 나누는 이야기들로 유학을 준비하는 많은 어린 친구들, 그리고 저의 또래나 저보다 나이가 많으신 형 누나들께서도 많은 것을 알아가고 유학에 동기부여가 됬으면 하는 바램입니다. 유학생들이 어떤지, 어떻게 해나가야하는지 제가 지금까지 겪어온 모든 일을 재미있게 읽은 만한 주제로 전해드릴테니, 모두 기대해주시면 감사하겠습니다!

**이름** 김지선(Ji Seon Kim, Lia)      **학년** 11학년

**학교** Bible Baptist Christian School, GA

I wanted to share my experiences and express my opinions through these essays. Life here is very peaceful, I live in a nice and small city called McDonough, and my school is about 20 minutes away from my house. I really like my school, and I have many friends in there. Living almost on your own is very nice, but of course I still miss my parents. Nacel Open Door helped me a lot, they found me a school, a great and loving host family, and every month my local representative takes me to starbucks to discuss things with me, like my opinions and any problems that I might have at school or my family (which I don't actually have). Anyway Nacel Open Door has been very supportive and helped me with any needs and questions that I have had.

**이름** 박지수(Ji Soo Lina Park)      **학년** 11학년

**학교** Pope John Paul II High School, PA

**취미/특기** 운동(테니스, 달리기 등), 음악듣기

나셀 통신원은 제가 유학생활을 시작할 때부터 무척 참여하고 싶었던 활동입니다. 미국을 오기전에 많은 걱정을 하는 친구들이 있을텐데 그런 친구들의 걱정을 조금이라도 덜어주고 편한마음으로 오게끔 도와줄 수 있는 가장 좋은 프로그램이라고 생각합니다. 낯선 타지에서, 모르는 사람들 사이에서 버텨내야 한다는 생각 대신에 새로운 곳에서 좋은 사람들을 만나고 잊지못할 경험들을 쌓아간다는게 얼마나 기쁜건지 친구들에게 간접적으로라도 알려주고 싶습니다. 통신원으로서 최선을 다해 재미나고 즐거운, 또 때로는 배울점 있는 그런 소식들을 전달하도록 노력하겠습니다!

**이름** 심예준(Ye Gun Shim)      **학년** 10학년

**학교** Calvary Baptist Day School, NC

**취미/특기** 노래, 비트박스, 플룻, 배드민턴

**희망대학** 비즈니스쪽, 상위권 대학

전 NC에 있는 Calvary Day School에 다니고 있고 거기서 음악 합창부로 활동하고 있습니다. 저희 합창부는 각지 지역으로 음악 트립을 갈 예정이고 저는 거기서 성어 역할과 비트박스 담당을 맡고있습니다. 또한 요번 년도에 International club을 만들었고 수영팀과 육상팀에서 활동하고 있습니다. International club 활동을 통해 한국에 대해 친구들에게 소개할 예정이고 또 중국과 다른 나라들 문화를 배울 것 입니다. 이 밖에도 교회에서 하는 활동들, 학교에서 가는 트립들, Youth and Government 트립등 다양한 곳을 다닐 예정입니다. 전 제가 다니고 있는 학교를 좋아하고 학교에서 하는 활동들을 보여드리고 싶습니다.

**이름** 류동훈(Dong Hoon Ryu)      **학년** 9학년

**학교** La Salle Academy, RI

**취미/특기** 스포츠, 음악, 태권도, 책읽기

**희망대학** 스타트업 창업인/ MIT

제 이름은 류동훈입니다. 올해가 미국에서 보내는 2번째 해이며, 현재 라슬르 아카데미에 9학년으로 재학중입니다. 노래를 듣는 것을 좋아하며, 여러 스포츠 활동에 관심이 많습니다. 목표 대학으로 현재 최대의 공학 대학인 MIT를 가지고 있고, 스타트업을 창업해서 운영하는 게 꿈입니다. 올해가 미국에서의 2번째 해라서 아직 이곳에서 활동하고 지내는 게 어색합니다. 사람들은 낯설고, 학교생활은 다르고, 제 주변환경도 끊임없이 변했습니다. 하지만 통신원으로써 제가 솔직하게 이곳 생활에 느끼는 점들을 적으려 합니다. 아직 서툴지만 점점 발전해가는 모습을 보여드리겠습니다. 열심이 활동하겠습니다.

**이름** 정지우(Ji woo Jeong)      **학년** 11학년

**학교** Mount Saint Charles Academy, RI

**취미/특기** Playing instruments (piano, violin and haegeum), shopping, lacrosse

**희망대학** Psychology related field, undecided

Hi, my name is Jiwoo Jeong and I am currently in 11th grade at Mount Saint Charles Academy. I am so glad to be part of psp newsletter, and hope my stories can contribute producing positive outcomes for whom might be interested in studying abroad. I have been studying in United States since 8th grade I can't say that I was always pleasant with my experience, but I learned so much things including little things to very significant things that I might've missed out before, I hope I can share positive vibes to readers through my writing:)

**이름** 최정환(Jung Hwan Choi)      **학년** 9학년

**학교** Nichols School in Buffalo, NY

**취미/특기** Listening to music, basketball, socializing with others

**희망대학** Yale University or MIT / (Don't have a specific dream job)

Reporter is one of the thing that I really wanted to try. I wanted to share my life in America. I will try my best to report what I experience here. Also, I will try my best to write reports and journals for other international students in South Korea. I want to give them a lot of information, and I really want to be helpful to everybody who is having a hard time adjusting and socializing. I hope my journals and reports give them positive influences.