

YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 學 校

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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,

What a year it has been for Yinghua Academy! Nearly two weeks ago I received a phone call from Brenda Casselius, Commissioner of Education for the state of Minnesota.

In fact, she left a message for me to call her office as soon as possible, which quite frankly left me shaking in my shoes. Thankfully, she had great news; she shared with me that Yinghua Academy had been nominated by Minnesota to join the esteemed community of *National Blue Ribbon Schools*, one of only 8 outstanding schools from the state. Schools must rank in the top 15% and have demonstrated consistent excellence. Board Chair Karen Lu, Dr. Lien, and I were ecstatic but we were directed not to share the news until it was official. You can imagine how difficult it was for us to contain our excitement!

On January 21 our nomination as
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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Parents,

Before winter break, I started helping the Academic Department of the Student Life Organization to train our future young leaders. Two particular groups have been working with me.

One is the Tutoring Team and the other is the Reading Buddies Team.

We have been holding weekly meeting and training sessions to discuss how to be a good "tutor" and a good "reading buddy", and talk about how the team members can apply their own learning to help and enrich others' learning experience. I am impressed with how eager our young MS leaders are to help others, and I am equally impressed with their willingness to do the right things and

be supportive. The Tutoring Team and I have worked on being prepared and setting specific goals for each tutoring session. We've also explored several useful tools online and establish the tutors' tones to help them interact with the students who seek their support.

The leader of the Reading Buddies has taken a very pro-active approach to help facilitate our training sessions. One of the team members even listed her ten ideas of training oneself to

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Upcoming Events and Announcements

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Parkway Pizza Day

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Open Enrollment Ends

Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

We have made a minor change with the scheduled February Spirit Days and will be flip-flopping two of the dates. This change was made so that we could celebrate the YA basketball team members while they are still in their season, which makes perfect sense when you think about it.

The new Spirit Day Schedule is as follows:

Friday, February 6 – Spirit Day! Wear your YA Dragon team colors! We'll culminate the day with a student and staff Pep Fest in the gym from 3:00-3:30!

Friday, February 13 – Valentine's Day! No changes here. Still plan on wearing your pink, white, red, and purple to celebrate Saturday's holiday. Many classes will be ending the day with small homeroom Valentine's Day parties too!

Friday, February 20 – Pajama & Crazy Hair Day! Wear your school appropriate sleeping/comfy clothes like onesies, sweats, slippers, flannel pajamas, etc. This day is always a student and staff favorite!

There are always lots of specific questions regarding the clothing expectations for Spirit Days, but not to worry. I will send out more specific guidelines for each individual Spirit Day in the newsletter the Friday before. That means you can expect the guidelines for February 6th in next Friday's newsletter.

So start planning your outfits! It's going to be fun!

Go Dragons!
Jeremy Brewer
Dean of Students

Morning Arrival Procedures

By Dave Madsen

For those who are not in Morning Care, regular morning arrival is from 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM at Door 14 in the southwest corner of the building. Please note that Door 1 is *not* an arrival door and should only be used by students/parents with mobility issues. The only reason students should use Door 1 is if they arrive late (after 8:45 AM). Mary Schultz and I are busy enough in the mornings without having to attend to both doors and shuttle students to their classrooms.

If your student arrives before 8:30 AM, he/she should go to their respective morning care locations, not to the classrooms. Our teachers are busy during the mornings and cannot accommodate students arriving before their scheduled time.

Physical Education Update

By Sarah Totall

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

"WHERE ARE THE CROSS COUNTRY SKIS?" the kids have asked. The skis and MYSL ski trailer are off to another school but you have one more chance to use them this year. The City of Lakes Loppet Ski Festival is January 30-February 1 in Minneapolis. MYSL is sponsoring the FREE SuperCarnival. Ski games for the whole family – but designed especially for children 12 and under. I will be there, volunteering on Saturday from 2:00-5:00pm. Hope to see you there. Copy and paste this link in your browser for more details: goo.gl/1qcCjX

ATHLETICS: Spring Sports

Indoor Soccer Tournament for students in grades 1-5. Saturday March 7, 2015. One day only. Morning session is for grades 1-2 and afternoon session is for grades 3-5. Indoor soccer is a fast pace and fun game for experienced and novice players. All levels are welcome. See the registration form for more details: goo.gl/nNcbvT

Travel Co-ed Volleyball for students in grades 5-8. Season is February 20 - early May. See this registration form for more details: <http://goo.gl/lGhSVv>

Track & Field (in-house) for students in grades 4-8. Season is April 16-June 2 on Mondays and Thursdays. See this registration form for more details: <http://goo.gl/6gYbwr>

