



Sue's News

Dear parents,

Minnesota weather has demanded our attention yet again! For the fifth time this year, it has caused us to close school, a decision that is agonizing for us all! The forecast, the severity of actual conditions in some circumstances, and the potential consequences for school kids and their families' safety are all taken into consideration. In addition, we abide by the Governor's rare directive and have been guided by the decisions of other school districts, particularly Minneapolis and St. Paul.

As we look forward to next week, although it is expected to be very cold again, we anticipate that we will have school; at least without a crystal ball, that is our desire and our intention! Whereas in past, we felt committed by the information on our website that stated that we "follow the Minneapolis Public Schools regarding snow procedures", as an independent school district we will make our own decisions regarding school closure moving forward. I understand that even as I write this on Friday night, schools are already announcing Monday's closing. Oh, dear! We will communicate with you via Power School, the website, Facebook, and WCCO in a timely manner.

Finally, if we have school, we will leave the decision as to whether or not your child will attend up to you. We will count the absence as excused should you decide to keep your child home for safety's sake. Once the children are in school, they will be safe and warm; even though we wouldn't plan to go outside, complete winter gear is critical. As an added precaution on our end, Mr. Brewer has renewed our emergency plan with the armory across the park should we need to evacuate the building. Together let us take every precaution.

Excitement for Chinese New Year is in the air! We look forward to sharing the talents of our students with you next Friday evening at 6:00PM at Benson Great Hall on the campus of Bethel University. Tickets are a hot commodity, according to YACA Cultural Chair Wynnee Igel!

Also, open enrollment ends on Friday, January 31, at 5:00PM. Remember that you must fill an application for each new prospective student, although siblings have preference. Already we have well over 150 applicants!

Thanks, in advance, for your patience, understanding, and partnership as we navigate this unusually cold weather.

Best,
Sue Berg
Executive Director

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Yinghua Families,

Warm greetings to all Yinghua families and friends! Happy Chinese New Year!

Chinese New Year is a time for family get-togethers. It is also a time to pass on important family traditions and stories. At Yinghua, we have come together and formed a new family where we celebrate the Chinese New Year in a special way that makes all of us joyful.

In Chinese-speaking regions, starting in the middle of the twelfth month on the lunar calendar, families begin preparing for the New Year, creating an atmosphere of joy and renewal. Families spend a great deal of time cleaning the whole house to remove the old and welcome the new. At Yinghua, we have discussed the meaning of this practice and designated a time on Wednesday, January 29 for this activity and prepare the whole school for a new beginning.

Traditionally, families also hang red paper couplets on panels of exterior doors. At Yinghua, the main office area and classrooms will be decorated with festive objects, many of them made by teachers and students.

On New Year's Eve, which falls on January 30 this year, the whole family gathers together to have a sumptuous dinner. At the end of the meal, parents and elders hand out New Year money (red envelopes) to children and wish them luck, health and good grades (of course). At Yinghua, the students and staff will have a light dinner together on January 31 at Bethel University before the performance. The red envelopes (filled with gold chocolate coins) will be handed out to students on New Year's Eve, January 30.

The Chinese people value prosperity and good luck, so anything that can help bring these elements into the celebration is important. On February 4, we will have a special dumpling treat for all the staff and students. The shape of the dumplings resembles old Chinese gold ingots so eating lots of them during the New Year brings good fortune. On February 5, we will pass out apples and oranges to our students. Their peace and luck sounding names in Chinese ("ping and ji") make them the perfect symbols for the New Year.

During the Chinese New Year, people typically wear new clothes from head to toe to hope for a fresh start in the New Year. People often visit friends and relatives to wish them a Happy New Year. At Yinghua, students learned cultural programs to perform for the parent community; they also learned many auspicious phrases which will be incorporated throughout the performance. I hope you will be able to come to the performance on Friday, January 31 at Bethel University and ring in the Year of the Horse with us!

Sincerely,

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director

Spring Enrichment Registration begins February 7!

In order to make sure families have their spring enrichment schedules in hand prior to registering for March Aftercare, the registration period will be February 7 to February 14. This is three weeks earlier than the school calendar originally listed. Classes will begin as planned the week of March 24. Watch for the class catalog to be online on Friday, February 7. Get your registrations in on time or you'll miss out on some fabulous programming!

Annual Food Service Fundraising Event

The Annual Food Service Fundraising event is on Friday, February 7. Please remember to turn in the order form by January 31. Thank you.

