

## Snow Day



Since I live in Northern Kentucky, it doesn't snow very often. Even though the weather forecast forecasted snow the next day, we don't keep our hopes up for a snow day. One day in mid-January, I got up and looked out the window and it was snowing!! I wasn't expecting a snow day, so I didn't even bother to look at our school's Facebook page to check. I got my uniform and walked to my bathroom, half asleep. Suddenly, my host dad called me and said "Mina! You don't have to get up now, it's a snow day today!" As soon as I heard that, I shouted "Yay!" and walked straight back to my room, jumped on my bed, and went back to bed. I got to sleep in, which doesn't happen very often, and it felt so nice. I had a nice breakfast, pancakes, eggs, and bacon! It was a perfect way to start my day.



After breakfast, I had to write an essay on transcendentalism for my AP Lang test. Since I wanted to play outside in the snow with the kids, I concentrated on writing my essay so

I could get it done in time. I wrote a satisfying essay in two hours and went downstairs for lunch. We all had B.L.T. for lunch, and got ready to go outside and play!! I wore my sweatpants and winter jacket, and all the kids wore their bibs, jacket, gloves, and hats. We ran outside with our orange sled, sliding down the hill at our backyard. Since we did not have any steps or anything prepared for getting up the hill, we all had to crawl up the hill. It was really funny watching the adorable kids trying to crawl up the hill, but slipping back down every other step they took. It was also really funny when the oldest kid Kalib slid all the way down to the creek and dipped his feet in the water.

We also made a huge snowman, using my host dad's special method of spraying water after making a small snowball, and adding layers of snow after that with the water sprayed in between. It really helped us to build a sturdy and strong base for the snowman that was unbreakable. We came back in the house all wet and exhausted, and we were really excited to see what was waiting for us. It was hot chocolate!! We drank a cup of hot chocolate, and decided to watch a movie. We watched 'Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chiprecked', and ended our day in a great mood, singing Born This Way by Lady Gaga.

-13기 강민아

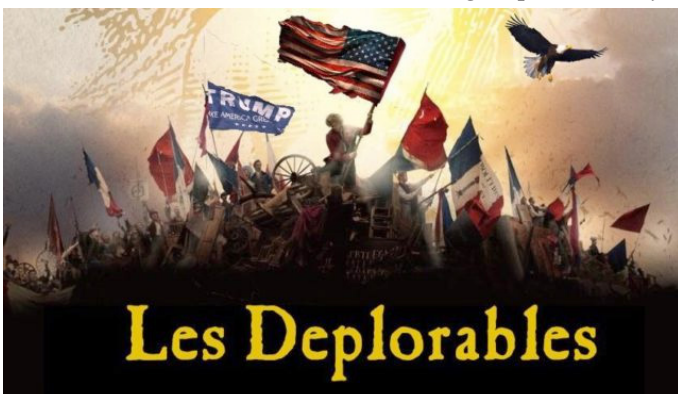


## The Vision of America Future



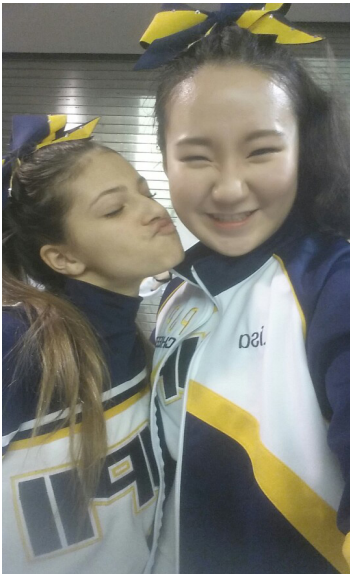
In 2017, Jan 20th, Donald Trump was officially 45th president in America. I still can remember that day. Every class my teacher just turn on "Apple TV" and we are just watching the president Trump inauguration, it was impressive to me because I feel directly about American culture. Some of my friends are not coming to school that day because they went Washington for watching the inauguration. I was in school and talk about his speeches and future of America and how to effective for international students. My friends are mostly president's trump supporters so that day the school was a little bit distracted. In school there are two groups between ju-

