



### **Sue's News**

Dear parents,

What a special time of year this is at Yinghua Academy! There aren't adequate words to fully describe the awe and wonder that I felt after witnessing the Chinese New Year Performance by our students at Benson Great Hall on the campus of Bethel University. The children were so polished, so poised, and so proud to be presenting the Chinese language and culture in narration, song, drama, and dance. In particular, I was amazed by the Middle School students who demonstrated such a high level of accomplishment and performed with such apparent ease and confidence. Kudos to Dr. Lien, who is really the master architect of the show; she weaves together the ideas and contributions of our talented teachers to showcase our students! In addition, this year we are grateful to Wynne Igel, YACA Cultural Chair, and her team of volunteers who invested priceless time and effort to make such a high caliber production possible.

Recently, I was in New York City to serve on an advisory committee of national leaders in the field of Chinese language, world languages, immersion, and early childhood education. I was honored to be invited to join this auspicious group, the Chinese Early Language and Immersion Network (CELIN), which will be housed at Asia Society. The goal of this initiative will be to work together with practitioners, researchers, policy makers, parents, and advocates for language learning to support the growth and sustainability of Chinese early language and immersion programs. It is certainly Yinghua's fine reputation and the hard work of each and every person who has contributed to the school's success that allowed this opportunity. To sit at a round table with experts from across the US who represent preschool through higher education programs was a treat! Needless to say, I look forward to our work together.

Believe it or not, we do have school on Monday! No holiday, as per the master calendar, and no day off for cold weather, we hope! It is just four weeks until spring break and we have work to do!

Enjoy!

Sue Berg  
Executive Director

### **Luyi's Curriculum Corner**

Dear Families,

We have had a fabulous Chinese New Year celebration starting with last week's whole school clean-up, red envelopes filled with golden chocolate coins for the students, and the fabulous Chinese New Year performance at Bethel University. This week we ate dumplings for good fortune and handed out apples and oranges for peace and luck. The staff will also have dinner together as a family on Friday evening at the Confucius Institute. We are grateful to YACA for this generous gift!

So many of our New Year activities center around the family theme. I love how we all converged at Yinghua and created this strong and beautiful family, having the same goals and heading in the same direction. Together we educate our students to become bi-lingual, bi-literate, and open-minded with global perspectives. I hope in the New Year, we continue to remember what motivates us, acknowledge what we've accomplished thus far, and recommit to our goals.

At the beginning of a New Year, it is a good time for us all to review our school's mission to remind ourselves of the purpose of Yinghua's existence:

*The mission of Yinghua Academy is to prepare our students to be engaged and productive global citizens by providing a research-based educational program that includes a rigorous academic program, immersion in Chinese language and culture, and a nurturing and supportive school environment.*

We all remind ourselves to think about these questions:

- Did I notice the needs of the whole child? Did I address them and advocate for others to join me?
- Did I provide the rigorous academic program, immersion in Chinese language and culture to our students?
- Did I act as a global citizen by learning from best practices around the world, and did I work to ensure our students have the 21st century skills necessary to thrive?
- Did we provide a nurturing and supportive school environment to our students?

Through constant reflection and living with the mission, we stay true to our purpose. I invite you to join me on this path in the New Year. Have a prosperous Year of the Horse!

Sincerely,  
Luyi Lien, Ph.D  
Academic Director

## Brewer's Blog

Greetings Parents!

Well, Chinese New Year celebrations are coming to an end. The show was wonderful and the students did amazing! Now, as we settle back into our normal routines, Mrs. Berg and I thought we would address a question that has come up a couple of times over the last few weeks.

The question is two-fold regarding student internet use; specifically, are students allowed to view *YouTube* and play the game *Mine Craft* while at school?

**YouTube** – YA does not block *YouTube*. *YouTube* currently ranks number 2 as the most viewed website in the world. Due to the vast database of useful information on *YouTube*, it can be a powerful educational tool. Our teachers and older students are often using *YouTube* in class for teaching, demonstrations, research, presentations, projects, Morning Meetings, etc. **The official school policy is that students may only access *YouTube* for academic purposes and under the direct supervision of a teacher. Students may not access *YouTube* before or after school, including After Care.** However, some older students may be given limited permission to access *YouTube* outside of class to continue their academic work only.

