



### Sue's News

Dear parents,  
Our students have so many ways to demonstrate their learned skills and overall accomplishments! Just this week we were witness to the following display of hard work and talent from across our curriculum:

#### Academic Performances

**First graders** donned sombreros and colorful skirts to dance the cucaracha and share traditions of Mexico. In addition, they proved they were extremely savvy entrepreneurs as early proceeds from the markets they managed were in the \$85 range, which was accomplished in 15 minutes! Each class will enjoy a wonderful year-end party.

**Second graders** took their audiences on a whirlwind trip of Japan; their haiku poetry displayed amidst cherry blossoms helped to set the stage. They have so many "good ideas" and they demonstrated their understanding of simple machines to solve problems in their clever play. The children's mastery of Chinese songs and rhymes was absolutely impressive!

**Third graders** became expert researchers, and they proved their abilities to write about, speak about, and illustrate their findings. For English classes, they each delved into biographies of famous people and made life-size characters to accompany their reports. Take a walk on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and you'll meet up with such folks as Leonardo DaVinci, Walt Disney, Harriet Tubman, Albert Einstein, and more. In Chinese, students reported on Roman civilization, the solar system, the Great Wall of China, how to make dumplings, as well as other curricular topics of interest. On top of this, they created math games!

**Fourth graders** took us on a journey to Africa, for which we needed boarding tickets! Of course, the pyramids and the sphinx were highlights of Egypt and the African safari in Kenya was adventure-filled. Thank goodness when we experienced a blackout in the hotel, the students understood electrical circuitry, and they fixed the problem! In addition, in English they researched US presidents.

**Fifth graders** gave incredibly convincing travel tips for various European countries in their presentations. Their travel brochures included facts about climate, historical points of interest, museums, landmarks, and more; most importantly, they planned trips for every budget. From them, we also learned the most interesting facts about a vast number of Native American tribes based on their research. Their Glogster presentations were well done.

**Sixth graders** looked at various traditions through the eyes of the Chinese and Americans. It was fascinating to "drop in" on a Chinese dinner party and to learn details about seating and manners. In English, the students also wrote radio dramas, which depend on dialogue, music, and sound effects to help the listener imagine the characters and the story.

**Seventh graders** joined forces to write stage plays in English. Personally, I'm dying to read *Summoned which sounds so suspenseful!* Their Chinese/English newscast included up-to-date reporting on local topics such as the new YA addition, as well as world news such as the missing Malaysian Airlines flight and the sinking of the Korean cruise ship.

**Eighth graders** held a spirited bi-lingual debate on the topic of MS girls and make-up. Both sides had convincing arguments for their positions but in the end, the opposing team won. In English they wrote screenplays with such titles as *Call Me* and *Unreality*. They just may give August Wilson a run for his money some day!

All 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders completed science projects for YA's Annual Science Fair.

The first annual **Popsicle Run** was held this week at Yinghua. Students have been in training for this mile run (.5 mile run for the little ones) in PE classes. They and any parents or teachers who joined them were impressive. I was told that the adoring fans with pom-poms and cowbells really helped! This is sure to become a wonderful YA tradition.

On Saturday nearly 100 **YA Music Conservatory students** performed to enthusiastic audiences in four recitals. Did you know that we have students who take lessons on piano, violin, cello, guitar, erhu, trombone, clarinet, flute, and drums at Yinghua? They and their teachers, who also performed beautifully, showed the results of sustained practice and hard work!

Our servers/internet in general and Power Announcement specifically have been giving us fits! We apologize for the inconsistencies and interruptions in communication. Please know that we are doing everything in our power to fix the problems; meanwhile, if you feel you're missing something that others know about, please contact us. Some of you have already done so and this has been helpful.

Only three weeks of school left! Mark your calendars for the Honors Convocation and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation on Thursday, June 5, at 1:30PM. We are crossing our fingers with hopes that we will christen our new Cafeteria Commons with this inaugural event. Students in grades 4-8 will participate in recognizing outstanding achievement in each curricular area and in cheering our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates.

That's a lot, I know!

