

BYE BYE BIRDIE



On March 14th to 16th, Conwell-Egan Drama Cast performed one of the best shows, "Bye Bye Birdie." "Bye Bye Birdie" is a show which is a loving send-up of the early 1960s, small-town America, teenagers, and rock & roll with it. Bye Bye Birdie is featuring a tuneful high-energy score, plenty of great characters, and a hilarious script.

This year, Conwell-Egan is having one drama cast team, not the blue cast and the white cast that Conwell-Egan did last year. The new way of the cast system took less time for the whole drama team to be perfect at the show.

I was Mr. Peabody at the show, which was the father of the main character, Hugo Peabody. The show, Bye Bye Birdie is a really entertaining and fun show to play. Even I didn't have any line to say, I was in the chorus part of the cast, so I was singing with while crew and made a great harmony for the songs.

During the 3 months of practicing the show, I found my interest in performing the show in front of the huge audiences. I thought I would be really shy to perform. However, after the first night and keep getting the positive energy from the whole drama cast, I had the confidence to perform at the show.

The show was performed for three days, which was from Thursday to Saturday. On Thursday, I was really worried about the show. Even we had more than two times of dress rehearsals, I wasn't sure about my dances yet. Thankfully, I didn't make any mistakes on the first day and people got excited to finish the first day smoothly. After the first day ended, I finally could breathe a sigh of relief. I was so proud of myself.

The second day was an okay day. Nothing special happened on the second day. I just kept working on dances and songs that I had to go through. I had made a minor mistake, which was off-the-tune. My voice was cracking when I was singing.

The last day was the best day of the show. While I was acting on the stage, my friend's finger got into my mouth by mistake. That was the most memorable and funniest part during the show. I was sad when my friend, Seamus Smiley, told me that it was his last line in his dramatic life. The show finally ended, and our journey for 3 months or 4 years is done.

After the play was ended, we had a senior day, which was giving the rolling paper to the seniors and giving the senior basket,

which we had put the gifts in for every senior member of the drama team. People who will miss the seniors next year, seniors who will miss the drama team, the club they spent for 4 years with their full effort and love.

After the senior day event, we had a drama cast party at my friend Baker's house. People who were included in the drama, even their parents were invited to the party. We had a fun time talking with our friends and our alumni who graduated last year. I had



lots of friends from the class of 2018 because of my best Korean friend, William Chang Jae Kim.

This drama event was the best club event that I ever did in Egan. I can literally feel why people got so into the drama program and why they become really close to each other. I will definitely have this program next year and I will gonna miss a lot.

-Wonjong Shin



BosTons of Fun!



Clam Chowder, Lobster Rolls, Fish and Chips, Dough-boys... what do they remind you of? Well, living in Rhode Island for 4 years, I can easily say that these are some foods that represent New England!

Today, I want to talk about some things you can do in Boston, Massachusetts, and the reasons why you should visit Boston if you have not yet. To begin with, I first want to clarify what exactly "New England" is for those might not know. New England is a northeastern region of the United States comprising the states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Massachusetts, a state where all the prestigious universities such as Harvard, Dartmouth, MIT, and Boston College are located is also a home for the big harbor city, Boston. There are so many things that you could do and I have not been able to experience everything in the city even though I have been there numerous times. Boston is less than an hour away from Providence, Rhode Island so it is very convenient to visit location wise. I purely enjoy being in the busy and crowded city surrounded by tall buildings as it purely provides an opportunity to feel what it is like to be in Boston.

There are simply so many things to check out when you are visiting Boston. (In fact, you will not be able to do all of them in a day.) And this is why I want to be a help today and recommend some of the things that you should definitely try visiting or doing regarding your Best Bostonian experience!

The first place that I highly recommend visiting is the "Faneuil Hall Marketplace" or the "Quincy Market." Some of the people might have heard of this place before as it is very well-known. This is the place you can genuinely feel what it is like to be in the harbor city surrounded by a lot of shopping places as well as food counters. It is true that

foods are a bit expensive compared to the normal diner, but you will never regret it. You would not be able to get this kind of taste anywhere else! Buy lobster roll with the clam chowder on your side sitting next to the wavy ocean. If this is not the definition of Boston, then what is? Not a fan of seafood? There are also local cookie shops baked right in front of you if you want to try them with delicious tropical smoothies. I always look forward to lobster rolls I visit Boston as they are the best!