**Mine Craft** – For those who do not know, *Mine Craft* is a multi-award winning downloadable computer game. Over the last few years it has become one of the most popular computer games of all time for elementary and middle school aged children. It is a creativity and building based game that allows players to construct buildings, cities, and landscapes using low-level graphic textured cubes in a 3D computer generated world. It is basically a virtual “Lego” building game. There are two options when playing the game - A) Individually in one's own private world, and B) By joining a public server to play in a public world with other online players. **The official school policy regarding *Mine Craft* is that students may only play the individual & private version of the game during After Care under the direct supervision of a staff member. YA does not allow students to play the public server version of the game.** Typically, the computer lab is only made available to students a maximum of 2 afternoons per week.

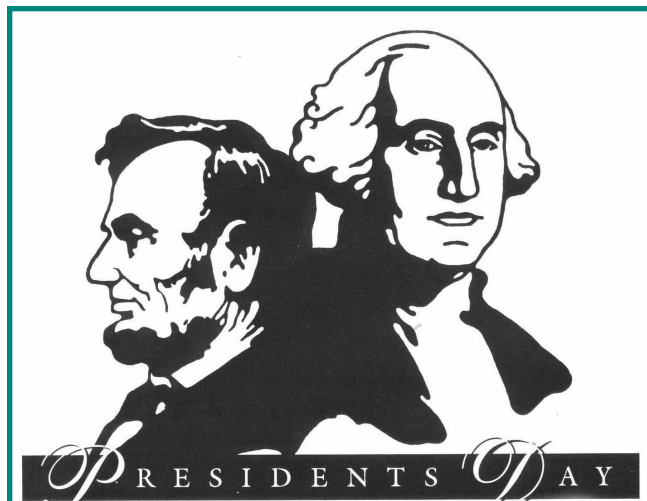
Since YA does not block either *Mine Craft* or *YouTube* it is left to parents to decide if they would like to allow their children to have access to either one. If parents do not wish their children to use *YouTube* or *Mine Craft*, we ask that they have that conversation with their child and make their individual expectations clear. In addition, if parents would prefer that their child not play *Mine Craft* at all during After Care, they should contact Libby Pomroy ([libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org)) directly to communicate their request.

Lastly, parents should be advised that with the world's ever growing and evolving technology and social media, no school can completely guarantee that students will never be exposed to internet content, games, or technology that may be contrary to individual parental wishes. However, The School takes internet safety and use very seriously and does everything possible to monitor and supervise all internet, media, and technology use. If parents ever have concerns about a technology related issue, they should contact The School immediately.

Thanks and have a wonderful weekend!  
Jeremy Brewer  
DSFC

### UPCOMING DATES

<b>February 10</b>	REGULAR SCHOOL DAY No Chinese New Year Holiday
<b>February 17</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> <i>President's Day</i>
6:00PM	School Board Meeting
<b>February 18</b> 4:00-6:00PM	SEAC Meeting
<b>February 20</b> 9:30-10:30AM	School Tour





## Red Envelope Campaign

One week remaining until the conclusion of the Red Envelope campaign, and we are over halfway to our goal of \$25,000! In the past week, we have raised over \$14,000 in donations from parents, grandparents, staff, alumni, and friends of Yinghua. Make your donation today by check or on our website. The website will have updated information on our tally, along with a listing of what inspired these donors to make a gifts Campaign ends **Friday, February 14**.

Why should you give to Yinghua? We asked our donors and they said...