Warm regards,  
Sue Berg  
Executive Director

### Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Parents,

Thank you for coming to the Academic Performance and celebrating our students' academic success with us. I am so proud of all our students' accomplishments and our teachers' tremendous hard work. Your enthusiasm and support are greatly appreciated.

We are at the count-down stage of our academic year, busy preparing to wrap up this term and planning for summer camps. We also took time to connect with the Chinese language teaching community by participating in two out-of-state conferences: on May 1-3, we were in Austin, TX for the STARTALK Spring Conference and on May 8-10 in Los Angeles for the National Chinese Language Conference (NCLC). At both conferences we were able to learn updated research information and practical teaching strategies, exchange stimulating dialogues with language practitioners about critical issues, and collectively find solutions and form collaboration with field experts.

At the NCLC, I was proud to represent Yinghua Academy and co-presented at three sessions by collaborating with two other Chinese immersion schools, Chinese American International School in San Francisco and YuYing Chinese Immersion Charter Public School in Washington D.C. For the topic "Coast-to-Coast Practical Teacher Training Programs for Immersion", we shared our teacher training ideas and plans, and demonstrated how we create a community where every teacher shares his/her wisdom for planning and teaching, and how we view teachers as critical roles for school and students success.

For the topic "Lift Language Proficiency through Data Collection and Intentionally Planned Instruction", we shared with the audience how we use data to guide our instruction, curriculum and assessment. We also discussed what the cultural goals, academic content goals and Chinese and English language goals are in our schools, where we set the reasonable goals to lift our students' proficiency levels and plan our work step by step, because we know only when we carefully follow each step, work on each steps, we can have solid results that will take us to the next levels.

The third session "Leave the Politics, Bring on the Engagement: Engaging Parents to Advocate for Your Mandarin Language Program", to which Mrs. Berg was also invited, was a panel discussion where we listened to other schools' stories on how they engaged parents to support teaching and learning. We talked about how Yinghua's Board and parent organization are devoted to create a strong school and a supportive community.

In addition to the three co-presentations, Mrs. Berg and I also spoke to the topic "Keeping Students Actively Engaged: the Power of Direct Teaching in K-8 Chinese Immersion Classrooms" where we addressed and promoted our teaching strategies that focus on "teacher direct and students engaged" methods, and how we implement "teach, practice, and check" as a cycle to make sure EACH student learns.

By sharing our experience with others, we not only help their programs improve, but also have an opportunity to examine our own to make certain we are on the right path of our immersion journey.

Enjoy the weekend!  
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.  
Academic Director

## Brewer's Blog

Hello Parents,

I have a few quick things to talk about this week, and it's not the weather! Hurray!

First, we wanted to let you know that we are still experiencing some technical difficulties with Power Announcement. We had been told that it had been fixed, but learned this week that there are still some issues. We are working directly with the software company to get it back up and running ASAP. It's the end of the school year and there is a lot going on that we need to keep families abreast of. Until Power Announcement is fixed, we are going to go back to our old method of emailing everyone. This method is not as sophisticated as PA so you may receive emails from us even though you requested not to. We appreciate your patience with that as we work to get PA fixed.

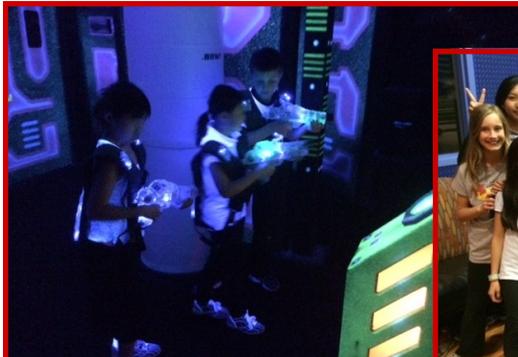
Second, I wanted to send out the first letter regarding the 2014 Middle School Retreat. The retreat will be next September and will include all students in grades 5-8. I know it may seem like a long way off, but it will come up fast. In addition, I know that many families travel throughout the summer and others like to have more lead time so they can prepare. That being the case, I've attached the first [Retreat Letter](#), along with a [Registration Form](#) and [Health Form](#) to this newsletter. Please be sure to review this very important information.