The second place that I recommend is the New England Aquarium. Entering the place, cute little penguins living on the first floor all through the third floor will greet you! Besides, if you get lucky, you might be able to see dolphins going on the tour that is part of the programs that the Aquarium offers. You can also go on the cruise that runs every 30 minutes until 6 pm. There is no place like this as you would literally feel like being in the ocean walking around the building seeing waves going back and forth.

The last place I recommend is the "Prudential tower." This is where you can shop for the trendiest and newest designs, get a 360-degree view of Boston in skywalk observatory, and have an authentic experience of Italy in Eataty. This is where you can do multiple things at once not having to worry about running around to get to places. I personally recommend trying Italian gelato from Eataty as well as a slice of Margarita pizza baked right in front of you.

If you are ever wondering to travel to New England, please visit Boston. Are you ready to be a Bostonian?

-Jiwoo Jeong



Fulfilling volunteering hours for school.



Many students who have to fulfill the hours of volunteer services may hesitate at first, however, after serving at the Banquet, I realize that it brings joy and happiness. Literally, for the whole day I had a huge smile on my face, thinking of people I had met while serving there. We should have positive attitude at all times, even when we are forced to do something that we do not want to do. Put a smile on your face, then you will find that everything is much better with a smile!

–Misung Park

Certain number of volunteering hours are often required by a school in order to graduate. For example, at my school, I have to have 10 hours of volunteering hours for a religion class. It counts 10 percent towards the grade for the subject, which is a lot. At first, I was not happy about having to fulfill 10 hours of volunteering service hours. However, after my first volunteer, my mindset has changed.

One day, I was in my room and suddenly got a text from my host mom, "They are needing people at the banquet (where homeless people come to get food) tomorrow." Then I asked her what time? To which she replied, "5:30 AM" At first, I thought she was out of her mind. Usually, I don't like to wake up that early, and on top of that, it was on a Monday! However, since I needed to do the hours, I said that we should go, which was one of the best decisions I made!

I had to set an alarm for 4:40 AM to take a shower and get ready for school. We left the house at 5:20 AM to be on time for the volunteering service. I got to take down the chairs from the tables, wash the tables and get ready for the people to come and get food.

The best part was when I got to wear an apron with pockets in front. I got sugar, salt and pepper bags and had to go around and ask people if they would like some. I also had one jug of milk, as well as water. I met people from Kenya to locals. They were interested in me. They wanted to know my name, where I was from and more. I felt so good after helping people with serving food to the homeless. At the end, I got to eat the same food that they had to eat. I had two pancakes, a banana and scrambled egg. Usually, I like to have steak, rice, banana smoothie with eggs for breakfast. Therefore, it was a very humbling experience.



Robotics



These days, many high schools have various clubs and extracurricular activities. My school, Pope John Paul II High School also offers many different club activities after school. Today, I'm going to talk about Pope John Paul II high school's Robotics club.

Before I begin my story, let me introduce my team K-9. K-9 was established 3 years ago. Every year, our goal has been attending the competition called FIRST Tech Challenge. At the beginning of the year, we set up the team and divide the roles. Then, we start to design our robot and finish programming for the competition. (For your information, our robot's nickname is Astro!) According to their site, the FIRST Tech Challenge is designed for students in grades 7–12 to compete head to head, by designing, building, and programming a robot to compete in an alliance format against other teams. They let the students use various programs, such as Java, the MIT App Inventor, or other Android programming systems to control the robot kit. The competition is offered toward the beginning of the third quarter, and if you win the regional competition, you can also end up attending the state competition. Every year, FTC gives students a unique theme to design and build robots based on it.

