



Sue's News

Dear parents,

The **Lantern Festival Gala and Auction** is just around the corner; the exact date and time is this Saturday, March 1st at 7:00PM. It's the perfect cure for the winter doldrums. It's guaranteed to put some much needed spring in your step. Unlike other gala events that can be prone to stuffiness, I love the friendly, inclusive, easy-going atmosphere of this third annual event! The opportunity for teachers, staff, parents, and friends to gather for fun is rare. I hope to see you there! Please come.

Creative and dedicated YACA volunteers have been working overtime to plan every detail; the Grain Belt Bottling House venue, the music, the food, a silent auction with something for everyone, and some very exciting live auction items.

Tickets are still available! This year they must be purchased in advance due to changes in liquor and food licensing. Don't miss out! The event is open to the public so invite your friends and family. Find more information and purchase tickets at <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/gala>

March Music Madness is sure to be a highlight for Yinghua students and staff again this year. Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 27. Get your act together now for this non-stop musical event. From 8:45-3:45 we will make music of the singing, dancing, strumming, lip synching variety. Consider a solo, a duet, or an ensemble. Include your friends, your parents, your siblings, your babysitter, or grandparents in your plans. Free t-shirts for all participants. Watch for details from Lin Laoshi and Jhou Laoshi, our music teachers extraordinaire!

Finally, you will find the approved school calendar for 2014-2015. Note that school will begin after Labor Day next year on September 2. Needless to say, we look forward to what promises to be a spectacular grand opening for our new building expansion and renovated current building, home to all of Yinghua's KG through Grade 8 students!

For now let's focus on the successful completion of Term II and a well deserved spring break!

Warm regards,
Sue Berg
Executive Director

You are invited to join Mrs. Berg, Dr. Lien, Mr. Brewer, and other interested parents for a discussion about adoption with Signe Nestingen, licensed psychologist, as well as marriage and family therapist. Dr. Nestingen is a professor and director of doctoral internships at St. Mary's University and mom of Yinghua 8th grader, Ellie, who is adopted from China and one of Yinghua's first 1st graders.

The upcoming visit of author Jenny Bowen to Yinghua on March 26 has already been the springboard for wonderful conversations amongst parents. Signe brings a great appreciation for the depth and complexity of life; she is able and willing to help facilitate our conversation further. We are grateful!

You are welcome to join us **on Monday, March 3, from 2:30-3:30PM** in the cafeteria. Although this time may not be ideal, we are grateful to Signe for squeezing us in amongst her private practice and university duties.

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Yinghua families,

I am thrilled to share some good news with you. We were notified by STARTALK last week that we have been awarded a grant to offer a summer camp specifically designed for our Middle School students. Please mark your calendars (July 21 to August 15) for this great opportunity. For families who are not familiar with STARTALK, it is the newest of the component programs of the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) announced by former President Bush in January of 2006. The initiative seeks to expand and improve the teaching and learning of strategically important world languages that are not now widely taught in the US. If you would like to know more about STARTALK, please visit <https://startalk.umd.edu>. Here is a brief description for this camp:

Chinese Language, Leadership, and Technology for Middle School Students

Intended for current (and former) Yinghua students in grades 6 through 10, this camp is designed to help students continue learning Chinese language and literature, engage students with technology and leadership and character development, and motivate them to become role models and assist younger learners with Chinese language learning. For weeks 1 and 2 (July 21 to August 1) of the camp, students will take a language course on site in the morning, and receive leadership training in the afternoon. The language course, developed by Dr. Luyi Lien and Yinghua Middle School teachers and tailored to Yinghua students, will be delivered online in partnership with Minnesota Online High School and enable students to earn high school credit. For weeks 3 and 4 (August 4 to August 15), the students will continue with the language course and complete their service learning component by working alongside language coaches in the summer camp for students in grades K through 5.

Dates: July 21 to August 15, Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 4:00PM

Instructors: The Chinese class instructors will be Lu Yang laoshi, Bo Liu laoshi, and Mrs. Pamela Stommes. The leadership training will be provided by Ms. Sarah Totall and Ms. Erin Thune, with Chinese language coaches available to support leadership vocabulary development in Chinese.

