

Thanksgiving



work for people to have food. I personally think that the traditional Thanksgiving dishes are astonishing because they are not only tasty, but also different from what I have had before. I love spending time with others during this holiday because it allows you a chance to bond and become closer with them.

Thanksgiving is one the greatest holidays, and is a holiday that allows the internationals to experience more of the American culture. By celebrating Thanksgiving, you can learn the aspects of the United States, which I think is amazing. I think that anyone who is interested in American lifestyle should definitely have an experience of celebrating Thanksgiving in America!

Noh, Jisu



Thanksgiving is a national holiday in America, that is celebrated every year on the fourth Thursday of November. Thanksgiving began the day when people celebrated to give thanks for the harvest and for the year. Just like the name, Thanksgiving is a holiday which you give thanks for what you have. This holiday is not a familiar holiday for most internationals, however, it is similar to Korea's Chuseok since both holidays are to celebrate the harvest and give thanks. Thanksgiving can be celebrated in many different ways, but the most common ways to celebrate are feasting

and spending time with family. By being in the United States for four years, I have noticed that everyone has their own way of celebrating Thanksgiving, but most people feast by having turkey, stuffing, corn pudding, and etc. Usually, all of the family members gather at one place and have some family time, by watching football games, playing family games, or by simply talking. Then, when the dinner is ready, everyone prays before they eat to give thanks for the food, family, friends, and so on. When eating dinner, people give thanks for what they are receiving, and to those who

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT CONWELL-EGAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Conwell-Egan Catholic High School had celebrated Lunar New Year every year. For the Lunar New Year, they had pretty lots of stuff going on. First of all, the school hallway was decorated with the lunar new year theme. There were some strings or colored chains hanging on the hallway with the lunar new year accessories.

Next, there was the countdown for the lunar new year announced in the Korean time 12:00, which is 10:00 in Eastern American time. International students were having a countdown in their own language. Students would be able to experience greeting the new year with other countries language.

Also, the students received red envelopes which had prizes in it. This is the tradition that Conwell-Egan kids had every year. The culture of giving red envelopes are from China. In China, the color red means luck. So, they give the money with

the red envelope to wish their luck. Conwell-Egan's multicultural club made the teacher dollars and school faculties were shown in the money. Student life staff, Mr. Goodman, assistant principal, Mrs. Markmann, academic principal, Mr. Bauer, school principal, Mr. Fischer, the school president, Mr. Lynch were in the money. Each teacher selected the prizes which they wanted to give to the students.

At last, Multicultural club held the Lunar New year Party at the school dormitory. The dormitory manager, Stephanie Mariott helped a lot to open the party. About 50 students went to the party and enjoyed the party. There were lots of delicious Asian foods prepared by Jun Byun and people enjoyed the table tennis tournament. Every student who was at the party loved the Asian foods a lot. The foods were gochujang pork belly, fishcake skewer, and tteokbokki. Some kids even asked to

have more party like this.

Our school's Lunar New year celebration was really amazing. Everything was planned and held by Multicultural club in the Conwell-Egan Catholic high school. Thanks to the club members and this school celebrate the Lunar new year really amazingly.

Shin, Wonjong

Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



I can't believe how fast time has passed by. Christmas is just around the corner, and after a couple of days, it is 2019, the new year! Unlike past years, I decided to spend Christmas and New Year with my host family this year because I wanted to make more memories before I graduate and say goodbye to them. Wondering what all the banging sounds were, I soon figured that the boxes buried down in the basement covered with dust are finally revealing themselves. Yes, it is that time of the year. Every year, we begin our December together by decorating the house as well as the Christmas tree. It is the single most exciting moment for me especially because there are lots of very special ornaments in this household and it is always fun to look. I bought my host family an ornament from Korea one year that is of two children wearing the Korean traditional Hanbok. I felt happy as I felt like I have become part of their special tree. We spent all of our mornings putting up the tree and hanging up the ornament. Now that the tree was up, it really started to feel like Christmas. That afternoon, my host sister and I decorated the front door and the deck to make our house look more festive. What I like a lot about spending

Christmas season in the United States is walking around and looking at all of the festive decoration around the neighborhood. It is genuinely an art! Our next door bought a bunch of Christmas inflatables and it was so tall that I had to look up to see the Santa's face. My family back in Korea also does Christmas decoration but it is not fancier than here in America. If you were to visit America around Christmas season, I highly recommend driving around the neighborhood and see all the spectacular scenes!

On Christmas eve, my host family and I drove down to the Narragansett to spend time with granny, grandmother of my host sister. Narragansett is where the beach is located in Rhode Island and while it is slightly colder, a gorgeous area. My host mom prepared her special cookies and brownies for the gathering. When we arrived, the familiar faces greeted us. We played a bunch of board games together, exchanged gifts, and had a wonderful dinner led by prayer. It was so much fun. I got a bunch of gift cards to Starbucks from the cousins and my host family and was very happy. They knew exactly what I like.