## Lantern Festival Gala

Don't forget to reserve your tickets to the Lanter Festival. Tickets are \$45 at <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/>

*For my child's education, for the entire staff, for Mrs. Berg, for Mr. Brewer, for all teachers, for Mrs. Pribbenow, for Li Laoshi (Yi Li K2), for all school leaders, for my grandchild, for all the kids speaking Chinese, because my son loves his first year of school, for Meghan Byram the fabulous art teacher, for the History of what Red Envelope means, for the gift of learning a second language, for excellent student achievement all around, for Lin Laoshi (1A), for the amazing physical education teachers, to cover the funding gap, to benefit all Yinghua students in their pursuit of learning.*

More to come! Let us know your reason. And thank you to our early donors for

## Art Update

### **4th Grade Parents, You're Invited!**

I'd like to extend a personal invitation to our 4th grade parents to join us for art class next week (Tuesday February 11th). Non-fourth grade parents, keep your eyes peeled and stay tuned as it is my goal to give each grade level an invitation before the end of the year. Our students get to showcase their skills and knowledge in many ways through the year, and through those opportunities our families have the chance to see a small piece of their student's every day school life. Our fourth graders have just started a new unit of study on realistic portraiture and we thought it might be fun to have some of our most important people (you!) in to draw and learn with us. We'd like you to learn realistic portraits with us in a one day draw along, see your artist in action, and take a risk and draw along with us, learning something new or sharing your talents.

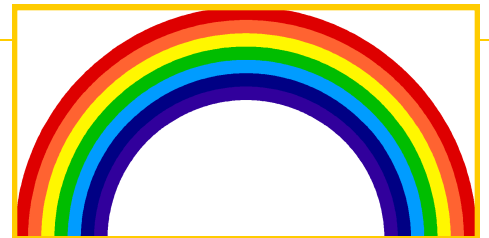
We'll have chairs, paper, and clipboards ready, and waiting. Art happens in your student's homeroom class 4A (9:15-10:05), 4B (10:08-10:58) and 4C (1:00-1:45), please check in at the office to get your visitors badge. We'd really love to have you.

Your local art teacher,  
Meghan Byram



### **Free Weekend Art Opportunity**

It's that time again, second Sunday of the month, Family Day at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Free from 11am-5pm throughout the museum. This month's theme is COLOR and titled "Rainbow Riot!" This is a great theme for all of our Yinghua students as color theory is something we spend time learning about in each grade level. I would love to see you there, I will be working in the Rainbow Collaboration studio. Other than three art making activities visitors can expect to enjoy some storytelling, Aztec dancing, and the ever exciting gallery hunt. Keep your eyes open for the artwork we are currently studying as part of our Art Adventure collection about celebration.

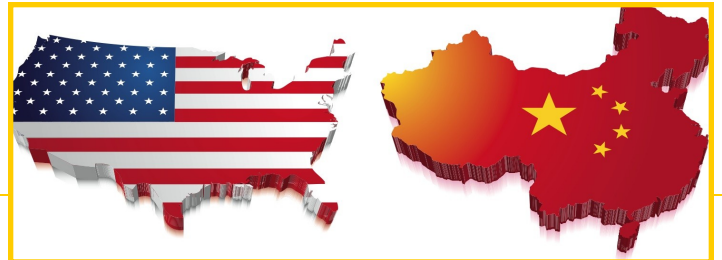




### Spring Enrichment Term is Open for Registration

Registration begins today for Term III classes. Find a registration form attached to the newsletter. We have a great selection, with Rev Sports classes back for spring, art classes from Ms. Byram (photos are from Animals in Art and a new class, Fab Food Art), Spring Adventures with Ms. Totall, and many more. Registration ends February 14. Classes are filled on a first come, first-served basis, so if your registration is late, don't expect to get in!

Note that the registration deadline is different from that listed on the printed Yinghua calendar; we moved the deadline up so that you can register and get classes confirmed before it's time to sign up for March Aftercare.



### InfoLink International Education Institute Opportunity

#### **A Note from Melina McCannell-Unger:**

I work in partnership with the University of Minnesota on a short term semester at UMN called Education for a Global Citizen program. The University of Minnesota provides the academic program for the students and we, InfoLink, coordinate recruitment in China and housing here in Minnesota. We have about 15 college age students (18-23 yrs) from China visiting our country to attend this full time study program for Spring Semester 2014 (February 24-June 14).

