



When school is over, it is officially summer! School has only been out for a week but I already had fun summer days. I hung out with my friends at the pool, went kayaking, and went to the beach for my friend's birthday.

Since my friend Kenzie has a pool in her backyard, she had a few friends over. We jumped off the diving board, which was very fun. We also played games like chicken fight and Marco Polo. Chicken fight is a game which one person gets on their team member's shoulders and try to knock down the other person on the other team member's shoulders. Marco Polo is a game which one person closes their eyes and tries to tag others. The person with their eyes closed says "Marco" and others say "Polo" so that the person can listen and find others. After playing games and swimming around, we laid on big floats that we blew up, which was very relaxing.

On another day, I went kayaking with my host family. We drove to a river close to our house with our kayaks, paddles, and life jackets. Everyone had their own kayaks and everyone paddled by themselves. We kayaked about 4 miles, which was fun but tiring. While we were kayaking, we saw a



lot of turtles and pretty birds on the side of the river, which was very cool.

Even though I got a blister from paddling for about 3 hours, it was very fun and interesting!

Few days later, I went to my friend's birthday party that was at a beach house. We had lunch there, and then we sang and celebrated her birthday. Then, we went down to the beach and hung out. The beach was very pretty and the weather was very nice! Some people went in the water and some people just walked around. When we came back to the beach house, we had cake and watched a slide show of her. Then, everyone gathered and talked, which was very fun!

Summer has just started but I am already loving summer because it is so fun! The weather is very enjoyable and there are a lots of fun events. I cannot wait for more summer events and fun memories!

-Jisu Noh

HAPPY SUMMER



Second Farm Visit



One thing that I love about where I currently live in the United States is that there are so many farmlands with wide open fields. As you remember from one of my past articles, I love visiting farms. Even though I grew up in the city, I always admired the life of the countryside because it seems so peaceful and relaxing. And thanks to my friend Kylee, I recently visited another farmland, located in Philadelphia.

Kylee, one of my high school friend, always told me that her aunt owns a really pretty farm. Since she knew how much I love the farm, we made a promise to visit there. That was way back at the beginning of our Senior year. Unfortunately, we never had a chance to spend time at her aunt's farm throughout this school year because both of us were crazily busy with all of the school works and college preparations.

We finally went down to her farm during the last week of our school. We spent some time at her house before her grandparents picked us up. I remember us talking about college the whole time. Before we had this conversation, I thought I was the only one who's nervous about going to the college instead of getting excited. However, this conversation taught me that it's not only me and I'm not alone in this journey. So I just wanted to tell you all, who are scared about moving into college, that it's normal to be that way! No worries!

The farm was about 40 minutes away from where I live and it was BEAUTIFUL. Kylee's grandmother told me that this farm is more than 120 years old. I wasn't able to tell that by the look because her farm looked so clean and neat like a new building. She had various animals and I was surprised by the fact that she takes care of all of them. In the farm, there was a pony, a turkey, chickens, horse, dogs, pigs, a sheep, a bunny, and goats.

We were allowed to go inside the fence so we went in to play with a sheep and goats. While we were playing, one goat spat on me. Kylee laughed so hard and told me that it just sneezed, not spitting. I still think it spat on me. Anyway, we went to see chickens after hanging out with goats. While we were looking at the chicken, Kylee's aunt asked me if I like eggs. So I told her that I love all of the foods. Then she said "Hold on a second," and went into the chicken coop to grab some fresh eggs for me! She gave me a dozen eggs to share with my host family.

After the farm visit, we ate lunch at one restaurant and they dropped me off at my house. Visiting a farm is always a great experience and getting to know Kylee's extended family was also a fabulous time. So my today's note, for those who are reading my article, is this: Try your best to get to know not only your friends at school but also their families. This will benefit you in the future and help you to have a more outgoing personality. I just want to mention that having an outgoing personality will have a more positive effect in your future. In addition to this, visit any farm if you have so many thoughts in your mind! Looking at the wide-open field and walking around the farm will calm you down to come up with a better idea. :)

Anyway, thank you, Kylee!