nior and senior who support Trump and not support Trump. At lunchtime was really noised about Trump's speech. I think his speech was really naturalism. He kept mentioning America future and media his speech was really at the critics. I can hear his speech was really different than Obama's speech. I think Obama was mentioned widely. He talks about the economy, environment, and refugees. I can hear Obama's speech was rational and benefit to everybody, but Trump's speech was totally different. I am already mentioning about naturalism. He only mentioned about America economy, employee rates, so that means another unstable citizen can be disadvantageous to them. From this inauguration day a lot of feelings came to me like an enormous wave. Lastly, I want a talk about our future. President Trump change America like a Rome. I can say it's almost white supremacists around in this country. I hope the government didn't forget the concept of America. America was not developed by one race. Many kinds of people are melting in a one country and now A big country was recognized in this world. Thank you for reading my amateur article.



-13기 김창재

## Cheer competition



Cheer is a very dangerous sports. Some people might not agree with it but they don't really know what cheer is. My first impression about cheer leaders was just cute girls shaking their pompoms. I realized that I was wrong as soon as I saw cheerleaders in our school. If you want to be a cheerleader you have to know how to tumble since tumbling is mandatory stuff in the routine for competitions. You also have to have enough strength. If you are base or back, you have to have power to lift the flyer. Even though I am not good at tumbling I could get into team this year because I worked out during summer and got lots of muscle in my body. If you are flyer, you have to have power and good balance to stand straight on bases hands. As I said at the beginning, cheer is very dangerous sports. Since you are lifting a person, you will have pain on your wrists, arms, shoulders and back all the time. On my first year of cheer, I had really bad pain on my back so I had to take constant treatment. And this year, after coaches changed my position into base from back, I can't move my wrist well because of pain. And you always have possibilities of injury. You might fall while you are practicing tumbling or your flyer might fall over your face and break your nose. Even though cheer is dangerous I still love it.

January and February is the season of cheer competition. My team were so excited for the first competition and we practiced really hard. The day before competition we had practice as usual. My flyer fell forward during ending pyramid and she broke her arm. We were really frustrated because my stunt group was one of the best in our team. We, however, still had to join the competition without her. In the morning of competition we had to change few things and we went to competition. Every team member tried not to express depressed feeling. We encouraged each other and prayed together before we go on to the mats. Even without one flyer we got second place. It was the best performance ever throughout the whole practice and we deserved it. Now we have few more competitions left. I believe we will do even better than first competition. I have 16 sisters who are cheer with me on the mats and I am not afraid.

-13기 류문정



## My second Christmas break in United States



Last December 25th was the one of the biggest holiday in United States, Christmas. Christmas is came from the birth of Jesus and celebration of Jesus's birth. Normally, each of houses put the ample tree and decorate it beautifully as like Korea. However, I realized the biggest different way to celebrate Christmas between Korea and United States. Since most of American people live in detached house, they can decorate their house whatever they want. Even their front yard. One day, on my way to school I saw that the house that is decorated amazingly. Now, I am going to introduce what I did for Christmas.

Firstly, opening Christmas presents. Many naïve and innocence children believe that Santa Claus is coming during Christmas Eve night to put presents that children want. (I used to believe Santa Claus)^^. Surprisingly, At Christmas morning I realized that real Santa Claus came and put presents under our decorated tree! I quickly opened the present and I got basketball, and cellphone case. I don't know why but I said thank you to my host mom as I opened my presents^^. Anyway, it makes me very impressive and happy that I got what I need. In addition, that Christmas night we had party. We had a very palatable ham with asparagus, mashed potatoes, marshmallow with yam, and apple pie with ice cream. One thing that makes me happy was that there

are students who stayed with my host family and now are college students came to our house and celebrated together. Especially, I am so glad to meet my friend who gave me a lot of advises last year. After dinner, we had a deep conversation. Such as what is the plan for New Year, what will be the accomplishments for the New Year. This was how I spent for this year Christmas.