When you think of robotics competition, you might think of an actual hand-to-hand fight. However, it's doesn't work that way. As it is explained on their site, the team always get paired with another team until the team reaches the final. Each team tries to score as much as they can. Since this year's theme was a "Lunar," We had to design the robot to be able to go over the crater, grab the ball, and shoot them into the center box. Whoever scores the most wins. However, robots are not allowed to attack or block the other team from scoring. This is why the

competition is not an actual robots' fight.

Back to my experience, this was my second year joining the club. Luckily, I was able to experience various roles in the club during my first year. The year later, I became a secretary who takes care of the whole club. Our original plan was to join two different competitions, but due to the lack of time, we ended up participating only one match. Still, it was a unique experience. The most successful moment was when we end up going to the semi-final. We have improved our skill every year. I was so proud of myself and my team because it was our first time competing for the semi-final.

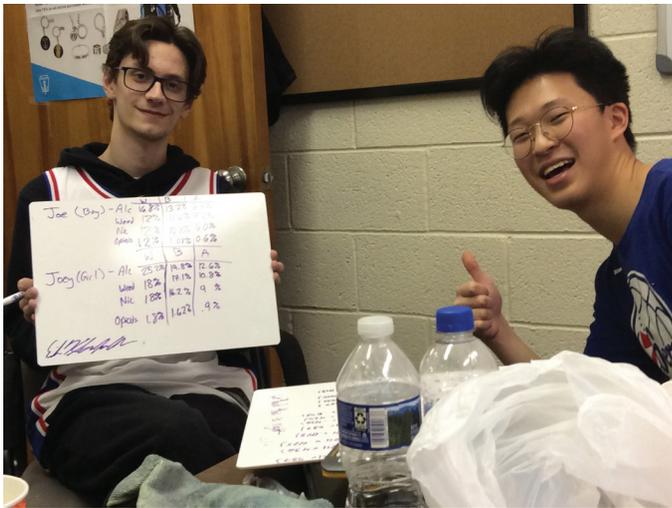
One of the huge benefits that I gained from attending this club and competition is that I was able to discover my new interest. And this is why I want to recommend all of the students to join one club at least during their high school. It doesn't matter if you are interested. It would be better if you are interested in, but even if you don't, it is still important to just have an experience. Just go ahead and jump into various areas that you might never be related in the future! It will still help you to have an insight into many different areas. You never know what kind of interest will fly into your mind, right?

So, here is today's question. What is your favorite extracurricular activity? For the students who are looking forward to studying abroad, what kind of extracurricular activities that you are interested in?

–Jisoo Park



Math Works Math Modeling Challenge



One day, my friend in AP Calculus class Seamus Smiley was recruiting the team members for the MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge. This is the challenge of solving problems using the basis of math theory. When your team downloads the questions, you have only 14 hours to solve three major problems, which takes lots of time to solve it. I had to use mostly the statistics for this math problem.

To prepare for this challenge, I was practicing a few questions through looking at the questions from last year and the year before last year. I had to set a time and draw the mind map about how I will be going to approach to the problem. I figured out that I could use the strategy of looking at the data and set a point. After that, I could use either a calculator or excel sheet to estimate the graph and find the value that I want.

On March 1, we had to work on math problems, not participating in the basketball marathon. I really wanted to participate in the basketball marathon, but I had to take responsibility for what I had chosen to do. Since 9 o'clock, we downloaded the questions and the challenge started.

We read the first question first and figured out what that first question means. The first question was building a mathematical model that predicts the spread of nicotine use due to vaping over the next 10 years. Also, we have to analyze how the growth of this new form of nicotine use compares to that of cigarettes. To approach this problem, we have to see what data table can we find for this problem. After googling, we could figure out the high schooler's cigarette & vaping rate since 2015. After figuring out the rate, we had to estimate the graph and assume the rate after 10 years.

The second question was the better question to solve than the other two questions. It was about demonstrating how our model works by predicting how many students among a class of 300 high school seniors with varying characteristics will use the following substances: nicotine, marijuana, alcohol, and

unprescribed opioids. We had to figure out the equation first, which was $300 * \text{ethnicity} (\%) * \text{substance} (\%) * \text{gender} (\%)$. On the basis of the equation, we could easily assume the percentile of each race, gender, substance that high school seniors would use. Therefore, we can just apply these percentiles to the number of high school seniors they want to figure out.

