



Issue # 15 | Jan. 2015

YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 学 校

Brewer's Blog
See Page 2

PE Update
See Page 4

www.yinghuaacademy.org

(612) 788-9095

newsletter@yinghuaacademy.org

Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,
It's a new year and despite the fact that schools operate on an academic calendar, January brings an opportunity for new opportunities, new goals, and growth in every facet of life for each of us!

This week, after just two weeks away, it seemed the school was pulsing with renewed friendships, appreciation of familiar routines, and excitement for all things new.

As you know, our second graders are new to reading and writing in English. Upon invitation of Mrs. Hoyt, I had the pleasure of spending time with our budding poets. Most importantly, I will tell you that so many were dying to share their work aloud with the class and with me. I loved their comfortable and confident nature, which is a real credit to their teachers, and to you parents, their earliest teachers. Here are just two of these delightful works!

continued on page 3

Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Yinghua Families,
As you may know, we have a sister school, Hohhot Number Eight Middle School, in Inner Mongolia, China. There have been frequent contacts and exchanges between the sister school and Yinghua since the relationship was established in 2011.

I am excited to let you know that we just received word that a delegation from the sister school is coming to visit us in late January/Early February. This will be their third visit to our school.

For the past four years, our Middle School students have been holding monthly video-conferencing meetings and chatting online with their peers from our sister school. In January

2012, the Principal of our sister school led the first delegation to visit Yinghua. Our student group also paid the first visit to Hohhot in June, 2012. Since then, we've visited our sister school two more times, and our sister school friends visited us once again in 2013. Through these visits, we were able to learn a great deal from each other. In particular, they opened the eyes and minds of the students to different cul-

continued on page 3

Upcoming Events and Announcements

1

Informational Kindergarten
Open House for Prospective
Families

Incoming kindergarten families are encouraged to attend from 10:00 to 11:30 AM for a sample immersion class and more information regarding enrollment.

10

15

1

15

15

YACA Meeting (General Membership)

General Membership meetings are held approximately three times throughout the year and are intended for parents or guardians of current students.



Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

Being the first week back after Break, things may seem quiet, but rest assured, we are working hard behind the scenes in Student Life. The big focus is on getting a number of highly anticipated SLO Prefect committees off the ground. Specifically, we are working very hard on Teachers Helpers, Peer Tutors, Reading Buddies, and Big Brother/Big Sister, as well as putting together plans for our ever-popular Spirit Days. The current plan is to again have the Spirit Days in February to help keep everyone's "spirits" up through the challenging month, while also celebrating being a Dragon. We are also working on plans for our one local and one global community service projects for the year. We hope to get those going after the Chinese New Year performance. Stay tuned for more updates as these things take flight!

In addition to the SLO update, I wanted to include a "did you know" section. I hope to do this every couple of weeks or so. The goal is to include a small snippet from the Student & Family Handbook that outlines a specific school policy that parents may not be aware of. For this first entry, I thought I'd mention our personal electronics policies since I've been getting a lot of questions in this area. I have copied a section from page 51-52 that speaks specifically to these devices.

Cell Phones

Personal cell phones may not be used during the school day. Students may not call out or receive incoming messages or phone calls during school hours for any reason. Cell phones seen during the school day will be confiscated by the teacher or administrator and given to the Dean.

Electronic Readers (Kindles, Nooks, etc.)

Electronic readers may be used before and after school, and during Yinghua Care only. During the school day they are to

be kept in lockers. Electronic readers are not allowed in class, unless given specific permission by the teacher for academic purposes only (i.e. – English class, school issued iPads in MS). Electronic readers are not allowed in classrooms during exams.

Personal Gaming Devices

Yinghua Academy does not permit electronic games/personal game players (Gameboys, PSPs, Nintendo DS, etc.) to be brought to school.

Personal Audio Devices (iPods, MP3 Players, CD Players, etc.)

Lower School (Grades K-4) – Students are not allowed to bring personal audio devices to school.*

Middle School (Grades 5-8) – Students may use personal audio devices before and after school only. During the school day they are to be kept in lockers. When in use, volume must be kept at a reasonable level so it does not disturb others.