The students are here to learn about America first hand by living with an American family and to practice their English. Beyond what they will learn in the classroom they are encouraged to spend time with you and your family to really understand what makes America work on every level.

We are looking for families to take one (or possibly two) students (two same gender students sharing a bedroom is OK) into their home. The simple requirements will be that you provide a separate bedroom and bathroom for the students (the bathroom may be shared with any or all other family members), an English environment and your friendship. Students will be provided with a bus pass: which is good on MTC buses as well as the U of M Campus Connector. We require host families to live within one hour commute to the University of Minnesota.

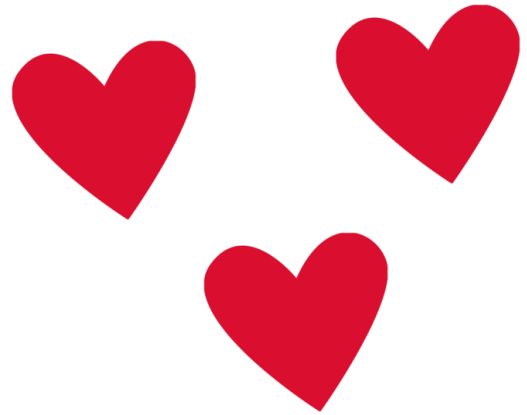
Beyond the pleasure of making new friends and building the bonds between our country and China, you will be paid a monthly stipend of \$500 per student.

For more information please contact Melinda at 612-750-5154 or e-mail at [melinda@infolinkgroup.com](mailto:melinda@infolinkgroup.com)

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

## Chinese

On Thursday, February 13, we will have the video conference with the sister school in Inner Mongolia, China, between 5:00-5:50 PM. It will be the morning of the Valentine's Day in China, so we will talk about whether/how Chinese people celebrate this western holiday comparing with our traditions. We will also share the plans for the coming spring break. Join us for the opportunity of communicating with native Chinese speakers from China!



## Summer Camp Alert!

The Minnesota Historical Society offers a variety of summer camps. Several may appeal to our middle school historians. [Check them out!](#)

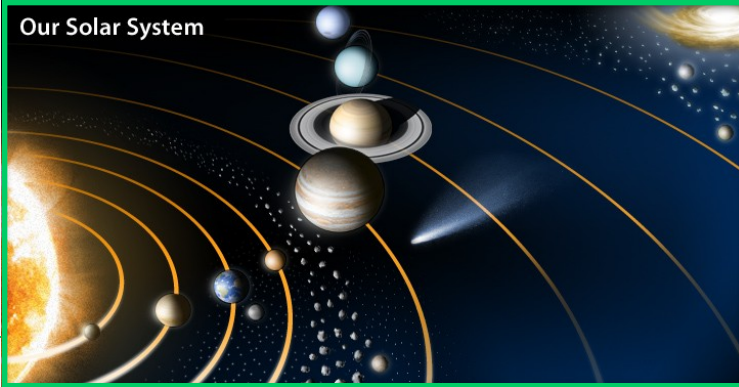
## Social Studies

### **Grade 6**

Students began a unit about immigrants to Minnesota.

### **Grade 8**

This week we studied comparative advantage. Ask you son/daughter what comparative advantage is.



## Science

**5th grade** has had a focus on Earth Science for Term 2, starting with Water and Weather and then studying the Solar System and Space. Students will now learn about planet Earth's Geology and Landforms until the close of the Term.

**6th grade** Physical Science students have been studying Energy in its many forms. This included energy conversions and transferring energy in work and machines. Energy transfer as waves in Sound and Light will be the focus as Term 2 finishes.

**7th and 8th grade** are working to understand the Theory of Plate Tectonics and how it ties Earthquakes and Volcanoes to Continental Drift and Sea Floor Spreading. Students will study how interpreting rock layers and fossils has lead to the Geologic Time Scale which shows how our dynamic Earth has changed over time.