The last question was the toughest one. The question was developing a robust metric for the impact of substance use. First of all, I had to figure out what the robust metric is. After figuring out what the robust metric is, I had to look at the all possibilities that will bring the difference to the results and make the subject of steps to figure out the results.

After 14 hours of struggling, the fight with math was finally done. It was a really tough time to work on the problems. However, this experience is one of my best experience ever in my life and I couldn't forget about this experience. Also, this experience would help me to find how to solve math problems when these are applied to real life stats and it would influence me to choose what I want to do in the future.

– Wonjong Shin

MC3 MathWorks Math
Modeling Challenge

What is it like to hang out with friends in America?

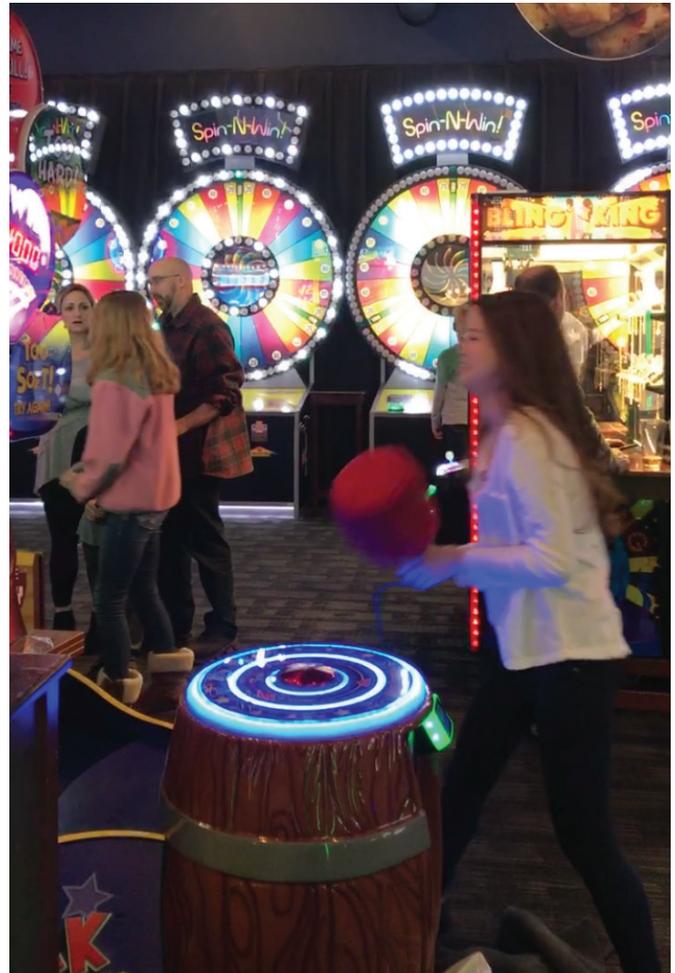


Some might wonder, 'what would Americans do with their friends to hang out'? Before I came to America, I used to wonder about this as well. Today, I want to share some of my personal experiences in America with my friends and make a comparison with the things I do with my Korean friends.

It is finally Friday and my friend Isa and I decided to hang out after school as we often do. Actually, we haven't seen each other outside of school for the past couple of months because we were both occupied with college admissions. I was very excited to finally get to spend time with her. The school ends around 2:40 pm and we first went to our favorite coffee shop "Coffee Connection" located right near the school. This coffee shop is always crowded, mostly because everyone comes here after school before sports practices and other extracurricular activities, but mainly because they have really good pricing and the coffee is delicious. I think this part is similar to Korea as Korean students like to go hang out in cafes afterschool as well. I often used to spend time with my friends in a cafe doing homework or chatting after school. One of the big differences is though, that not many places are walkable. And therefore, having your own car is a very big advantage. Isa and I used to rely on her sister Alex or her parents to get to places but now that she has a license, life has been so much easier! After having a coffee, we head to the Lincoln Mall.

