# VOL. 47 PSP Newsletter

Nacel Open Door Private School Program

## Rhode Island Math league



Since Freshman year, I was part of Mount Saint Charles Math team. I have to be honest - I was never good at or liked math at all. The only reason I joined was just like others, " to look good on college application". It was interesting though, because the concept math competition was not something I was familiar with; only encounter that I made with math was math class in school and outside tutoring. I remember my freshman year Geometry class, our teacher was asking if anyone was interested being part of the math team. I felt nerdy and embarrassing to raise my hand, so went to see her after school for Info. It was very funny because my class joked about being on math team when ms.Degnan brought up but half of our class was there getting permission slips from her. We looked at each others and laughed so hard.

Being on Math team was little more commitment than I thought. I was thinking more like solving hard math problems together regularly after school and discussing them but we attended to math meets for competing with other schools. Prior to the math meets, we have what are called practice problems that covers general topics that is going to be on the meet. The meet is composed of six entries-Statistics/Probability, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and team round. Since topics of each categories are broad, practice problems allow us to narrow down stuffs that we would have to know for the competition. For example if practice problem for Algebra II covers about synthetic division, that is something you will see on the meet.

The genuine fun of the math meet is the team round. And that is still one of my reasons why I love being part of the team. Other rounds are nothing to different from solving boring math problems except accuracy of your answer matters while deciding whether

your school wins or not. Also you have 10 minutes given to solve 3 problems. More correct answers your school have made, more chances of having higher score are made, which means victory. Something unique and attracting about the team round is that you get to discuss the problems with your teammates. When there are 20 students attending the meet, the coach usually divides us into five different teams regardless of your grade. So my team might have freshman along with senior. It is very nice because I feel like the team is composed of various age group tending to have higher creativity than team of same grade. I always learn new ways and approaches to solve the problem by talking with my team. Also, it creates a bonding moment with the team since we only have 10 minutes to solve 5 different problems from any topic so that we try to make the most out of limited time.

Our math team has done very well for past years by placing first or second from state. I haven't been selected as representative competent, yet but I am hoping maybe in senior year, I will be able



to represent our school math division and score well. For someone who wants to join academic clubs like math team but worried of what others might think, I want to tell you one thing- it can never hurt you. The earlier you start, the more you learn! So today, why don't you explore what options your school has and join the team? You never know, you might end up with something you would never think is going to happen-

I LOVE MATH!

-14기 정지우



# Snow day





It was snowing. Since it was heavy snow, the school was canceled. I was so happy that I could sleep more. About 1 o'clock, my friends, Joy, her sister Faith, and Katie came to my house to hang out with me. I was surprised since I did not know they were coming to my house. Thus, we went to Joy's house to play with snow. Joy's house was huge. I'd never seen that big house in my life. It was like a palace. They had a big garden covered with the snow. So, we went out to the garden and played with the snow. We threw the snow and pushed each other. It was really funny. After we played with the snow, we came back to the house to be ready to go out eat a delicious supper. We went to a mexican restaurant called Monte de Ray. Lots of people came to the restaurant to have a meal together including my host family. The food was delicious.



Next day, the school was canceled again because of the frozen road. I went to the Joy's house again to hang out. This time, Katie was not there. Since I had a lot of homeworks to do, I brought homeworks. I wanted to work on more homeworks, but Joy and Faith kept ask me to play with the snow, so we went outside to play. This time, we decided to make snowman rather than snow fighting. While I was making the snowman, I heard a glad news that the school was canceled again. Thus, I played with them happily without worrying about homeworks. We ate chicken legs for dinner after we played. It was really fun.

-14기 심예군

### Inaugural Student of the Week



It's always a good thing when your hard work gets recognized by the people you like or respect. Especially when it is announced in public and everyone gets to know what a good person you are or how well you did on something! That actually happened to me this past December and it was the best way to end the year right before winter vacation.

In the middle of the December, my school, Pope John Paul II High School, started a new program called 'Student of the Week.' According to the school's explanation, 'Student of the Week' is a program where a student is selected who has gone above and beyond in the classroom, in a club or activity or in service to the community. Each week, the faculty and staff submit nominations of students and a committee of faculty members then selects from those nominations for the PJP Student of the Week.

