

Sue's News

Dear parents,

Happy New Year! Although we were up against frigidly cold weather outside, we are fired up for 2014! Before we know it, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year. Be certain that you are aware that the performance at Bethel University is on Friday, January 31, at 6:00PM. The change in the date, which was initially communicated in November and many times since, (February 7 on the school calendar) was necessitated by the availability of the venue. In addition, the "no school" holiday is Monday, February 3.

We have just hosted an extremely robust Kindergarten Open House for parents and prospective kindergartners at our Kinder Campus. Sixty-five children and their families joined us for a Saturday morning Yinghua "live" experience, and it was lively! Open enrollment began on January 6 and runs through January 31. Already, as of yesterday we had 64 applicants, 19 of which are siblings, and today we received 25 more applications. We are thrilled! Please spread the word about Yinghua and encourage neighbors, work colleagues, and friends to consider a world class education for their children. In our eighth year, we are proud of our successes and yet we are constantly striving to improve and fine tune the Yinghua experience. Our alumni and their families continue to provide important feedback. Again and again, we learn that our graduates are thriving and excelling, no matter which high school they now attend. From Minnetonka and Wayzata in the western suburbs to city schools in Minneapolis and St. Paul to private schools such as DeLaSalle, our students are prepared in all subject areas, and more importantly, in life!

This week I was amazed by the creativity of our 4th graders. Over winter break one of their homework assignments was to build a model of the heart and the circulatory system. The variety of unique approaches to this assignment is impressive. Check out these photographs and you will see what I mean!



Get out and bask in the "warmth" of this weekend's winter weather!

Sue Berg
Executive Director

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Families,

I trust you had an enjoyable and relaxing winter break, plus two extra bonus days. As for all of us at Yinghua, we all came back refreshed and ready to face new challenges in 2014!

This week I would like to highlight two exciting events for the upcoming months. On January 31 at 6:00PM, we will celebrate the Chinese New Year as a big family. Our students and teachers in grades K through 8 will put on a magnificent performance for the community at Benson Great Hall at Bethel University. I have recruited help from teachers and families who traveled to China over the winter break and entrusted them with the tasks of selecting, purchasing, and transporting costumes and props for the performance. Naturally, our curriculum around this time of year will be focused on the meaning and the traditions of the Chinese New Year. As many of you know, this is the most important holiday for the Chinese people: it is a time to be with family and have a harmonious and auspicious new beginning.

Our annual Middle School China Trip will take place over spring break this year. We are working closely with the Confucius Institute to seek sponsorship from Hanban. If granted, it will drastically reduce our travel expenses and make the trip more affordable. We are also coordinating with our sister school in Inner Mongolia to make detailed arrangements for our visit. Close to 20 students sent in their applications for this trip. These students had to seriously think about why they wanted to go on this trip and how they planned to contribute to the travel group, and write a personal statement. From reading their answers, these students are taking the responsibility for their learning! I am very proud of them! I look forward to travelling with them, showing them the culture and the people they have been learning about in books, and proving to them that they CAN use their language skills to make new friends and have fun!

I will be introducing other exciting curriculum-related events in future Newsletters. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Enjoy the warmer weather, relatively speaking!

Sincerely,

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director

Brewer's Blog

Hello Parents and Welcome Back!

Now that the cold snap has passed and school is back in session, we thought it would be a good time to go over some arrival & dismissal reminders. With the winter snow narrowing our streets, we have a few concerns we need to address in order to make sure that everything goes as efficiently as possible for all.

- **Routing Traffic South On Buchanan** – The streets are now too narrow to allow vehicles to pass each other when they are going the opposite direction; especially when one of them is a school bus! So, starting Monday, January 13, during arrival/dismissal we will be going back to routing traffic south on Buchanan and around 16th to north on Lincoln, at least until all 5 buses have arrived each day. Please follow the instructions of the staff person directing traffic at the intersection of 17th & Buchanan. They often have an understanding and perspective of what is going on down the street with buses and traffic that you will not. Your cooperation and understanding in this area is greatly appreciated!

- o **Please Note** - If there isn't anyone directing traffic (things do come up that pull us away from time to time) please error on the side of caution and head south on Buchanan so you don't accidentally run headlong into a school bus.