The concept of the "mall" is not like department stores as many of you would immediately think of. Rather, it is an outdoor area where usually a bunch of restaurants, movie theater, market and clothing stores are located. Recently, our favorite restaurant Chipotle opened up in the Lincoln mall so we were so excited to go have them before our movie starts.

As it is like in Korea, I consider movie theater where many of the friends gather after school or during weekends to socialize. In fact, we saw people from our school at the movie theater! There is a small arcade place next to the movie theater I always wanted to go and we did because we had some time left. Arcade is somewhat similar to PC bang in Korea as it serves mainly as entertainment purposes but different as you have to physically engage in the games. Honestly, going to the arcades are probably the best of hanging out experience

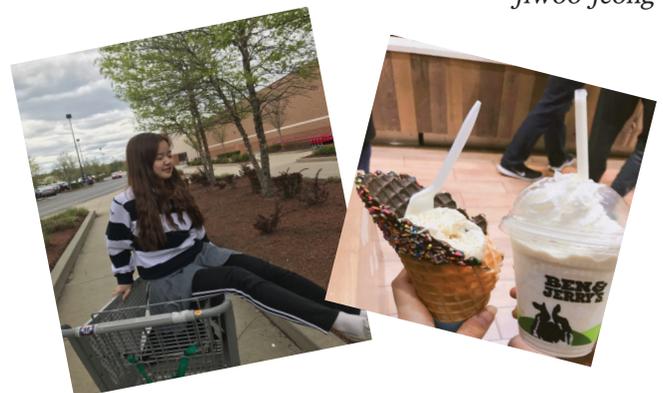


in America as they are very addicting! I lose track of time just being in there.

After the movie, we went to go eat dinner and went to the FROYO place. FROYO is the abbreviation of Frozen Yogurt, which you can add your own toppings to it. Whether it is cold or hot outside, there is no desert like FROYO.

I would like to conclude my typical hangout day with my friend Isa with the quote by C.S. Lewis, "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one.'"

-Jiwoo Jeong



How to build a good relationship with your host family



No matter how long you will be staying with your host family, it is important to have a good relationship with your host family. It has been almost two years since I arrived in America. Since then, I have been living with one of the best host families I could ever meet. I am very happy and satisfied with my host family.

Personally, I have friends who have changed host families more than three or four times. You may be one of those people who are not satisfied with your host families either. I am not trying to say that you have a major problem. Rather than being unhappy and stressed about a situation that is not going to change, make the best of a bad situation, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." What we need to remember is that as international students, we come to America to experience American culture and to learn English. Therefore, I would like to advise anyone who is planning to come to the US to not expect a luxury. It is true that some students may get a family with more luxurious life than others. However, we should always be thankful for what we get and be happy with our given situations.

Here are some tips I would like to give you about building a good relationship with your host family. Get to know their families. First, try to get involved in as many family activities as you can. It is okay if you have too much homework for that night or have tests coming up. Maybe explain to them that you have too many things to do, don't just say that you don't want to participated. They want you to enjoy and have fun with them. If you show no interest in them, they would too show no interest in you! Second, try to talk to them as much as you can. I like to talk to my host mom whenever possible because we have different opinions and thoughts. Often times, having different opinions can be harmful between two people. However, knowing other people's opinions and experiences are fun to know and even though you don't have to agree with them, you don't have to argue with them either! Talking to your host family is also an excellent way to improve your English and getting to know American culture.

Thirdly, always be respectful to your host family. They deserve the respect from you. If they had not been there,

you may not have been able to come to America. You should always be thankful for what they do and be grateful for your room, food and a home.

Lastly, this is a tip from my host mom. Keep the door open! As growing teens, we don't want others to invade our space. I am guilty of this too. I like to keep my door closed because I like to have a private space to myself. However, when you keep the door closed, host families may convey it as if you are not wanting to be with them. My host mom recommended that the students should keep the door open because it can mean you are welcoming your host family.



Try the four things that I have mentioned above, and I am sure that your relationship with your host family will be greatly improved!