*Keep in mind that though they aren't specifically mentioned by name, these policies do include personal iPads and tablets which also may not be brought to school by students in grades K-4.

You can find the complete outline of our electronics policies on pages 51-54 in the Handbook. The Handbook is posted on the YA website under the "Current Families" tab.

With that I will wish you all a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Jeremy Brewer
Dean of Students



Sue's News (continued)

I Just Want to Read!
by Edda Bortel-Fielder

I just want to read
That's all I want to do.
I want to read this,
That, too!
I want to have time,
time to read as I please.
I just want to read.
Just leave me alone.
Books need time,
Even one.
I could try to read in quiet peace,
But then peace shatters in thousands of pieces!
When I read,
I don't want to be disturbed.
And I am sure
I always have the urge to read.
When I do,
I am pleased!

A Flying Tiger
by Khalid Hussein

No internet is so sad.
I go outside to play.
Then I go inside to do homework.
I go to run all noon.
I go inside to see some TV.
I go to read.
My mom says to eat a rotten horse.
Then I say no.
Then my dad says to eat or find a wild flying tiger.
I find a wild tiger.
Then I say it's my pet.
I take flight off the ground to fly with my flying tiger.
That's how I became famous!

Beyond admiring the children's creativity, I loved their "can do" attitude. Let us all work hard to capture this approach to life with our kids so that they envision a future with endless possibilities, not just in the new year but everyday!

Bundle up and go cross-country skiing! Your kids know how!

Warm regards,
Sue Berg

Curriculum Corner (continued)

tures and enabled them to use their language and social skills to communicate and make international friends.

The delegation of our sister school's third visit will consist of their Confucius Classroom Coordinator, one teacher/ translator, a college intern student, and twelve Middle School students. Our plan is for the sister school students to spend the day taking classes with our students. Rather than staying at a hotel, the students would very much like to stay with Yinghua families and experience the American home life while they are here. Therefore we are looking for families who are interested and able to provide a private bedroom and a bathroom in their home to host them. The priority will be given to current Middle School families, since our annual Middle School China Trip is coming soon. The families who have hosted sister-school students in the past all had a great experience. In addition to the fun time they had together with the visiting students, they were able to learn about China through the visiting students' eyes and build great friendships. I encourage you to apply to be part of the hosting team and open your arms to welcome our friends from China. Please send me an email directly (luyi.lien@yinghuaacademy.org) by January 14 and I will send the application form.

We look forward to this tremendous opportunity to welcome our friends from afar. Please consider becoming a host family. Thank you, in advance, for helping to create a wonderful Twin Cities experience for our sister school friends.

Stay warm,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director





Physical Education Update

By Sarah Totall and Erin Thune

Even in the chilly temperatures, we are enjoying the cross-country ski unit.

Climbing Wall Update

As of this update, we have 6 of the \$25 hand holds left and 3 of the \$100 mat hook/hand holds left. Help us complete the fund raising by buying a hand hold. Details about the climbing wall and the donation form can be found on the Physical Education webpage.

Family Fun Ski Day

Saturday January 10 at Yinghua from 1-4pm. Come and try out the cross-country skis and enjoy a winter campfire. Variety of kids and adult sizes. Dress warm.

Floor Hockey

Registration is still open for Floor Hockey In-House Grades 3-8. The season runs for 6 weeks starting in February and ending in March. Please visit our "Athletic" webpage to sign-up.

MS Social Studies Update

By Jan Kleinman

Summer Camp Opportunities

The Minnesota Historical Society offers a variety of camps related to history. Check them out at <http://events.mnhs.org/calendar/results.cfm?typeid=22&-bhcp=1>

Social Studies News

Grade 6 is continuing its study of the U.S. Dakota War. This week: What caused the war?

Grade 8 continues its Latin America unit. This week we focus on people and resources of the Amazon rainforest, and how the resources can be used while preserving the forest.