I still remember the feeling when I heard the news from the main office. They told me about this news early, before they made the public announcement. The day that I was called to the main office without knowing the reason why, I was so scared because I've never been called to the main office

during the day since I started in this school 2 years ago. I thought I was in trouble. (Even though I didn't do anything wrong;)) When I heard the news from Mr. Lynn who is our assistant principal of student affair, I was the recipient of the nomination, so that day turned into one of my happiest school days!

There are a few more other reasons why I felt more special with this recognition compare with to other awards that I received. First, I was the first student! Second, it wasn't just limited to one grade, but it was being selected amongst all of the PJP students. Lastly, I was nominated by my AP physics teacher. He is one of my favorite teachers in this year. Being recognized by your favorite teacher is one of the best things that can happen in your school life.

After the announcement was made, I got so many congratulations from my friends, teachers and of course my family. I can truly tell you that I was proud of myself for working hard but also I was so happy that I was able to make the people around me be proud of me.

I hope this article doesn't sound like a self-praise! I just want to tell you that when you try something hard, there will be someone who will recognize you. If there is anyone who feels like they are the only one who never gets recognized, don't be too hasty. Look at me! It took more than two years. So just keep working hard, then there will be something at last. It doesn't have to be an award or praise all the time, right? In my opinion, sometimes it's enough if we learn something from our hard work even though we don't receive something. I won't be able to know all of you but I will remember that there are students who are working harder than me, so keep up your hard work! I will cheer for you:)

-14기 박지수

#### Adventure



Our HF usually try to find something to do with their kids and me, and this time, our host family told me, that we are going adventure that day. I was wondered what is that 'adventure', but she only described it as adventure. So i just said okay, and waited, with wondering what will be the 'adventure' she said. I changed my clothes and prepared to go out, and we went in the car. When she was turning the car on, I asked her one more time. She said we're going to do geocaching, which is finding hidden object in plenty of places that people chose. So I believed that we're going to do geocaching.

By riding car, we went pretty far from where we were. While we were heading to Massachusetts from Rhode Island I was thinking that this geocaching place is really far from where we are. We just kept riding car. After passing roads and buildings, we arrived at a parking lot with a big buildings. I asked her again. I said "Is this place where we are going to do geocaching?", then she laughed and said "we are not doing geocaching."

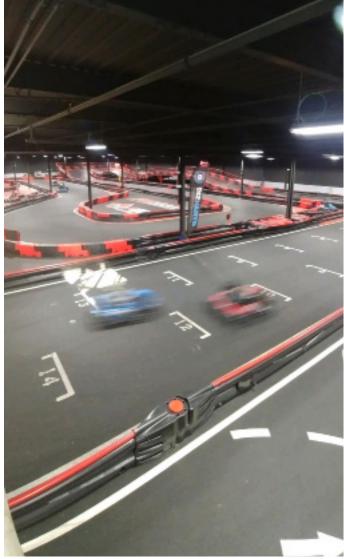
Pretty much that was it. I had no idea what we were planning to do. I just followed them. In the building that we went, there was really big racing track, that we can drive racing cars. They called it 'gocarts'. I was excited to drive it, and I did it. It was such a fun entertainment. The car was fast and thrilling.

After finishing two races, we went to see the cows. In the place, we could see the process of getting milk, and so many cows. I think there were more cows than cows that I've ever seen in my life. I drank chocolate milk from the place, and it was awesome. Next course was gaillette stadium, which is for New England Patriots. I've never been to the football stadium before, so it was pretty exciting. There was hall of fame, marketplace, and some other things to watch.

#### It was amazing.

There was few interactive game that we can play in the place which was like museum. One was math quiz related to football, others were tests that checks how high we can jump and how fast we can react. Those games were really short, but it was fun. Gift shop was awesome, and I saw the rings which is only given to winner of the superballs, which was quite amazing.

On the way home, after having frozen yogurt for snack, I was exhausted. I didn't even expect to go to this place when Mela-



nie(HF) said we are going to do geocaching. Still, it was so fun and amazing. I gotta thank to this host family that allowed me to have this great experience.