Badminton (in-house) for students in grades 4-8. Season is March 24-May 12 on Tuesdays. See this registration form for more details: <http://goo.gl/YHcQbC>

Floor Hockey (in-house) for students in grades 3-8. Season is February 12-March 5 on Thursdays. See this registration form for more details: <http://goo.gl/ftfPSz>





CNY Performances at Bethel University on Saturday, February 28, 2015

By Wynee Igel

The Chinese New Year organizational team has been busy organizing our many activities and several parents are busy sewing, making props, taking photos, etc. Now it's your turn. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Sign up (<http://goo.gl/FCQ64M>) to help with the dress rehearsal at school on Friday, Feb. 27, on performance day at Bethel University on Saturday, Feb. 28, or for some other activity. If they haven't already, teachers will ask for a classroom costume contact to help direct all class volunteers getting ready for their performance, etc.

Also, check your costume requirements. If you haven't already received that information, it should be out soon. We have a summary on our CNY web page, but as always your teacher will have the most current information. We continue to add to and update our CNY page, but you can always contact Wynee Igel at yaca-cny@yinghuaacademy.org with questions.

We still need about 5 more baskets for our ushers to use to hold programs and things at our CNY performances. If you find yourself with unneeded baskets from gifts that are 10 - 12" long, any shape, any type, with a handle to put an arm through, we could use them. Bring them to the Main Office with Wynee's name on it. Thank you!

Curriculum Corner (continued)

be a good reading buddy! The next step is for the Reading Buddies Team members to observe during the grades K-4 reading times and learn the reading aloud skills. Once they've mastered these skills, they will formally go to the classrooms and read to the younger students.

I consider it my privilege to work so closely with our MS leaders, helping them build and apply their knowledge and skills. A Chinese saying “教学相长” reminds us that teaching and learning promote and enhance each other. I am so glad that the students on the Tutoring and Reading Buddies teams will be able to serve others and gain communication and leadership skills. Through this experience, they will also learn the ability to correct themselves for pronunciation and tones, and conduct self reflections to improve their own knowledge. I am very proud of them!

Best,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director

Sue's News (continued)

an *Exemplary High Performing School* was official, as announced in a letter from the United States Department of Education. Work will begin on the twenty-page application, which is due by March 20, 2015. It is our opportunity to tell Yinghua's story. Our efforts will be well worth the recognition that this acknowledgement of excellence will bring for Yinghua. Winners will be announced in September, followed by an awards ceremony in Washington DC in November.

I'll keep you all posted! I am so proud to be a part of this dedicated, hard working, and talented school community.

Gratefully,
Sue Berg
Executive Director



Video Conference with Sister School Students from Inner Mongolia

By Jasmine Lu

Yinghua Academy has a sister school in Inner Mongolia and our Middle School students are chatting with them via Skype after school on 1/15.

It is a great way to practice Chinese with other middle school students from China. Our students used fluent Chinese to chat with their friends and they asked each other questions from the weather to Christmas gifts. They learned from each other and had fun chatting in Chinese. Some of our sister school students practiced their English with our students. So they had a language exchange experience. All of them encouraged one another to put in more effort in learning the second language.

Here is the information about our video conference.

1. It's on a Thursday, 4:50-5:50.
2. The dates are 2/12, 3/12, 4/16, 5/14.
3. Please fill out the permission form first.

2015-2016 Sibling Enrollment for Current Yinghua Families

By Jennifer Olsen

Please remember to submit an application for your incoming Kindergartener by January 30 in order to secure a sibling-preference spot. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Jennifer Olsen, school Registrar, at 612-788-9095 or by email at [jennifer.olsen@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:olsen@yinghuaacademy.org).

Upcoming Family Concert

By Jennifer Olsen

The Chamber Music Society of Minnesota is offering free admission for all K-12 students to their annual Family Concert on Sunday, January 25, 2015 at 4:00PM. The program will feature Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss and works by Kallman, Mozart, and Bach. Our own orchestra teacher, Hsuan-Wen Lin, will be performing in this concert as well!

The concert will be held at Dragseth Auditorium, 4725 South View Lane, Edina. For more information please visit www.chambermusicmn.org.



Parking Restriction Reminder

By Dave Madsen

For all families who use Doors 1 & 2 for drop off and dismissal, please remember that parking within five feet of any and all driveways and alleyways is illegal and will be promptly reported to the City of Minneapolis and towed. As grateful members of the Northeast Park Neighborhood, we want to ensure that our school is not causing any inconvenience for the surrounding homes and businesses in the area.