On Christmas day, my host family and I went out to dinner. It was

nothing very big but I was happy of the fact that I get to spend time with these wonderful people. It was sad how I wasn't with my friends and family this year, but it was definitely one of the memorable Christmas I have spent.

The other experience I want to talk about is New Year's Eve and the New Year. So, unfortunately, my host family went to another place to spend time with their close friends but I got to spend both two days in my friends' house. While in Korea we listen to the "watch-night bell" at 12:00 on the first day of the new year, Americans see the ball drops in the Time Square, New York. It was through the tv screen that we watched it but it was so impressive to learn about something new! We wished all each other a best luck in the New Year and my friend and I stayed up the whole night watching our favorite Gossip Girl TV series.

I was glad that I decided to stay in America this year because I would not have been able to make all these memories. What are some of your New Year resolutions? Happy New Year everyone!

Jeong, Jiwoo



BECAUSE WE'RE ALL ABOUT THAT COLLEGE, BOUT' THAT COLLEGE, NO TREBLE

While I have been sharing my personal and cultural stories in the past articles, today, I would like to share some piece of information regarding to college admissions that I wish I would have known before! I hope that readers will find this article helpful. To briefly introduce myself, I have been studying abroad in the United States since 8th grade, and I am currently a senior in Mount Saint Charles Academy located in Rhode Island. I have recently submitted all of my college applications so all I do nowadays is waiting. I want to share some of the things my friends and I did to prepare a successful senior year during the meantime.

First of all, I believe the appropriate course load is the single most important thing pertaining to college admissions. Not like Korea, high school students in America get to choose what classes they want to take throughout the academic year as long as they are taking all the credits in order to graduate. Usually, students are required to take 4 years of English and 3 years of math and science and 2 years of history and elective. I still remember the first time my academic counselor handed me the course selection sheet; I was so scared. I didn't know what I wanted to take and spent so much time exploring my options. I didn't want to overload the classes but only take easy classes as it would look "bad" to colleges. Thinking back, I took heavy classes compared to my friends and this is what I want to specifically talk about through this article today.

Sure, it is important to "show" how much AP/IB and honors classes you can take. However, it is more important to really ask yourself a

question, "is this manageable." I have witnessed many cases where my friends took AP classes just because it would look "good" on the application. This is not as simple as it look if the subject is nothing you find interest in. Some might think that we can't always do what we like and want. In my opinion, it is more important to take classes that you genuinely find interesting, or you are confident that we are going to be able to meet all the expectations. For me, taking AP US history was the biggest mistake. When I was registering for this class, I wasn't fully aware of how much of a reading and essays I had to write. I just took its title "AP" and by the time I realized my mistake, I had no option but to just stand. For students who are anxious about upcoming course selection for next year, please think twice before just signing up for the class. Well-rounded AP courses are important but not if they will be hurting you with bad grades!

Second, be unique with your extracurricular activities. College admissions in America is nothing like Korea's as students have to show their excellence in high academics but in extracurriculars like sports and volunteering as well. I actually took advantage of this as I really enjoyed being involved in different clubs and meeting people with varying interests. I am currently president of three clubs in our school and actively hold meetings with fellow officers to make improvement for the club. However, I wish I would have created my "own" club throughout the high school career. While I actively participated in various club, I have learned there is nothing better than creating and operating your own

club related to your interest. It is not only like an icing on the cake as it would make you stand out from other applicants but will actually help you learn important qualities like leadership and moderating skills necessary.

Lastly, make sure to pursue your interest. I know from experience that it is often very hard for highschool students to "know" what they want to study. Of course, we haven't had much experience to really choose what we want to do for the rest of our life. Unsure of what my interest, I tried to get involved in many activities as possible even though they are very different from each other. I was trying to broaden my option for different scenarios which made my life very complicated. If you know what you enjoy studying and doing, try to build your college application based on that. For example, if you are a math person, I would try to join the math team and create some sort of math discussion group and take many math courses offered at school rather than AP world history. I have learned the stronger applicant tend to "stay" with their interest.

Hope you guys will find this helpful, and I wish best of luck to all upcoming seniors as well as under-classes!

Jeong, Jiwoo



Benefits of living in cold climates

Benefits of living in cold climates
 Before coming to South Dakota, I lived in South Africa where I saw no snow. Since coming to America, I have been surrounded by snow most the months of my stay. It has been over a year and a half, and I am slowly adjusting to the cold weather of the midwest in United States. First, I was not impressed with combination of both snow and windy weather, but now I am starting to appreciate the freezing months. Many will only think about the disadvantages of living in cold climates, but this article is about the advantages of living in cold climates.

