I proudly present to you the most splendid event held by the Highline International Student Programs. It was at this time of the year that we invited all Highline students and faculty members to dress up and join us for a glamorous night. The enchanted Winter Dance usually takes place once a year as a semi-formal party that provides food, music, and spectacular decorations. This year, thanks to all the diligent ILSC members and volunteers, we had theme colors of blue, green, and white that created delightful feelings. With the DJ playing music with strong beats, the party started and people gradually crowded onto the dance floor. Boys were in suits and ties, and girls were in dresses and heels.

Before the dance, my female friends and I started putting on our makeup at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon, and then we went for Karaoke. Since putting on makeup took forever, we decided to start partying earlier and look gorgeous for more hours! Even though this is my second time to attend the Winter Dance, the diligently-done decorations still surprised me. At the party, we reunited with some of our friends who transferred from Highline. We also spent time with some friends who we haven’t been together for a while because of the school workload.

Let’s not stop the party yet! Let the night shine all the way until we see the sunlight!
Then, everyone else came to the booth and signed themselves up for the King and Queen competition. We enjoyed the rest of our time dancing, eating, taking pictures, and hanging out with friends. When the time came, my friend went up on the stage to announce the King and Queen. Everyone gathered around the stage and was excited to know who was going to be the year’s King and Queen. Obviously, I was among the crowd listening to the announcement. A Korean guy was announced as the King and he went on the stage to get the crown. He was happy and excited. Then, the Queen’s name was called, “Kady! Please come up on the stage.” I was shocked because I didn’t expect it. While still in shock, I went up on the stage and took my crown. I took lots of photos with my crown and I was very thrilled to be this year’s Queen! I thank the people who voted for me as the Queen and I hope you all enjoyed the Winter Dance. No one can tell what will happen in next year’s Winter Dance so, be prepared to be amazed as 2014’s King or Queen!!

Good luck to you all :))

What a Night!

It was such a memorable night! The 2013 Winter Dance was organized by my awesome ILSC group. I had prepared my mind and body to celebrate this event which was held on Saturday, February 23rd. However, I had forgotten about the Winter Dance event because of my assignments and homework. Fortunately, one of my friends, a member of the ILSC group, invited me to the party. I went to the party with my friends and I still remember what a magical night it was. Everything I saw was spectacular. The decorations were amazingly beautiful and I was most captivated by the staircase decoration. This year’s Winter Dance name was Winter Wonderland and I felt like Alice from Wonderland. As I walked down the stairs, I saw my friends sitting around the tables and enjoying their night. I didn’t wear a causal dress like other girls because I didn’t have time to buy new clothes. So, I decided to wear what I had in my closet. I went to the photo shooting room and took some photos with my friends. Then, I enjoyed the food.

Now, I’m going to tell you the best part of my Winter Dance. After I finished my food, I went to the King and Queen Voting Booth while looking for my friend. I saw her sitting at the voting booth, busy assembling papers. Suddenly, she asked me to sit next to her and persuade people who came to the party to participate in choosing the King and Queen of this year’s Winter Dance. At first, people were shy to sign up for the King and Queen competition. So, I volunteered and signed up for the Queen competition. I took my photo and stuck it on the voting board which was in front of the booth.

Then, everyone else came to the booth and signed themselves up for the King and Queen competition. We enjoyed the rest of our time dancing, eating, taking pictures, and hanging out with friends. When the time came, my friend went up on the stage to announce the King and Queen. Everyone gathered around the stage and was excited to know who was going to be the year’s King and Queen. Obviously, I was among the crowd listening to the announcement. A Korean guy was announced as the King and he went on the stage to get the crown. He was happy and excited. Then, the Queen’s name was called, “Kady! Please come up on the stage.” I was shocked because I didn’t expect it. While still in shock, I went up on the stage and took my crown. I took lots of photos with my crown and I was very thrilled to be this year’s Queen! I thank the people who voted for me as the Queen and I hope you all enjoyed the Winter Dance. No one can tell what will happen in next year’s Winter Dance so, be prepared to be amazed as 2014’s King or Queen!!

Good luck to you all :))
Best You Ever Had

One of the biggest events at Highline is the Winter Dance. I did not graduate from an American high school, so attending Winter Dance was a good chance for me to experience and know what the dance is all about. Everyone who attended the dance was dressed up nicely, and I couldn’t even recognize my friends because they looked so amazing and different from the usual.

This was the second time that I attended the Winter Dance, but I still got great memories and a lot of pictures. A month before the Winter Dance, I wasn’t motivated to attend it because I thought it would be the same as last year. However, my roommates and friends said they were going, so I decided to join them. Before going the dance, it took me long time to prepare myself. I had to put on makeup, set my hair, and dress up nicely. However, it was all worth it! I found myself enjoying the dance and I spent a good time. I am glad that I did not stay at home playing computer games.

The theme for Winter Dance 2013 was “Wonderland” and the dance hall was filled with blue and white balloons and illuminations. It was so pretty and totally different from what I see every day. I think the decorations were elegant and gorgeous, and the Winter Dance is a gathering occasion for everyone to have fun. I hope I can experience and join more American events before I graduate from Highline.