-14기 류동훈

# My Life In The United States



In this semester I joined a golf team at our school. The team is brand new, so we do not have many players yet, and golf has not been made an official sport in our school yet. I bought my full golf set from someone who was selling their used set for half the price of a brand new one. We yet only had one practice, which was really fun. My coach praised me a lot, he said that I have a very good posture and accuracy in golf. At the end of the school year, we are going to have our first tournament, I am super excited for it and I can't wait for that time to come!

-14기 김지선

This month had been very interesting and fun. When school started again in January, I was not in a very good mood to go to school, because, you know, I got lazy during my Christmas break. But when I came back to school, it was announced that we will have a spirit week. I was very excited, because during spirit week the whole school gets to dress up in the days theme. This year's themes were, Bible Characters, Medieval Theme, Western Theme, and Patriotic Theme. On the first day our class dressed up as "Sheep and the Shepherd", we all wore all white, and glued some cotton balls on our clothes. One the second day we dressed up as the characters from the lord of the rings, we did not have enough girl characters in the movie, so I dressed up as the huge spider. On the third day I was a citizen in a western town, so I dressed up in a kind of western looking outfit. And on the last day we were assigned patriotic colors, ours was blue, so we dressed in all blue and came out as different kinds of oceans.

Also this month has been very cold, the temperature went below 0 degrees Celsius. We had a couple of snow days, and because of that our school was canceled for two days. Our family spent those days at home, in the first day of snow my host brother and I came out to play snowball fight with his cousins. We had so much fun, since it hardly ever snows in Georgia.



#### Wonderful Opportunity Ever To Meet God And Make Unforgettable Memories With Friends, Kairos Retreat Program





Our school has five years long religious tradition: Kairos. Kairos is the religious retreat offered by number of Catholic high schools and universities for the past four decades. Mr. Smith, former religion teacher of our school, updated and renewed the program to meet the need and special aspects of our school. Kairos focuses on relationship of your life - with yourself, others, and with God. Not only the retreat focuses on those, but students get to have a lot of free time with friends, lots of snack as well as relaxation from the ordinary routine of the life. The retreat was from December 8th to 10th, and it was held in the Wisdom House, Litchfield, CT. I participated in this retreat last year, and 16 students decided to go. However, in this time of the year, almost 40 students participated because Mr. Smith moved to different school last week for better job. Many students decided to be part of possibly last retreat and be there for Mr. Smith.

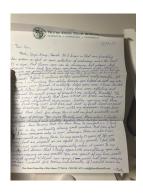
Kairos is wonderful and very lessonful opportunity to share your life and concerns, ease whatever burdens you have on your mind and get to know each other much better. A lot of my friends from my friend group went there, and we had such an amazing time. Luckily, many of my friends were assigned in a same group,



which made this perfect much better. I used to have so many burdens on my mind which I did not share with anybody. My grandfather passed away last month, and I felt very responsible for his death. I have always had the parents problem, and I got trouble with my previous host mom for two years. I have always been stressed out because of anxiety and nervousness that I should be accepted into the most competitive college for scholarship. I had so many things that kept me emotionally down, and I got to share all my life with my close friends sincerely. Of course, I got to hear sad and touching stories from my friends that made me realize that I am not the only one who have to go through arduous problems and tasks in life. I cried for myself for the first time in the year, and my friends cried for me. My friends cried when sharing their story, and I cried for them.

Overall, it is probably the best memory of the high school. I got much closer with my friends. We shared our tough burdens and lives with each other. Not only we talked a lot to ease our mind, but we spent a lot of time together and hung out a lot. It was basically three days sleepover with my close friends. I shared the room with my two best friends, and we talked until four o'clock in the morning. I could not sleep a lot, but it was very fun and wonderful experience. I thank Mr. Smith so much that he gives us this amazing opportunity, and I truly hope that he will enjoy his new job, and I am looking forward to see him again around and go on next Kairos on next spring if it is possible. I do not know if other schools and other students from Nacel would have something like this in their school, but if you do, you should be part of this. Because, this will certainly change your perspective and life!

-14기 곽현우



# I slime You slime We slime!



"Hey Jiwoo, do you want to make slime with me after school?" "Wait. make what? Slime?" It was so funny when my friend Isa asked me if I was interested in making Slime with her. I have always thought that stuffs are only for younger kids. However, I have to say, making your own slime is actually becoming a thing, a very popular stress reliever. Scrolling through the social media, you can easily see people poking slime with their fingers, video taping and sharing their designs of slime and what they call satisfying sound. I even saw several comments saying sounds that comes from poking slime are just like ASMR treatment. I have to be honest, I couldn't deny that slime was such an attractive toy for stressed students and others.