—Misung Park

Career Day



Does everyone know what kind of career they want to achieve in the future? Career is one of the important things that students have to consider for their future. There is no right or wrong career, but it is also significant to find a career which fits each individual.

Today, I want to share about the Career Day that was held in my high school, Pope John Paul II High School. PJP always offer Career Day once a year to every single student in school. According to PJP's guidance office, Career Day is a special opportunity for students to learn about four different career options - including Health Science, Business Management, Public Safety and many more. This year, over 39 parents, relatives, friends, and legacy alums have volunteered their time to come and speak with us about their careers.

Out of 39 careers, we were able to choose four. My four choices were Computer Science in pharmaceutical research, Project Management Officer, CPA, and Professor of Accounting. As you can see in my selections, I'm really interested in Business areas. Before I encountered this event, I thought for sure that I will end up doing something only related to finance. However, gaining more knowledge in business administration lead me to another direction.

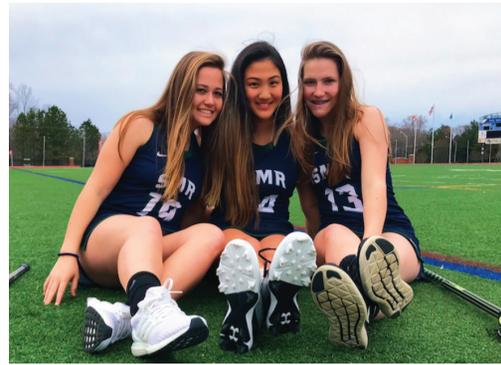
Among the four selections that I made for Career Day, my favorite was the presentation from the project management officer. For your information, the presenter operates across a complex global network of stakeholders, technology teams, vendors and other supporting external parties to ensure Global IT Infrastructure programs and projects are delivered on time and meet the strategic and business requirements. He also explained that his job manages, controls, and leads the day to day delivery of infrastructure-oriented programs and initiatives. In addition to an explanation of his job, he also talked about what kind of major or degrees are needed to become a project management officer. It was an eye-opening for me because it was my first time noticing the existence of this job. And the most surprising thing was that I fell in love with a job right away which I have never heard before.

As a student who participated for four years, I believe this was really beneficial for me to have more insight into various job fields. I chose 4 careers in my first year, all from a different area. Throughout the year, I was able to narrow it down into the business area. The reason that this program is really beneficial is that you can learn the current situation in that work field. And more you listen to, you will be able to realize that actual work field is not exactly the same with what we learn in the book. This also helped me a lot in choosing the major for my college. So, I highly recommend the students to join any kind of career programs that are offered from their school. For those who are thinking to study abroad, my advice will be "Find a school that has good career programs, along with the school curriculum."

—Jisoo Park



Stepping Out of the Comfort Zone



done before even if you think that you will never like it. If you try and do not like it, now you know for sure and you at least will not regret not trying it, but you might find a new hobby or something that you absolutely love!

My school provides a lot of diverse activities for students to participate in, since everyone likes different activities. I am part of the dance class and the cheer team since I like activities that are more feminine and artsy. However, I decided to play lacrosse, which is a sport played with a stick and a ball, this season since I had some free time after school and wanted to try something new. I personally was never a big fan of playing ball sports. So why am I playing lacrosse all of the sudden? Well, the past weekend, I hung out with a friend who loves

-Jisu Noh



lacrosse. We got bored and she wanted to play lacrosse so I passed the ball with her even though I was not really interested. However, I could pass and catch the ball pretty well, which was surprising to both, my friend and I. I started to be interested in lac-



rosse the sport itself and in learning how to play the sport. My friend taught me the basics of lacrosse, and I started to enjoy as we played more and more. My friend suggested me to join the lacrosse team in school, and I decided to step out of my comfort zone and try something that I have never done before.

I officially joined the lacrosse team in school, and I absolutely love the sport. I learned that I was uninterested before not because I do not like ball sports, but because I have never tried and never knew how fun it is. I am so glad that I am here and that I am playing lacrosse because lacrosse is not a common sport in my home country, Korea. Anyway, a note to everyone: step out of your comfort zone and try something that you have never