On Feb. 6th, the Office of International Education and Study Abroad had a very special global mixer, the Lunar New Year celebration! This is our first Lunar New Year event at our new office located in BSC. With all the enthusiasm and support from our students, the event was really successful and impressive. During this year’s event, our office tried to make it more fun as well as more educational so that it’s not only for students to play but also learn more about the Lunar New Year culture and meaning. The event started at 12pm and lasted for 2 hours. We filled traditional Chinese Red Envelopes with candies and best wishes to all the students who participated. We prepared the Lunar New Year culture quiz section where students who could answer all the questions correctly would have the chance to win some prizes. Beside quizzes, we could never forget to contain culture pieces like making red lantern, calligraphy, mancala, and fortune telling. This year we also added some new elements such as chopstick game and making new year wishes! Especially the chopstick game, we found out that even though some Asian people use chopsticks every day, they could still fail in this game. Surprisingly, one of our IE instructors successfully defeated one of our international students. We also had every student write down their 2019 new year resolutions and hung it on the “tree” as part of the Japanese culture. All in all, we had large participation and we enjoyed the whole event! It was a great chance to gather all the students who couldn’t make it home at this festival and celebrate together. -Siyi
When the flowers start to bloom, when it’s getting warmer, the sun is shining more often, in Slovakia, we know the celebration of Easter is coming. Slovakia is a Catholic country, so the Catholic celebrations are also national holidays, one of which is Easter. Prior to that, we have 40 days of fasting, starting on the Ash Wednesday with the end on the Good Friday. As any other Slovak holiday, Easter is also connected with the specific dishes, drinks, and habits. We start preparations on Green Thursday when we eat spinach with boiled eggs and boiled potatoes. We attend church every day, Thursday through Monday. After the Saturday mass, we go home and have a big dinner, eating a lot of meat, which we have been avoiding the past 40 days. Tables are full of goodies and families open their houses to friends.

The most interesting activity comes on Monday morning, when boys go out to get girls splashed with cold water and whipped with a little stick made out of tree branches. Girls usually wake up early so that they can hide before guys come. Its purpose is to whip and splash girls so that they remain out of the trouble and behave well during the next year. “Sibacka” is a very old tradition and it will forever remain the day most hated by women and loved by men at the same time.—Matej

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Did you know that the Olympic College Foundation offers a variety of scholarship to support OC students? But you have no idea how to apply for scholarship? No worries. We are here for you to help and we have some tips for winning a college scholarship.

First of all, please make sure to start your application RIGHT NOW. Earlier is always better.

In order to complete your application, you must complete

*Personal and academic statements

*Transcript

*Recommendation letter from a professor who can prove that you are a quality student. (Give them at least 2+weeks to work on it.)

If you have difficulty with writing your essay, OC offers help for writing at the writing center.

Do not wait until the last minute!!

Keeping your GPA higher is also key to get scholarships.

For more information including what scholarships are available, please visit their website (https://olympiccollegefoundation.org/).

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