After school, we head to Walmart and Dollar tree to buy decorations and components for our slime. My friend Isa recently got her license so we didn't had to embarrass ourselves asking parents to drive us around to buy stuffs for slime. We were very pumped to create satisfying slime video on top of doing something not school related. Stuffs you need to make slime weren't complicated. Professional Slime makers use Borax but we found a review that it can burn your hands if you are exposed for long time. Also, we couldn't just easily go up to random store and ask for Borax, you needed a prescription to make a purchase of chemical. Something that acts just like Borax was mixing contacts solution and pinch of baking powder. So we ended up buying 3 bottles of clear Elmer's glue, a bottle of contact solution, baking powder, gems and glitter pack to

make our very first Slime.

Isa wanted to make something unique so we stopped by the dollar tree. She bought colorful buttons to put inside. She said she watched this video of button slime and it sounded the best. We just laughed non-stop because we were just too silly. After shopping, we went to her house. It took 30 minutes top to make one fine slime and we ended up making 8 of them, 4 each. We were addicted to it but ran out of glue so had to stop. I want to thank Isa for allowing me to explore this fun Slime and suggest anyone to follow the easy recipe below and create stress-free toy! My sister who is a middle schooler in Korea is also addicted to making Slime, I guess popularity is moving around the country! My friends from Korea are asking if I could bring Elmer's glue to Korea this summer and this makes me feel like I am living in mother country of Slime loving nations.....;)

#### \*How to make your very own slime\*

-based on using half of the glue bottle

- 1. You need a container, water bottle, elmer's glue, borax or temporary borax, something to mix with, and decoration of your taste.
- 2. Inside a container, pour half of the glue.
- 3. Drop 3 drops of water
- 4. Put a big pinch of baking powder
- 5. Mix them all together until you see the gooey texture
- 6. As you see the mixture is not a pure liquid anymore, add about 3 long drops of contact solution
- 7. Continue to mix your solution and add contact solution to make it harder.
- 8. Lift up with your hands and check if your slime is ready to decorate
- 9. Decorate your slime of your taste and keep mixing them with your hands
- 10. YOUR SLIME IS READY!

-14기 정지우



## Talent Show



In my school, we have a talent show every year. I signed up too late for last talent show, so I couldn't be in. However, this time I signed up early so that I can be in. I couldn't decide whether singing an American song or singing a Korean song. But, since I am the leader in International club, I decided to sing Korean song to show what is Korean song. So, everyday after school, I went to the empty room to practice my song. I liked to sing ballad, so I decided to sing a ballad song. The name of the song is "All of my life," which is pretty popular and well-known song in Korea. I liked the lyrics and the melody of it. Anyways, I practiced with my friend Helina to get some feedbacks. She advised me a lot, so I could improve my song.



After about 2 weeks, finally, talents show came. I was so nervous for whole day. Fortunately, my voice condition was pretty good. Before the talent show, we had a rehearsal. My performance was fifth one. During the rehearsal, I made lots of mistakes on lyrics since I

was really nervous and that made me feel worse.

Finally, the real talent show started. Lots of people came to the show. People could vote for their favorite show and the winner could earn an opportunity to perform it again during the chapel which we have every thursday. Since I didn't want to perform it in front of whole students, I didn't want to be voted. My Chinese friends sang a Chinese song as well. It sounded pretty good. Before my turn, I sang a song with my choir. We sang a song called "When I fall in love." The song was really pretty. After 4 performances, it was my turn to perform. I went up to the stage

and looked at all audiences, and that made me feel nervous again. Despite my whole body is shaking, somehow, I started to sing my song. I was so happy that I didn't make mistakes in my first lyrics. However, I started to make a lot of mistakes in my second lyrics. Fortunately, since it was Korean song, no



one can tell I missed the lyrics. After I finish my song, people gave me a big applause. I was glad that I finish my song without making any terrible mistakes, but still it was little bit regretful. After the talent show, strange people came to me and gave me lots of compliments. I was glad. Gladly, I didn't won the show. However, everyone told me I should've won the show. I was glad to hear that and felt thankful to all people who gave me compliments. I will participate on the talents show next year as well since I enjoyed it.