After Christmas, I got big New Year president, was were my mom and my brother visit United States from Korea to celebrate New Year with me. On December 26th night, my mom and brother landed to Philadelphia International Airport. It has actually been four months since I leave Korea and see my family. As I met them at the airport, I was really excited and hug them. They stayed here from December 26th and left January 4th, 2017. During that time, we made an impressive memory that can never compare to others. We traveled a lot of sightseeing place such as Valley Forge, Atlantic City, New York City and Baltimore. Especially, my mom and brother liked that Valley Forge. Luckily, the day we visit that Valley Forge was very shiny and warm comparing to the other day. Also, one thing that fun thing was that we yelled 'Happy New Year' at the top of Valley Forge park. In addition, we went to New York City, which was very crowded due to celebration for New Year. However, we took a great picture at the in front of the Statues Of Liberty even though that day was rainy and windy. It was really fun to spend time with my mom and brother. However the time was came. I do not know why the time past so fast. At the airport, after they got an airline ticket way to Korea and time to leave them, I did not feel so good. I just want to spend more time with them. The boarding time was coming, so I needed to leave them to go. Even though it was very short time to stay with them, I am so glad they came here.

This Christmas was my second Christmas since I have been to United States. Even though I am missing my family and want to spend Christmas with them, one thing the most importance is that keeps spending a lot of effort on my schoolwork and do my best for everything.

-13기 정기훈



## Photography & Graphic Design Class



For my Junior year, I decided to take an interesting Fine Arts course; Photography & Graphic Design. Since I've been interested in photography ever since I was a little kid, I was so excited for it when I got to take this class. I was so ready to learn all the different techniques of photography, and to learn how to manipulate the photos I took.

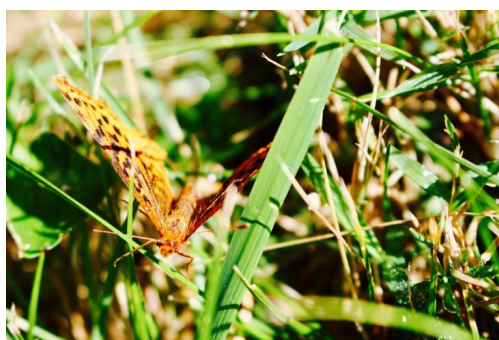
As the course began, the teacher and the students planned our year together. We decided to lean photographing techniques for the first semester, and learn graphic design for the second semester. Looking back at the first semester, it was a pretty successful semester. We learned a new photographing technique every two weeks, and we got assignments for it. We had to take about 30 to 40 photos for each new thing we learned, and got graded on a 4-level system. Our first assignment was 'Color', and we had to take 8 photos for each colors of the rainbow. The picture of a butterfly that I attached was one of my photos for green. Our next assignment was 'Rule of Thirds', which was drawing a grid that divides the width and height of the picture in thirds, and placing the object on the place where the lines intersect. This was the first major photographing technique that we learned. The 'Rule of Thirds' technique has been helping me with getting a good composition and angle when I take photos. After 'Rule of Thirds', we learned lots of techniques such as 'Framing', 'Horizon', 'Leading

lines', 'Flat, Back, and Front lighting', 'Worm's and Bird's Eye View', and 'Zooming in'.

Now we're in the second semester, so we started taking more professional photos for our graphic design works. Using all the techniques we learned, we're taking photos for our collage project that we are doing right now. With the photos that we took, we cut them up in any kind of shapes or form and make a collage to create a whole new composition.

I am really enjoying this class, and having great time developing my photographing skills. If any of the schools that you guys are attending offers this course, I think it is a great idea to take it!