-Jisoo Park



ON YOUR MARK, GET READY, SET, GO!



Over the course of my high school career, I have volunteered in various places such as soup kitchens and nursing homes. Having less than a month of school left, I wanted to make my last service unique and memorable. I was lucky enough to get in touch with the volunteer department of two organizations to volunteer for two races: Miles for Migraine and Day One 5K. While I may not be the best runner, I enjoy running and have been part of the school cross country and track team for 4 years. Therefore, I have run multiple races and participated in numerous meets while I have never thought of volunteering in one of them! I was excited as I finally get to learn about all the businesses that are taking place behind the race.

7 am, bright and early, I started to get ready so that I could get to Brown University stadium by 8 am to set up for the race that would be taking place at 10 am. Arriving there, a lot of people were already there even though I was 10 minutes early. I was surprised how many people spend their weekends so productively and looked back at myself how I was complaining that I can't sleep in this weekend. Registering myself at the volunteer sign-in table, I received the bright orange volunteer shirt. It was bit crazy to keep up with the fast-paced morning, but all the volunteers got so close to each other in a short amount of time as we gathered under the same goal: to support victims of sexual violence and make the race successful.

To briefly talk about the organization "Day One", Day One is the only agency in Rhode Island that is specifically organized to deal with issues of sexual assault as a community concern. This annual 5k race was held to further support the victims and spread awareness. After the mass set up, I was assigned to the sign making booth. I was very happy that I was given such an important role in this

event. For 3 hours, I made over 20 signs and encouraged and helped the families, friends, and runners to participate which turned out to be successful. Seeing my signs everywhere throughout the race course made me very proud of myself and want to continue this kind of volunteer in the future. Having to spend a great time on Saturday morning and afternoon was a blessing to me where I get to meet passionate people and remember how important is to support our community. The following week, I spent my weekend volunteering at the other race, Miles for Migraine. For those who are not yet aware of what migraine is, it is a recurring type of headache. They cause moderate to severe pain that is throbbing or pulsing. The pain is often on one side of your head. While people take this as a type of "headache" it is a dangerous illness that can damage the patient both physically and emotionally. The organization was dedicated to make aware of this and gather the race so that we as a community can show support. After receiving the green shirt, I was assigned to the water station with the other volunteer, Maria. Maria worked for the Morgan Stanley and said she usually spends her weekend volunteering at different places and she ended up here this particular weekend. I love how the volunteer is not only an act of giving back to the society but also provides you an opportunity to genuinely connect with people. My role at the water station was simple: making sure the runners are hydrated enough. Every time the runner passed by, Maria and I handed out water.

The most important thing I have learned from these two valuable experiences is how easily we can connect with other people. I have always thought of myself as a "people person" but was afraid to meet new people. However, I have realized everything is "up to you." You make decisions whether you want to be involved or not and you are the one that decides to learn new things. While I can't promise, I will try to be entitled to community service every month.

—Jiwoo Jeong



Things I wish I had done differently



After staying in America for two years, I learned handful of lessons that I will remember for the rest of my life. It had been a priceless experience for me. I am grateful that I got to have the great opportunity of being a part of Private School Program. I am proud of all the things I was able to do during the past two years, such as traveling, making friends and getting into my dream school. However, I think that there are some things that I could have done differently.

Firstly, I wish I could have got more involved in school activities. I struggled to make friends at school because I did not share the same interest as them. I noticed that most of the kids like to talk about sports events happening at the school, and I had no interest in any of them. Also, when you get involved in after school activities, you will find it easy to write your college application. I had to use the activities from my previous school, and a few activities I did at the current school. I did not take after school activi-



ties seriously, but I wish I could have taken it serious.

Secondly, I wish I was less lazy. During the two years in America, I was always tired after school. I needed to take a nap almost everyday. I wish I had not been so tired and lazy because I could have been more productive otherwise. I always pushed everything to the last minute, being

risky with assignment due dates. I would recommend the new international students to finish the assignments way before the due date because sometimes I had to go to bed at one or two in the morning, which is very bad.