-14기 심예군



#### March for Life





Abortion has become one of the most serious problems since the medical industry blossomed. In the United States, there is a big human rights movement called March for Life. The March for Life is an annual rally protesting both the practice and legality of abortion, held in Washington, D.C. on or around the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. This was a landmark decision which was issued in 1973 by the United States Supreme Court decriminalizing abortion. Starting in 1974, the March for Life occurs every January 22nd and brings about many moral issues to the World. The main goal of March for Life is to provide all Americans with a place to testify to the beauty of life and the dignity of each human person.



March for Life 2018 was the 45th annual march and it was my second year attending. When I attended the march last year, I just went without knowing anything about it. I was just excited that I can get community service hours without missing

a school day even though I didn't go to school. I remember getting really shocked when I saw people marching. I was impressed that there were so many people who are pro-life generations. It was such a beautiful moment that people gathered together and made the government hear their voice without any violent activity. They always have speakers to talk before they begin the March. Every word from the speakers was impressive to me but there was one sentence from Vice President Pence that really moved my heart last year. He said:

"Life is winning again in America."

By looking at the people and listening to them cheer, I could feel how hopeful his words were. This year, one of the speakers was President Donald J. Trump. He said:



"Under my administration, we will always defend the very first right in the Declaration of Independence, and that is the right to life."

After listening to him, I carefully predicted that we might be able to see the end of March for Life during Trump's Presidency and I'm pretty sure that I will be part of this March until the end.

The march route wasn't that long. We started the march from National Museum of Natural History and went up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court and the Capitol Building which took less than an hour to finish it. After the march my friend Connor and I visited the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the National Air and Space Museum. National Shrine of Immaculate Conception was amazing. Since I came to the US, one of my favorite thing to do was looking at old structures. I still can't forget the feeling when I entered the huge doors. Everything was gorgeous: the statue of Mary from all over the world, mosaic pattern pictures and the basement prayer room. If I have a chance, I hope I can attend the mass there even though I'm not catholic. After visiting the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, we didn't have enough time to look around all of the Space Museum so we decided to just look on the first floor. I hope I can visit that Museum once again next year.

As a person who never experienced marching before this March for Life, I learned lots of new things like how powerful the peaceful movement can be. For these reasons, I strongly recommend everyone to attend this march next year. All of the museums around US Capitol are also free so there will be so many things that you will be able to enjoy!!

-14기 박지수

PSP Newsletter January 2018

#### Superbowl



yup, the day had come. I was in Rhode Island, and Rhode island is part of New England. It was the day of the Super bowl. Patriots vs Eagles was it. The biggest match of the US, and the football was in that day. Traditionally, our HF was patriots' huge fan. They had many patriots goods, and their family, and relatives, most of them were filled with 'Patriotism'. Last time, when I went to the party, there was a flag of patriots in the yard. I was pretty shocked about it. Honestly, I'm not the person who is really interested in football. I just become a fan of the team that my host family likes. Last year, when I was in Virginia, our HF was fan of Miami Dolphins. I didn't know how good they are, or how they play, but I told other people I'm Dolphins fan. This year, since Patriots is team of New England, I became fan of Patriots.

Little bit weird reason to become fan of a team, but that was how i chose my team. By the way, preparing for Super bowl this year, we planned party that day. We invited many people to our house, and prepared plenty of foods. I was really excited because of foods as well as the football game.

Once people came, we turned the TV on, and watched Super bowl, sitting around the TV. It was crazy. Almost 20 people were in our house, and they were all cheering for their team. Everytime eagles make touchdowns, i could see them disappointed, and when patriots make it, they cheered. It was so fun to watch it, also it was so fun to

guess who might win.

Before game started, I believed that patriots are gonna win, since they won plenty of Super bowl before this year. However, once the game starts, Eagles was beating Patriots with quite score gap, and it lasted forever. I was feeling bad about how patriots were losing. However, there was a chance to tie the score and bring it back for patriots in 4th quarter. We were excited, and hoped for the best. As you know, patriots didn't make it, and Eagles took the 1st place. People around me seemed ok, even though they were disappointed with the result.