When it comes to school, there is no other areas better than cold areas to live in. I realized that because it is so cold outside and there is not much to do, I found that I focused more on school work and improving grades more than anything. I think that if I had lived in a warmer climate,

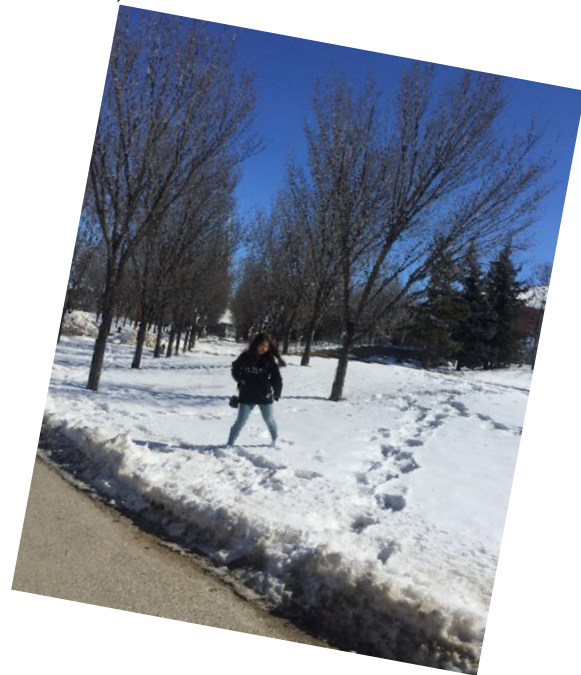
I would have spent my days outside sun tanning and not doing my homework. Also, one of the best things about living in cold climate is that there is a higher chance of getting school canceled. For instance, we got two days of school canceled so far because of such bad weather conditions. I got to stay home and snuggle under warm blankets.

There are no bugs in cold climates. They can not survive through -30 degree celsius. Therefore, areas in cold climates are more hygienic and clean. There are no mosquitos trying to sneak into your room and annoy you through a long night. After getting attacked by mosquitos for many years of my life, I really appreciate that about South Dakota. There are no mosquitos!

You will burn more calories living in cold climates. When you are out in cold, your 'white fat' turns into 'brown fat', which

helps to burn calories. If you are wanting to lose weight, it may not be a bad option to come and live in a area where it is cold. Many people may not be happy with the area that they are living in, but I think that it is important to think positively. Come to South Dakota and enjoy the snow and cold weather!

Park, Misung



Christmas with Ginger Bread House!



There are various holidays which exist in each country and the US is one of the countries that has lots of well known holidays. Christmas has been my favorite holiday since I knew the fact that Santa is coming. I mean, who would not like the day you can get presents from Santa? Most of the time I would just share what I did on Christmas, but I'd like to share some additional pieces of information that I recently learned about Christmas: Why is Christmas called Christmas? Did you know that this is all related to the Christian religion?

To begin with, I was little embarrassed when I figured out that Christmas is the combination of the words "mass" and "Christ." Since the pronunciation of the Christ by itself and the Christ which is part of the Christmas are different, I never recognized it until now. (The reason that I was embarrassed was because I have been a catholic high school student for almost 3 years.) So today, I'd like to share some information about Christmas for those who don't know where the term "Christmas" is originated from.

Christmas is one of the traditional Christian holidays. It is a celebration of the birth of the baby Jesus in Bethlehem to Joseph and the Virgin Mary. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the English term "Christmas" comes from the combination of the words "mass" and "Christ." The word Christ comes from the Greek word "Christos" which comes from the Hebrew meaning "Messiah." The Messiah, in Judaism, is the name of the expected king meant to deliver the Jewish nation, according to Britannica.

That was a short-little fact that I wanted to share with you guys and now I'd love to share what I did to celebrate my Senior year Christmas with my friends. One of my friends invited me and several other



friends to her house and told us that we are going to make ginger bread house. At first, I thought I misheard her saying the ginger bread man to ginger bread house. So I asked her again and she said I was right at first. We were truly making the ginger bread house! To make it into a little more intense and enthusiastic activity, we decided to do it as a competition. There were no prizes but we still did the competition:). We eventually lost our interest to-



ward the end so competition didn't last that long. However, still it was enjoyable. If there are any friends out there who are looking for things to do at a Christmas party with your friends, I recommend making a ginger bread house with them! In the US, they sell the whole kit to make this so you don't have to buy individual ingredients.