-13기 강민아



## The responsibility of Student Council



We had winter formal a month ago. I think it was pretty successful because our executive board preparing everything except the budget. The president and vice president searching a good DJ for winter formal because last two school dances DJ are not that good. We are preparing maybe a month before the formal. Our executive board is really tired about planning because they want to finish this last school dance event. After winter formal. The seniors have not schools dances at all because the senior prom was in a different place. So we concentrate everything. We can make an example of decorating. We tried everything new light ball, new decorating flowers. Also, we mail every class representatives to donating decorating things and most class representatives donate to us, so we don't need to worried about decorating stuffs. Sometimes the student councils are cooperating easily than any other organization if they have proud or responsibility their place. We can easily cooperate each other. Lastly, the president and vice president said success in casting DJ. After casting, we have one big assignment to us, which is decorating the cafeteria. We are choosing the theme. The theme was the carnival so we made clowns, popcorns, and balloons. Many students volunteer to help us. We can finish our decorating in time. After decorating I was really excited to dancing with my date. In winter formal day, I am wearing my suit and tie and

went to school and have a great time with my friends. I want to give some advice to students, who coming into U.S high school. If you have a chance to do student council don't kick out the great chance yourself. Student council can be really tired and hard to time management, but if you do that work you never regret yourself because it's really fun and experience a different feelings about your responsibility.

-13기 김창재

## How to make friends in America

Before I came here, I imagined high school life just like movie 'High school musical'. However real life is not like movie. When I first came here I expected American kids to be interested in me. I was so ready to answer some questions such as where are you from or what is different in Korea. For few weeks, however, I couldn't talk a lot with American kids. Since our school has too many international students, they were not curious about me at all. And since some international students were not good at English, they thought I won't be able to talk in English or can't understand English. On my first day of school, one of the girl in my homeroom said something bad about me. I turned and looked at her. She looked really surprised that I understood her English. After that day she never say anything bad about me. I just had to prove that I understood what she was saying.

I realized trying to be friend with them in short time won't work well. I decided to give them some time to know about me and accept me as their friend. I focused on my school work and few weeks later people started to know my name and we started to talk a little. Except the girl in my homeroom, everyone was pretty much nice to me. I met some really nice kids in my classes. They always said hi to me first and smiled at me all the time. But we couldn't really become a close friend because we never had deep conversation. Since our school is not in city and there are not too many schools around here, everyone have known each other since they were in grade school. They were too close to each other and there was no space for me. So I decided not to hurry and wait.

After I started to do cheer, I could make more friends. They always said good things about me. They liked my clothes, bags even my laugh. We started to talk a lot. After an half year I finally had real friends.

And this year, as a senior, I am having perfect relationship with friends. We talk and hang out all the time. If anyone ask me how I made these such good friends, I will say, you only should remember three things.



First, Don't be in hurry. You are total stranger to them. Even in Korea you need time to be friend with someone. Give them time and wait till you can have chance to talk with them. Don't get upset if they seem like they are not interested in you. Some people are shy. If you give you them enough time, they will come to you. If you are lucky, you will fine nice friend right away.

Second, Laugh a lot. Nobody hates positive person. Even though you can't understand their joke, just laugh and respond to their talking. If you respond well on their story, they will talk more with you and more talk will make you more close with them.

Third, Please don't try to be perfect American. I know that you want to get along with American kids. I do agree that you might have to change some things. I started wear school sweat shirts and sweat pants just like American kids. I also started to buy some clothes in American style. You can change yourself to fit well into your friends group. But it doesn't mean that you have to be them. Don't try to do whatever they do. If you start to buy same clothes, same bag, same shoes as your friends, they will be freaked out. You don't have to wear everything they wear. Sometimes my friends love my clothes or bags. They always ask me where I got my stuffs. If you don't like what American kids wear, don't were it. Be yourself and if you want some change you are welcome to do that.