Third, and last, I have attached some pictures of the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity Night from a couple weeks ago. The bowling/laser tag party was a ton of fun and students are already asking me when we can go again! Thank you for allowing me the privilege of taking your kids to this event. It's always a blast! Check out the pics so you can get a taste of the fun!

Thanks and have a wonderful weekend!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, & Students



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

**Popsicle Run:** The weather was great, the kids did well, the fans were loud and the volunteers were helpful. Thank you volunteers. There were a few glitches but overall the first annual Popsicle Run went very well. Many students improved upon their fall mile time. Lots of Personal Records (PR) and many new school/grade level records. School Mile record: Boys 7:16 Samuel Hoyt, Nicholas Lutkauskas & Mateo Castro; Girls 7:29 Jia Griffiths.

**WHEELS WEEK MAY 19-23:** Everyone in Grades 1-8 needs a HELMET. Lock bikes up at the playground bike rack.

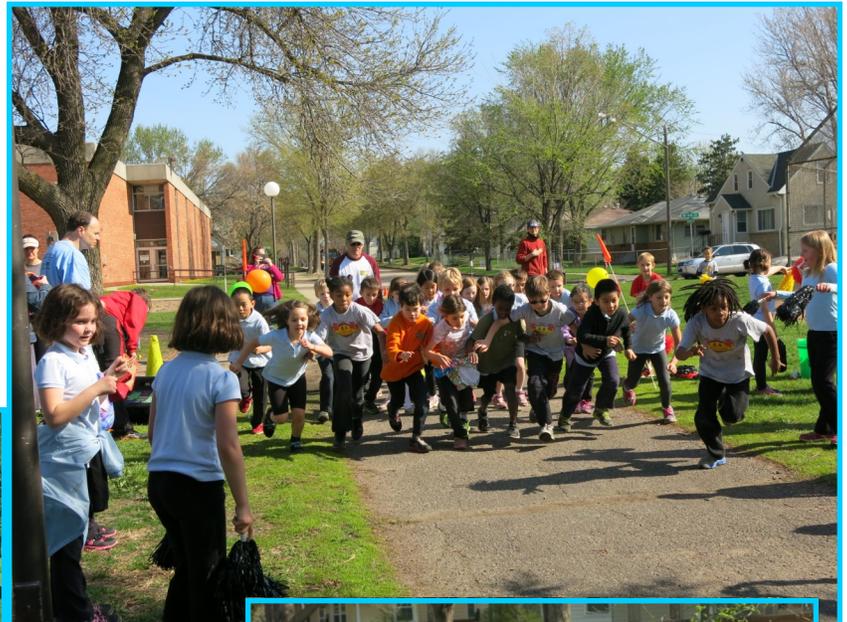
\*All students will learn about wheel safety (rules of the road) and gear safety.

**Scooters:** Grades 1-2 will be using scooters. 1A & B will use scooters on Tuesday, 1C & D will use scooters on Wednesday. 2B & C will use scooters on Wednesday. 2A & D on Friday. All students need a helmet. If your child has a scooter you can send it on their scooter day. On the day the students don't use the scooters they will learn about pedestrian safety.

**Wheels:** Grades 3-6 are encouraged to bring in a bike, in-line skates, skateboard, scooter or unicycle. If you bring a bike lock it up at the playground bike rack. Skate boards and in-line skates must have wrist guards.

**Scooter Fun:** Grades 7-8 Monday and Friday. Due to lack of storage space students are encouraged to bring a scooter, skates, skate board, unicycles... Bikes are welcome but remember to bring a lock and only bring it in for the day. Skate boards and in-line skates must have wrist guards.

FYI: The number one injury of skateboards and skates is wrist injuries. Remember to have wrist guards if your child is bringing skates or a skateboard.



Please join us for the final S.E.A.C. meeting of the year and elections Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 4:15-6:00pm!

The Special Education Advisory Council of Yinghua Academy, also known as the Yinghua Academy SEAC has as its mission:

To provide input into the decision-making process of the special education department, provide a communication link with the community at large, advocate for high-quality educational programs for all learners, and assure the implementation of Yinghua Academy's and Special Education's mission to all students attending Yinghua Academy.