Cost: \$500.00 (refundable upon completion of the camp)

Capacity: Maximum 20 students

Registration period: March 3 to May 3, 2014, or until filled (Registration form will be available in next week's newsletter)

We will also be offering our ever popular two-week (August 4 through August 15), half-day summer camp for students entering grades K through 5. More information will be available in next week's Newsletter.

Students typically experience learning loss over the summer. These camps will help students keep in touch with the Chinese language and expand their learning. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities and to enroll your child in one of the camps. As always, please email me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director

Brewer's Blog

Greetings Parents!

Breaking News!!!! The 2014 Fall MS Retreat has been booked! Next year's middle school trip will be to Camp Widjiwagan in Ely, MN! The camp is on Burntside Lake, which is considered by most to be one of the most beautiful lakes in the state. I know that many of our older students have been there before and will be totally bummed to hear this news.



We will be sending out much more detailed information later this spring and into the summer, but for now, here are the basics.

Who: Current 4th-7th Graders (Next year's 5th-8th Grades)

When: Thursday, September 17 - Friday, September 19, 2014

Cost: \$195/student

Includes: Coach bus transportation, food, lodging, YA chaperones, Environmental Learning Classes, outdoor activities, and Widjiwagan facilitators!

*Be sure to save the dates on your calendars! It's going to be a blast!!

Also, I wanted to quickly announce that the Student Life Used Book Sale is ready to roll. 3rd Grader Isabel Metzdorff came up with the idea to raise money to support the survivors of the typhoon in the Philippines. Together with the Student Life leaders, we have put together a plan. Please see the attached flyer for more details. With all of our avid readers at YA, I'm sure everyone will want to participate!

Have a good night!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, & Community

ART ART ART!!!

6th grade parent art opportunity! "They" say parents get less involved as kids get older, that being said PLEASE join your student for art this Thursday, February 27th. We are beginning our portraiture unit for the year, that means that we will be learning the proportions of a realistic portrait in a step by step draw along in class led by me, Ms. Byram, your local art teacher. Here are a few reasons to join us:

Art can be intimidating, especially realistic drawing, and especially people, come appreciate the risk your children take in class every week as they bravely create their best art in front of their peers.

You get a taste of what your student is up to in school and a glimpse into the making of our art portfolios (we fill them with work that we spend many weeks creating in multiple stage processes).

Learn to draw a realistic portrait (or show your skills if you already know how), RISK FREE! You are not required to "be a good drawer," that's my job! No pressure, just like the students, it is my job to teach and your's to learn.

Finally you should come because.... it could be fun, to try something new, for a challenge, a chance to get a little arty, to witness a guest appearance of Mrs. Berg and Dr. Lien, to see your student in action, to further appreciate your student's work, so when you come into conferences you don't need to say "and I can't even draw a stick person," to have something of your own to put on the fridge, or just because you hear the 6th grade room has the coziest chairs.

6A: 11:01am-11:51am

6B: 1:00pm-1:45pm

Check in at the front office to get your visitor's badge. Parents of students in other grades, stay tuned your art opportunity is coming! Hope to see you Thursday!

Ms. Byram

Winter Parking Restrictions

The city of Minneapolis has declared that **Winter Parking Restrictions are in effect.**

Please follow the parking guidelines so your car does not get towed. For additional details see the information posted on the link or check out the map below.

http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow_winter-parking-restrictions

DO NOT park on the even numbered side of non-Snow Emergency routes until April 1, or until City officials announce a lifting of the ban. Vehicles parked where they are not allowed are subject to being ticketed and towed.