- **Enter On Pierce Only** – In addition to the point above, we remind parents to not enter the neighborhood from any street other than Pierce. With the narrow winter streets, it is more important than ever that we keep our arrival and dismissal traffic flowing in the same direction. Recently, we have had more and more parents coming up Buchanan from the south via Lincoln. This causes major traffic issues, especially when the buses are arriving. Please remember to only approach on Pierce.

- **Entering the Building/Going Into Carpool/Single Rider Hallway** – One of the factors delaying dismissal is when parents come into the building or enter the Carpool or Single Rider hallways to find their children. This distracts the dismissal staff so they are not able to hear the numbers/names as they are called over the walkies. It also creates congestion and added distraction for the students who are waiting to be released. This is why we ask that parents do not enter the building to retrieve their children unless absolutely necessary.

- o **Please Note** - If you do need to walk into the building to retrieve your children from the Carpool/Single Rider hallways, please only use the Main Entrance and go directly to the office. Then, tell the receptionist that you are picking up your child(ren) and need your number/name called. They will use their walkie to contact dismissal staff and have your child(ren) sent to you.

- **Leaving Parked Cars on School Side Curb** – Please do not leave your vehicles unattended on the school side curb during dismissal. This blocks traffic and delays everyone. If you have been waiting for more than 10 minutes, please do not get out of your vehicle and approach the building. Instead, we ask that you call the Main Office and ask them to repeat your number. In addition, we will usually have a staff member on the sidewalk near door 5. If you have been waiting for a while, please alert that staff member and they will call your number again and help track down your child(ren).

Thank you all in advance for your continued cooperation. Following the procedures above will ensure that dismissal goes as smoothly as possible for everyone.

Thanks again and have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Jeremy Brewer
Director of Students, Family, and Community

Spelling Bee

The Spelling Bee will be on Tuesday, January 21st, during 7th period (2:36-3:21) in the school cafeteria. The middle school students will be attending to cheer on their peers--very quietly, of course--who will be competing to be the one student that will, hopefully, go on to the district finals. Yinghua Academy's winner will have to take an online test to proceed to the district finals. It should be a good spelling bee!

UPCOMING DATES

January 13	
6:00PM—8:00PM	School Board Meeting
January 16	
9:30AM-10:30AM	School Tour
January 20	
	<i>NO SCHOOL</i> Martin Luther King Day
January 23	
9:30-10:30AM	School Tour

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Social Studies

Grade 7 students are completing their study of Reconstruction this week-end with a writing assignment. In class we talked about how many problems remained unresolved. [Slavery by Another Name is a movie you and your middle schooler may want to view together.](#) Based on an award-winning book of the same name, this documentary explores the experiences of African-Americans long after Reconstruction ended. Lots of material for family, and national, discussion.

Grade 6 students are studying the causes of the U.S. Dakota War. Ask your student about it! How does s/he think the war might have been avoided? Was any compromise possible? [Here is a website with more information.](#)

Media Studies

Grade 5 students are practicing typing both in English and Chinese by playing FUN games. They may ask you for a "computer pass" to practice at home. Let's witness our little typers' growth!

Chinese Language Art

The first Yinghua middle school speech contest has had a big success. The judges, Dr. Lien and Middle School Chinese teachers, were pretty impressed by participants' clear thinking and speaking, outstanding performance, and of course their high proficiency in Chinese. Thanks to all of the Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 7 and Grade 8 students' excellent job and teachers' hard work! We look forward to the next speech contest.

Congratulations to the winners!

The 5th grade speech contest

五年级演讲比赛

First place	白小李	Selia Buchl	惜静	Clare Wilcox	杨白龙	Paimloom Yang
Second place	艾晓雅	Sonja Erickson	林凯莉	Catherine McBride	贝华	Meili Burt
Third place	柏安雅	Victoria Pikel	民如俏	Grace Olsen	包丽安	Liliana Boyd

The 6th grade speech contest

六年级演讲比赛

1st place	冰冰	Jade Bing Zalaznik
2nd place	宋美珊	Jenna Chuong
3rd place	雷丽丽	Josephine Lacy

The 7th grade speech contest

七年级演讲比赛

1st place	朱禹瑾	Ashley Chu
2nd place	陈爱恩	Claire Burns
3rd place	汪爱朗	Alexandria Vang

The 8th grade speech contest

八年级演讲比赛

1st place	朱禹臻	Fisher Chu
2nd place	林婉芳	Zoe Lindberg
3rd place	蕲福景	Elizabeth Bender