This advisory council meets 3 times per year and is an opportunity for parents of students with special needs to connect with each other and provide feedback to the special education department and administration about special education services at Yinghua Academy. You do not have to be a member to attend, but the council is looking for new members, especially members of younger students receiving special education services at Yinghua Academy, to carry on leadership in the coming years. Please see attached flier and visit the Special Education link on Yinghua's website under the "current families" tab for more information.

### Enrichment, music lessons finished for the school year!

Spring term enrichment classes and music lessons ended today (Friday, May 16). Three enrichment classes have make-up classes next week: Mad Science (Tues.), Get Ready for Reading (Thurs.) and Spring Adventures K-1st (Thurs.). If your student is in one of these classes, you are already registered for Aftercare on the make-up day.

Music lessons are also complete unless your teacher has contacted you about a make-up lesson. If you have a make-up lesson, please contact the office or [libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org) so that we can add you to the Aftercare roster on your make-up day. In addition, Spring Adventures 2nd-3rd has an OPTIONAL extra class on Monday, May 19.

### School Lunch order forms reminder for Grade 1-8

June menus and order forms were distributed to your student on Tuesday, May 13. If your student has not returned it, please remind them to return the order form by Monday, May 19. *Check/cash must be submitted with each order for each student. Families using ACH must check the appropriate box on the order form.* **Order forms without a name will not be accepted.** Please find more lunch information and extra order forms at <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/currentfamilies/school-lunch-menu/> **Attention: we will not be accepting late orders.**

Thank you for your cooperation. (Helen Hindrawati, Food Service Coordinator)

### Summer Reading Club through the U of M Confucius Institute

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota is offering a Chinese summer reading club (暑期阅读夏令营) specifically for Chinese immersion students. Two four-week sessions will be offered. Chinese immersion students ready to enter grades 1 through 5 are invited to join a club designed especially for immersion students where learning is fun! Students will read 1-2 Chinese books each day and participate in activities focused on the readings. See the website: [http://confucius.umn.edu/forms/2014\\_reading\\_club.php](http://confucius.umn.edu/forms/2014_reading_club.php).



4B visits the Senate Chamber of the MN State Capitol

### Books for Summer!

Reading throughout the summer helps maintain your child's reading skills, and prepares him/her for the upcoming school year. Scholastic books are available for purchase at [scholastic.com/readingclub](http://scholastic.com/readingclub) (online code H7DQZ) and from paper flyers that can be found in take-home folders in grades 1-3 or the main office. Your purchase helps provide classroom books for Yinghua students. Orders are due FRIDAY, MAY 23 to ensure delivery before the last day of school. This is a great time to stock up on books for the summer! Please contact Kimberly Gill ([kimberly.gill@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:kimberly.gill@yinghuaacademy.org)) if you have any questions.

### Reminder! PLEASE JOIN US

Next Tuesday May 20 at 6:30 PM  
in the cafeteria  
for the School Board's  
ANNUAL MEETING

Candidate Speeches  
Finance Update  
Facilities Update  
Parent Survey Summary

### Board Election Ballots

Board Election Voting will be open from Friday, May 16 through Friday, May 23 at 6:00 PM. Ballots may be submitted by email, in person, or by U.S. Mail (see attached documents for details). If you have any questions, please email [ballot2014@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:ballot2014@yinghuaacademy.org).

### UPCOMING DATES

<b>May 17</b>	Music Conservatory Recital
<b>May 19</b> 6:00PM-8:00PM	School Board Meeting
<b>May 20</b> 6:30PM	School Board's Annual Meeting
<b>May 26</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> Memorial Day
<b>May 29 - June 4</b>	End of the Year Exams
<b>May 30</b> 2:00PM	KG Academic Performances (at Kinder Campus)

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

### Chinese Language Arts

This Thursday, May 22, we will have the last video conference with the sister school from China. All 6th—8th graders are welcome to join the last skype conference with our Chinese friends!

**Time:** 5:40-6:30pm  
**Location:** 202 and 209

### Play about history and music!

For all the musicians in the Yinghua community, the [History Theater is staging \*The Working Boys Band\*](#), a musical show. For the next 3 weekends, this show about children musicians almost 100 years ago is available for your entertainment. Check it out!