Stephy Chen

 What are you thankful for this year?

 There is a lot in my life for which I am thankful for including time, opportunities and family. In my life, time is the most valuable thing. Being a very busy person, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to spend time with my family and other loved ones, and how they spend their time to include or to be with me. I feel included, connected, and have the ability to say anything to my loved ones without fear of being judged. I feel like I lose time a lot; it's something I value significantly.

I will always appreciate and be embraced by my family for the rest of my life. I'm so fortunate to have people in my life that are always there to support me. Specifically, my parents have helped me since I was little. I used to be really interested in a lot of various activities when I was younger, like dancing, playing the piano, art, and learning languages like Chinese. They made it possible for me to go after my interests by allowing me to participate in years of dancing, piano, art, and Chinese classes. They assisted me in learning new things and allowed me to accomplish things that few others could at my age. I'm also grateful for my cousins because they are around my age and can always relate to me. They also help me with schoolwork I'm having trouble with and with work I'm unable to complete on my own. I'm incredibly grateful for my family because they make me feel like I never have to face loneliness; they're always there for me whenever I need them.

Time is something I genuinely don't have much of because I have so many interests. Dancing is a passion and a part of my life that I find very important. I compete in the Ballroom Latin dance. Because of the weekly training, I feel like I have to rush through a lot of responsibilities, like homework, projects, and even family dinners. Whenever I get the opportunity to hang out with a friend, a sibling or even just my peers I enjoy it a lot. Time goes so quickly, so I'm making the most of it now since it could disappear in an instant. I'm thankful that my parents taught me how to manage my time, because now I can spend it wisely, and manage it to my full potential.

 I'm extremely thankful for the dance opportunities I have. I've attended many competitions throughout my life. They've taught me a lot, and I've become much better. I will always be grateful for opportunities like that, where I can showcase my dancing on the dance floor. I'm thankful to my teacher for providing me with these chances to push me to give it my all on the dance floor. He gave me more classes and opportunities to work on my dancing when I was younger, and I'm really grateful for that because without him, I wouldn't be where I am now with my success and love of dance. I'm happy when I get to perform my dance in competitions because it's a result of my hard work in the studio practicing for the big day. I've won a 2nd place dance scholarship once at a previous competition, which I've never thought I'd accomplish. Surely dance is my life and passion but it is for a reason. To be able to be in the spotlight and knowing hundreds of people are watching me showcase my dance feels like the heavy nervous weights have been lifted off my shoulders.

In all, there are many aspects of my life that I'm extremely thankful for. I'm thankful for everyone in my life, who's done good for me and supported me throughout everything.