Dance Night

Winter dance!!! The most amazing event I’ve ever been to. What is winter dance? Well, it is just like American prom and a modern dance combined together. There were more than three hundred students who showed up to this event. The Student Union was crowded, full of students, and filled with the echo of DJ music. The foods were delicious and the vanilla ice-cream melted in my mouth. The coldness of the ice-cream was like the snow in the winter wonderland. This year winter dance’s theme was “Winter Wonderland”. Therefore, we decorated the whole Student Union to look like a winter wonderland. We had big mushrooms, Christmas trees, igloo, iceberg, snow, and the aurora borealis. Also, we had a photo booth for students to take memorable pictures. The fun part was getting students to sign up for the king and queen competition. This year’s queen was L Khawn Din (Kady) from Myanmar (Burma) and the king was Jaewon Jang from Korea. They both said it was unexpected and they were really excited. Later on, the DJ played music again and all the students shook their body on the dancing floor. It was a really fun and exciting night. For me, I would like to go to this event again.
Festivals
By Urmi Patel
From India

What is the first image that comes to your mind when you think about Festivals? Holidays, Enjoyment, Foods and Family. India is a land of great diversity. It is described as a land of many religions and many languages; it might well be described as a land of festivals as well. Indians love celebrating. Indians celebrate every little occasion from the harvesting of crops and welcoming the spring or rain, to seeing the full moon lend itself to joyous celebrations splashed with colors, music, folk dances and songs. Even the birthdays of divine beings are celebrated by connecting them with particular festivals.

The Indian calendar is one long procession of festivals. These are as diverse in origin as they are large in number. The homes are neatly decorated, new dresses are worn for every occasion, prayers offered to Gods, and lot of sweets and goodies are cooked. Most of these festivals are common to most parts of India. However, they may be known by different names in different parts of the country. Indian festivals are celebrated according to the solar and lunar calendars. Consequently, dates & months may vary accordingly. Here’s a list of common festivals celebrated all over India: Diwali, Holi, Navratri, Raksha Bandhan, Onam, Christmas, Ramazan Id, etc. Here, I am introducing my favorite ones.

Diwali or Deepawali: This is the happiest of Hindu festivals. Of all the festivals celebrated in India, Diwali is by far the most glamorous and important. It is a festival of lights symbolizing the victory of righteousness and the lifting of spiritual darkness. Countless numbers of lamps are lit at night, giving the impression that the stars have moved down on earth.

Holi: This is one of the most exciting festivals and also the most colorful. It marks the beginning of spring and the end of winter. It is celebrated by people throwing colored water and powder at each other.

Navaratri/Dussehra/Durga Pooja: Navaratri is the Festival of Nine Nights, and it is celebrated in honor of the goddesses Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati. The tenth day, Dussehra, honored the victory of Rama, of the epic Ramayana, over Ravana. In many places, it ends with the burning of huge images of Ravana, celebrating the victory of the good over evil.

Raksha Bandhan: This is the festival of sisters and brothers. It is an integral part of the Hindu family structure whereby a woman ties a “Rakhi” or decorative thread on the wrist of her brother to remind him to protect her if the need arises.
The apparent scientific and neutral characteristics of numbers take on special meanings in different cultures. In many cultures, some numbers are avoided with the belief that they may bring about bad luck while certain other numbers are sought after as they are thought to represent signs of fortune and happiness. The origin of the beliefs in the association between daily life and numbers in a culture may be hard to trace, but the knowledge of such association renders us the chance to have a glimpse into that culture and to be free from offensive mistakes and at least embarrassment interacting with people from a particular culture.

Just as the well-known number thirteen is disliked in most of the Western cultures, the most avoided number in the Chinese culture is the number four. Given the special nature of the Chinese language—not alphabetic but character based, many characters carry multiple meanings in different settings. The number four sounds like death, a homonymic when taken out of context. It is therefore considered an obvious misfortune. In everyday life, people would avoid this number in selecting their room number, addresses, and most notably their telephone numbers and license plates. It affects not only just their daily lives but businesses. The vendors literally lower the prices for cellphone sim cards that contain the number four, and still it is extremely rare to find anyone’s cellphone number with a “four” in it. Even the real estate builders would take away the fourth floor from their design so that the fifth floor is right above the third floor in many high rises in China.

It has to be noted that this widely accepted number association in the Chinese culture used to be confined to the southern region, but has spread to the whole nation, thanks to the dynamic economic development in recent decades. On the flip side, the number eight, which has the homonymic of fa, meaning financial prosperity, has also popped up as being so popular that some city governments have to auction auto license plates containing this number for as much as the equivalent of over U.S. $10,000. Drivers were lining up for the bid.

While the association with the number four has got national recognition in recent past, certain other numbers associated with positivity have existed as long as China’s history. That is the number nine. This number used to be reserved for the emperors throughout the Chinese dynasties. Even as the all-powerful emperor, he had to declare himself as the selected “Son of the Heaven”, to occupy the post of the “Ultimate Ninety-five”. The number five was added to nine to suggest his awe toward the “Heaven” which represented the full power of “one hundred”. Hence the number nine signifies ultimate respect, nobility, and power.

All symbols are culturally relevant. Numbers are only a small part of the picture, and definitely not just for the purpose of counting or calculation. They reflect the richness and diversity of all cultures.
PAST EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Valentine Day's Event

Trampoline Nation