After making the ginger bread house, we sat down together with the hot cocoa and watched a movie. Nobody really wanted to watch Christmas movie even though it was Christmas party. So we all decided to watch Big Boss Baby. I definitely had a great time, but sadly, I had to come back home early because of my college applications. Back then, I had to finish so many essays to apply to the universities. I highly, highly, highly recommend everyone finish their college essays before November. It's so hard to go through so many holidays and having pressure from the college applications deadline.

It was a little out of topic toward the end, but thank you for reading my article and hope you all had a great Christmas with people who you love! Merry Christmas:)

Park, JiSoo

The Importance of Setting Goals



One of my favorite things to do is to come up with new goals. There is unbelievable satisfaction when achieving goals that I have been wanting to achieve. Goals can be classified into two distinct groups: small, short-term goals and big, long-term goals. Typically, short-term goals are easier to achieve, whereas long-term goals may take longer time and more effort to make them happen. Setting goals is important because just by setting goals it make you think about who you are and where you are positioned in life. It can also be viewed as a self-examination.

As I mentioned before, I love setting new goals. Whether it is small or big, I don't think that it matters. What matters is your desire to achieve goals. Without the desire to achieve goals, the goals become useless and meaningless words. In order to make them happen, you need to believe in yourself, and be certain that it will happen. I always believe in myself, and I know that I have the ability to make things happen.

Setting a goal can be likened to climbing a mountain. A high mountain that you see in front of you may be steep and difficult to climb. However, once you are up there, the cold air that hugs and welcomes you on top of the mountain makes you happy. It may take some time and physical effort to make it to the top, but you feel good once reaching the top.



When your goals are set and you reach your goals, you get higher self-esteem. Which in turn, will improve your relationship with friends and family, as well as

your relationship with yourself. You will want to do more good things that will benefit yourself, such as working out, and eating. Was there a time where you thought you would get a low grade on a test, and actually you got better grades than you expected? How good did that feel? Similarly, the same level of happiness and satisfaction will come out when you reach your goals.

My life is full of series of challenges and I love facing them! While you study abroad, I recommend you setting goals. Setting goals will improve the quality of life and boost your happiness. It will help you to make better choices. It will also help you to get better grades and gain unforgettable experiences. Start making a list of goals and make a difference in your life!

Park, Misung

Pentatonix



Does everyone have their own favorite singer or artist? If you guys ask me about my favorite artist, I can't just choose one single person or a single group. I love Ariana Grande, Marshmello, Billie Eilish, Panic At The Disco... I can list my favorite artists throughout the whole day without having any problems. Among the various artists that I like, I was able to see one of them a week before Christmas!

On the last Saturday before Christmas, my host family and I went down to Philadelphia. Pentatonix was performing their Christmas show at the Philly Metropolitan Opera house! Pentatonix has been my favorite group since I came to the United States three years ago. For those who are not familiar with Pentatonix, they are an American a cappella group from Arlington, Texas, consisting of vocalists Scott Hoying, Mitch Grassi, Kirstin Maldonado, Kevin Olusola, and Matt Sallee. Avi Kaplan was formerly a member of the group; he was replaced by Sallee in 2017. I was so sad when Avi Kaplan was replaced by Sallee because Avi was my favorite one from the group.

The last concert for Avi was my first concert visit in my entire life. As much as Pentatonix gifted me with a good memory of the first concert, I really wanted to revisit their con-

cert again. And here we go! I was able to see them again this winter. When I first walked into the remodeled Philly Metropolitan building, I couldn't close my mouth. The inside was definitely awe-inspiring with beautiful design and all of the Christmas decorations on the stage. Since the building was so big, they also had a bar inside and outside of the hall. The biggest thing that surprised me was the fact that the building was built back in 1908. It is more than 100 years old! Anyway, my host family and I sat down on the second floor. It wasn't too far



away from the stage, but it wasn't really close either. So I was holding the binoculars the whole time. (I highly recommend all of you to take binoculars when you go to the concerts! No matter where you sit, it feels like they are right in front of you.)

Like always, I loved their songs. They also sang many new songs that they haven't sung before in other concerts. It was a little sad that I wasn't able to grab any gifts which they were throwing from the stage to the audience, only for the first floor. However, it was still a wonderful Christmas gift that I got from my host family. If any of you ask me what my favorite Pentatonix song is, I will say "Mary, Did you know?" is the best. It's definitely one of the best songs that Pentatonix remixed.



Having a favorite artist, who is from the country that you want to study abroad in, is a great thing. I believe that you can learn the language a little bit easier through singing the lyrics than just reading the books. So for those who are thinking to study abroad, I highly recommend getting familiar with the famous songs from that area. It doesn't take more than five minutes to listen to one song. If you repeat again and again you will automatically start to hear some words. (And this is why it's so important to find the song you like:.) If you don't have any favorite artists yet, how about Pentatonix? You'll fall in love with their songs in a second!

Park, JiSoo