-13기 류문정



## The Band



I have played the Clarinet since my 2nd prep school year. I used to be in the prep and middle school orchestra in Korea. When I saw my high school information before leave Korea, I realized that my school has a band class. So, I immediately bring my Clarinet on my way to America. Honestly, the main reason I have played the Clarinet and joined the band is that I like to listen the music, which are making



harmony with all of the different instruments. Anyway, there are 2 band that I joined.

First is school Concert Band. School concert band is the band that group of Wood students who have skilled on instrument. There are actually 25 students in our concert band and also 4-clarinet player (including me) are in the school concert band. Also, this is my second year to play on school concert band. We played several great piece of music such as Jurassic Park, Christmas carols last year and we had an annual concert, Christmas concert, and spring concert. Once we did Christmas concert, it sounds really wonderful. My host mom and even our principle said that our concert is the best I have ever heard before.

On this year, we will be playing the Aladdin, Quintalogy, and concert march for the spring concert. One story that I got impressive was that during the band practice last week, one of bassoon player farted during the music and no one noticed at that time because, the fart sound and bas-

soon sound is very similar. Thank god that he farted during his bassoon part. However, it goes 3 seconds, everyone noticed the smell of fart. Even my conductor. After finished music, the bassoon player confessed everything. That was my impressive band memory.

Second, the All Catholic Band. All Catholic band is the band that consist of 6 of Catholic school which is near from our school district. Those 6 are school held audition and pick out the All Catholic band members. It is very competitive to get in that All Catholic band. Once I took audition, I got really nervous and I thought I made some mistake. However, fortunately, I got accepted and even I placed 6th place out of 18. I was very happy and so excited to do concert and practice. Playing some instruments is very fun and impressing. Even though it is hard to play initial time, as you practice, it will be easy. I highly recommend that if you have a chance, play musical instruments.

-13기 정기훈

## New Year Eve Party



In Korea, people usually spend their New Year's Eve with their family, but they spend Christmas with friends. On the other hand, in America, people usually spend their New Year's Eve with their friends, but they spend Christmas with family. Last year when I heard about this I was surprised about it because I totally thought I will spend New Year's Eve with my host family. As a result, I was kind of frustrated because I didn't have a plan for New Year's Eve. However, things are different this year. My friend, Hunter, wanted to something together as a friend at New Years.

On New Year's eve, my friends and I all went to Hunter's house. I got his house around 7. We all went to basement and kind of amazed about how his house is so big and nice. Everyone was spread out and do all different things. After a while, we decide to go ice skating because his house is on a lake so it was like a minute walk to go lake. Some people brought ice skates for themselves. I wanted to borrow some from Hunter's but my friend, Sophi, wanted to ice skate because it was her first ice skating. Consequently, I let her do that. Even I was wearing ice skating, it felt like ice skating because the bottom of the ugg was flat

so slipped easily. However, the whole time I forget that I am the clumsiest person on the earth. We only ice skate for half hour to an hour, but I fell at least 10 times. After the ice skating, I got bruises on my knee. Those bruises last for next two weeks. Anyway, we come back to the basement and chilling for the next two hours. During those two hours, we planned the poll tournament. As a result, I was playing against Sophi. I was winning whole time but I accidentally hit a black ball, which is number eight ball. So I lost that game. I was furious for couple minutes but I got over it.

After the poll, we were playing a board game called life. I played couple times with my friends and I enjoyed it every single time. I was kind of excited about playing that game. I struggled in the beginning but I winning in the end of it. We decided to watch a movie because everyone was so tired. We were going through Netflix and Xbox. We couldn't find a movie that everyone agrees to watch on Netflix so we moved on to Xbox. With a lot of urging, we finally narrowed it down to two movies, Nerve and Deadpool. Most of us watched Deadpool, so we decided to watch Nerve. It was a good movie. Shortly after ending of the movie, it was couple minutes before the New Year. We all gathered together and took a picture. Overall that night was fun and definitely will be one of my most memorable nights.

-13기 조영란