Lastly, I wish I had not bought so much unnecessary things during my stay in America. When it was time for



me to pack and sort out things, I realized that I had way too many things that I did not need. I had so much clothes, as well as just random things. I would like to recommend new students to only buy things that they are in need of. Otherwise, packing to go back home is going to be a very long and difficult process.

Everyone is different. Everyone shares different experiences from the Private School Program. However, I truly enjoyed the program and I learned so much from it. My host family was amazing, which made my life in America much more enjoyable.



-Misung Park

Fun Experience at Graduation



At high school graduations, family members and friends of the graduates assemble to celebrate the graduate finishing high school. Even the families of international graduates come to celebrate since it is a very formal event. However, most international families do not speak English and they needed a translator to understand what is going on during graduation. I was a translator for a Korean family and it was such a unique experience.

The first event of the ceremony was procession of all the teachers and graduates, which was pretty self explanatory. Then, since our school is a catholic school, prayer was the opening of graduation. I did not have to translate the prayer word for word, I just let the family know what we are praying for. Next, the principal of our school gave a welcome speech and then one of the graduates gave a speech about their class. After that, the president of our school spoke to acknowledge the class of 2019. She



talked about the success and quality of the graduates, and the amount of scholarships they have earned. Then, some service and academic awards were given out, and finally the diplomas were given out. The deans and the president of our school conferred about the diplomas, and then commented on graduation. Finally, the ceremony was closed with a prayer and everyone went out to take pictures.

I translated all the speeches and awards that were given, and I learned that translating is not as easy as I thought it was. It was challenging to think of the exact words to explain the whole speech, but it was fun and I believe that it helped me with my translating skills. It felt great to know that I was able to help a family in a such important event, and I enjoyed it so much that I would totally do it again!

-Jisu Noh



Graduation



Graduation was an overwhelming experience for me because I felt that it happened so quick and fast. On the day of my graduation was my open house (graduation party). It was very fun and exciting. So many people came in to congratulate me with cards and gifts. After the open house, I got to rest for an hour until it was time for me to go to my graduation ceremony. I had to wear a white gown, blue sash, as well as a blue cap. I felt intelligent with them on that night.

For the past two months, my friend and I were dying to know who we would be walking with at the graduation. At the graduation, I walked with a boy I don't really know that well. But it was okay. I walked to my seat calmly with a hint of smile. Everything went smooth except I forgot where to walk after getting off the stage. It was a bit embarrassing in front of so many people, but it was okay.



I feel more responsible now that I have graduated from high school. I feel responsible for the actions I take. I know that this is just the beginning. I will soon be a freshman again, but this time in college. I feel like life is a con-

stant cycle.

I want to encourage the students who are in high school that your graduation is going to come in a blink of an eye. I want to tell them to enjoy high school and have fun. I already miss high school even though I did not like high school that much. Make the best of what you got and be a good student. Make friends who will scream your name at the graduation and embarrass you.

After graduation, I had to say 'good bye' to everyone. Two days after the graduation I was leaving. I felt so good that I had survived two entire year in a foreign country, and made so many good friends. It was sad that I had to leave, but I will see them again some day. Anyways, I am finally graduated!!!

-Misung Park



Last Honors Convocation



a sophomore or a junior! I made top 10% after sophomore year so you are never too late. If I can do it, you can do it.

Having the word "last" always gives me a strange feeling. It gives me the feeling that there are no other upcoming things after this. However, I always try to remind myself that "last" is another word for "start." I'm pretty sure that there will be so many high school seniors out there, who are confused between the big change from high school to college. As one of the seniors who is going through the exact same thing, I want to tell you that

Being recognized by somebody else has always been a special thing to me. Having recognition helped me to challenge myself constantly in many different fields. Among various recognitions that I received from my high school, Honors Convocation was one of the boosters that helped me to push myself all the time.