UPCOMING DATES

January 27 6:00PM	Personnel Committee Meeting
January 30 9:30AM-10:30AM	Chinese New Year begins (Year of the Horse) School Tour
January 31 5:00PM 6:00PM	Open Enrollment Ends Chinese New Year Performance
February 3	NO SCHOOL <i>Chinese New Year Holiday</i>
February 4 6:00PM	2014-2015 Enrollment Lottery
February 5 6:30PM	YACA Board Meeting
February 6	3rd Grade Field Trip
February 7 8:30AM-10:00AM	First Friday Coffee @Sip Coffeebar

Spelling Bee

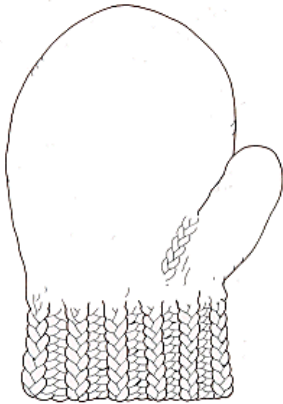
Congratulations to Jade Bing Zalaznik for winning Yinghua Academy's spelling bee! It was a great spelling bee and came down to Bing, Noah Qiu, Mary McDonald, and 3rd grader--getting some practice for future spelling bees--Peter Clementson. These four students had moved beyond the study list, breezing through words like "portmanteau" and "isochronous" and "sotto voce." Bing now moves on to the next round, which involves a spelling test done on computer. Should she do well enough on the test, she will compete in the district finals at Augsburg College against forty-nine other students. Great job to all the students who took part in the spelling bee!



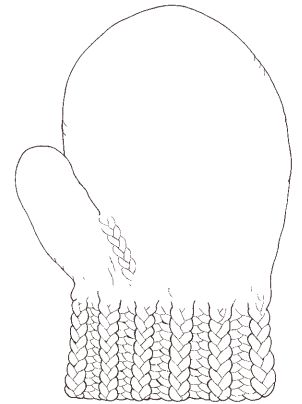
Stay warm this weekend!

Here is the story from Christine Sikorski, who inquired about parents nominating kids for Golden Tickets! It is a very heartwarming story that relays evidence of our kids, specifically Arjuna Herbst, and extraordinary behavior.

Arjuna, Mitten Finder



On Tuesday evening, Julia was excited to see that her new boots and mittens had arrived. Mommy had found a sale on winter gear, and now a pair of warm blue boots and a pair of soft white mittens were here, in her room! Julia liked the boots, but she loved the mittens, even though, when she chose the color, Mommy had asked, "White? Are you sure?" She was sure. She put them on right away. White, with gray palms. She was a panda!



On Wednesday morning, Julia was happy to get ready for school. She pulled on her boots, jacket, hat, and, hooray! her new white mittens. Off to school, to a day filled with work and fun. How good Julia felt wearing those mittens while cross country skiing for the very first time.

After school, Mommy came to pick Julia up because it was Wednesday, flute lesson day. She said hello to Mommy, but with worry in her voice. Where was her other white mitten? She had found one in her locker, where it belonged. Where was the other? She knew she'd brought both mittens in from recess. Mommy helped her look: in her locker, in the empty locker below hers, in every pocket of her coat, snow pants, and back pack. How could she have lost one of her beautiful white mittens? And on the first day she'd worn them?



Mommy suggested they look in Lost and Found. When they got to the racks and boxes, they saw a boy rummaging through the mittens and hats. "Have you seen a white mitten in there?" Mommy asked the boy.

"No," he replied. He resumed his rummaging. Then he asked, "What does it look like?" Julia held up the remaining mitten. "Oh," he said. "I think I saw that on the floor."

He stood and asked them to follow him. As they walked, the boy turned his head every few steps, checking to see that Julia and Mommy were still behind him. Past the children sitting in the hall waiting for their rides, past the office and the doors to the cold outside, around the corner, past Julia's locker, among the groups of children laughing and jostling, the boy would turn his face to them. Finally, he stopped, bent down, and stood, holding the beautiful white mitten in his hand.

Julia and Mommy looked at each other with wide eyes, then turned their laughing faces to the boy, who handed Julia the mitten. They thanked him with great happiness. "What is your name?" asked Mommy. "Arjuna," said the boy.

Beautiful name, thought Mommy. Beautiful boy.

Ah, thought Julia, my beautiful mittens! And she pulled them both on, smiling.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Math Club

CNY is coming up!! We are very excited for this day. The Friday math club will start again on 2/7. We will continue with the introduction and preparation of Yinghua Math Master when we return.

YINGHUA ATHLETICS FOR GRADES 5-8

Volleyball Team: The volleyball season is just around the corner. The first practice will be February 18. We hope to get enough players for two teams this year. Check out the registration form for more details. Go Dragons.

Questions? Contact Sarah Total.
sarahtotal@yinghuaacademy.org

Grade 7 in Transition

This week is the final week of grade 7 Social Studies in English. Starting next week, grade 7 will receive Social Studies instruction in Chinese! The new teacher is Li Laoshi, one of our visiting teachers from China. She can be contacted at ying.li@yinghuaacademy.org

The final project for this half of Social Studies will be due on Wednesday, January 29. Students are creating a paper or a presentation about their chosen World War II person. The goals include learning how to research and learning about an unusual, influential person. Students are instructed to ask an adult (or older sibling) for proofreading help. Thank you in advance for gently indicating spelling, capitalization, punctuation or grammar errors.



Chinese New Year

The middle school students have been practicing for the CNY performance. We are trying our best to prepare for the show with the limited time and space. On the way to rock the stage! Check out the pictures here and on the next page.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Continued...