So overall, it was really fun experience. I could see more specific plays that I couldn't understand when I saw Super bowl last year. Our host family was energetic, and I was also one part of it. It was interesting day, also kind of sad day, since the team we were cheering for lost. Yet, I'm gonna watch 3 more Super bowls here, and someday, I believe that I can see the victory of patriots.

-14기 류동훈

#### My Life in United States



to try college math while I am at it. At our school we also had a gift exchange program, the whole middle and high school participated in it. Basically we had to buy a present that costs from \$5 to \$10, and wrap it up. And a day before our vacation we played this game by putting the presents on the table and picking numbers. I got a blanket at first but later my friend exchanged it to some candy against my will, because that's how the game works. At the end, I got a little weird giraffe plushie. The weather was pretty cold this year, so I hope it is going to be warmer next year:D

-14기 김지선



This has been a great year of 2017. In December there are always exams and different activities. This year I participated in the GACS, a national competition in different fields. I chose to compete in acrylic painting, since I really love to draw. My work was accepted and I am currently waiting for spring to come to see the results. I was very excited for Christmas vacation to start, since I decided to go to my aunt's house in Arizona. I had a lot of fun in her house, because I got to meet my awesome cousins who took me out everywhere and played with me. I had also done a lot of stuff for my beta club, I cleaned my neighbor's swimming pool, helped in my uncle's shop, volunteered to work in an animal shelter for 3 days, and tutored math to a few kids. And after Christmas vacation I am planning to join a new golf club at our school. I already bought all the necessary equipment and currently I am waiting for the next year to come. Next year, I will also take a dual-enrollment class on college math, since I am doing pretty good in math this year, so I figured why not



PSP Newsletter January 2018

#### Best TV Show on Netflix That Everyone Would Love To Binge Watch



Many American students and international students in the United States have Netflix account, and watch TV show on daily basis just for about ten dollars per month. However, when we first make a Netflix account and try to find a great show that fits our needs and interests, it is pretty hard to choose the best one among hundreds of programs in there. For those of the guys, and even students who have not tried Netflix yet, I am here to recommend the best Netflix tv show ever that I've ever watched so far - Orange Is The New Black (2013~)

Orange Is the New Black is an American comedy-drama web television series created by Jenji Kohan for Netflix. The series is based on Piper Kerman's memoir, Orange Is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison (2010), about her experiences a minimum-security federal prison. It is combination of comedy, crime and drama. It features this interesting plot: convicted of a decade old crime of transporting drug money to an ex-girlfriend, normally law abiding Piper Chapman is sentenced to a year and a half behind bars to face the reality of how life changing prison can really be. Before explaining all details, it is important to know that this TV show is rated R, therefore contains lots of violent, sexual, and brutal scenes. Despite it all, the show still contains very moving scenes, showing great friendship, beautiful love and lament stories

behind prisoners that explain why they ended up in the prison. The show is supposed to process in the focus of the story of the main protagonist Piper Chapman, and her ex-girlfriend and current fiance, Alex Vause, however, it has become the show without any main protagonist as the seasons go forward. Each character is so attractive, funny and distinct, and you will be allured to them as soon as you start watching this show. It is incredibly entertaining to watch it and find out all the stories of the prisoners as well. Some prisoners have pretty shocking past and some have really sad and painful past that unavoidably forced them to become prisoners.

Not only the show features lots of comical, interesting, sad and touching scenes, but it also criticizes lots of social problems within the United States. For example, it vividly shows the conflict among different racial groups. In the prison, there are five distinct groups: Whites, Blacks, Hispanic, Golden Girls (Elderlies), and another group consisted of other races. They always fight and throw harsh words at each other. In addition to this, it reflects the reality of prison life including gay or lesbian sex, drugs, poverties, corruptions of politics and business and privatization of federal organization. The show lets us know the dark side of America.

The quality of this show is demonstrated by pretty much every website, video and post on online. Every one of them ranks this as the best Netflix originated TV show, and this show is marked as the starting point of the success of the Netflix TV show business. If you have lots of free time and do not know what to do, here is what you should do. You will find out what aspects of this show attracted me and made me watch it every single day!

-14기 곽현우