May 21st, 2019. It was the day of my 3rd high school Honors Convocation. At the same time, it was my last Honors Convocation. I still remember how shocked I was when I received the first invitation letter because I have never heard that our school held the event something like that. This was the incident which taught me a huge lesson: There will be so many recognitions in the future and I will miss them out unless I try my best to search them out. It taught me that I should never have a easy mind that every event will be informed to everyone. Simultaneously, I realized that I should try my best every single moment whether or not there is a recognition.

The award that I got at my first Honors Convocation was Mathletes award. It was for the students who got a good ranking in the Math club com-

petition.

I was happy. However, I was also mad at myself. There were so many different awards from different areas that I was never aware of. Also, there were many other friends who received more than one award. So that day, I set up the new goal for next year's Honors Convocation. The two goals were getting more than one award and to be in the Top 10% of the class. So in my second year of convocation, I received a math award, top 10%, and diocesan scholar award. I was proud of myself and wanted to continue. And I did! On top of these awards, I got a book from one organization.

Okay. I will stop at this point if it sounded like I was bragging about myself the whole time. But I hope you all realize what my true message is in this article. When I got the convocation invitation from my high school, it was already the end of my sophomore year. I was already more than a year behind compared to my friends. If there are students who are coming to the United States as a freshman, make sure you know what's happening in your school. Realizing it at the beginning of your school year will put you ahead of the game. Never give up even if you are



everything will be fine. And most of all, congrats, Seniors!!!

-Jisoo Park

Once a Rhodie, Always a Rhodie



“Rhode Island” What reminds you of when you hear its name? For most of the people, at least from my experience, either thinks it’s an island or never heard of it. 8th grade, having to decide the high school where I would be spending 4 years, I didn’t know where I should go. Thoroughly reading through the brochure and doing tons of researches, I decided that I wanted to go to Rhode Island. Not because it’s where one of the most prestigious ivy league schools Brown University is located, not because it was the last of original thirteen colonies to become a state, but because I have never heard of it. Ironic as it sounds, I wanted to have unique experience in this state that is not popular as California or New York. It turned out that Rhode Island was very accessible to New York and Boston, but I grew to love Rhode Island like my hometown learning and appreciating things from historical Rhode Island.

As a lot of Americans are aware of, Rhode Island is the smallest state in the United States. Its size is approximately 1,212 mi² with 1.057 million of population. To make a size comparison, South Korea is about 32 times bigger than Rhode Island. However, despite its size, Rhode Island is a beautiful state where gorgeous Narragansett beach, prudence island, harbor city Newport, and contemporary capital Providence is located.

You will realize there are a couple of things typical to Rhode Island when you visit or live here; accent, Del’s lemonade, fries with vinegar... I personally believe that I am a very open person toward new things so quickly picked up things that could only be found in Rhode Island. Not many of my age speaks with Rhode Island accent but if you talk to the older generation, you will realize soon enough that they don’t tend to or can’t pronounce “r” sound. I remember the very first time I talked to my host sister’s grandmother. She was talking about how hard

it was to “park” at the mall but I couldn’t understand what she was saying because it sounded like “pak”. I was confused. However, after a couple of months, I was perfectly fine understanding her and realized that this was a Rhode Island accent. Also, Del’s lemonade is something that has to be mentioned when talking about the state. It is more like a New England thing but it is more around specifically in Rhode Island. I have always looked forward to seeing Del’s lemonade cart at the outdoor places because it is simply so good. I will miss having my frozen watermelon lemonade. More it gets close to summer, Del’s lemonade comes to the school athletic events for sale. I remember that I used to get it every day after lacrosse practice. Lastly, I will continue the tradition of having fries with vinegar. Whenever our host family went out to eat and had fries for side, I could see that they pour vinegar to their fries. To be honest, I am not a big fan



of sour things so I hesitated to try it. But now, you will find me looking for vinegar whenever there are fries. If you want to have an authentic Rhode Island experience anywhere, I recommend having fries with vinegar. Trust me, it is very addictive.

These are some of the things I picked up living in Rhode Island. I will definitely miss living in this beautiful state when I will be living in the busy capital of Japan Tokyo for college next year. For any of those who are planning to travel or study abroad, I can proudly recommend Rhode Island will be your perfect match!

–Jiwoo Jeong