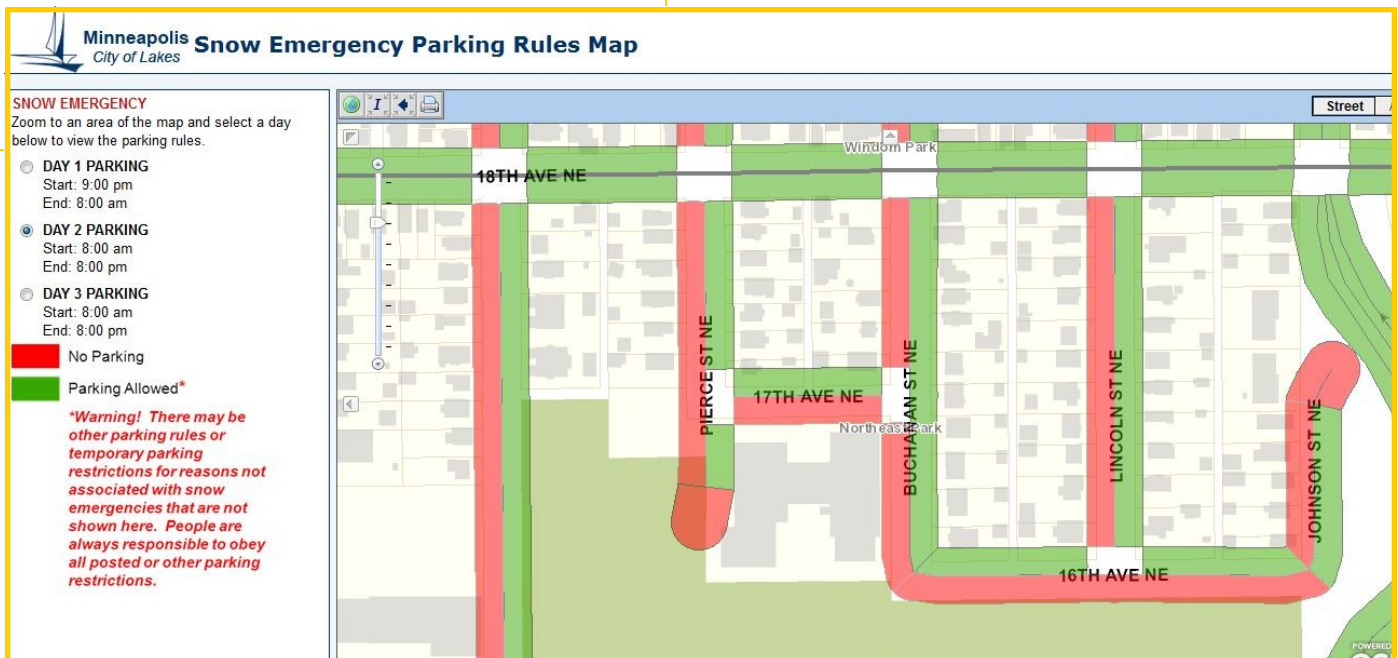
Until further notice park on the odd numbered side of the street.

Drivers may still park on Snow Emergency routes, parkways and along the odd numbered side of non-Snow Emergency routes, provided a Snow Emergency has not been declared, or unless otherwise posted with signs.



Lantern Festival Gala

Only three days left to get your tickets for the 2014 Lantern Festival Gala & Auction on Saturday March 1st. BUY YOURS TODAY and bring your friends! Tickets and more info at www.yinghuaacademy.org/gala



UPCOMING DATES

February 27

9:30AM-10:30AM School Tour

March 1

Lantern Festival Gala

March 3—7

End of Term Exams

March 3

6:30PM-8:30PM YACA Board Meeting

March 7

Term II Ends

March 10-14

Spring Break

After School Update

Enrichment News

Term II Enrichment ends February 28, with March 3-7 as a make-up week. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday classes all meet during make-up week. Term III begins the week of March 24. Registrations turned in by the Feb. 14 deadline have been confirmed via email already. Later registrations will be confirmed in the next few days.

Conservatory of Music News

Term III music lessons begin the week of March 24. New students can apply by filling out a registration form found on the Yinghua website under Conservatory of Music. Continuing students will receive a confirmation email for spring term, but there is no need to fill out a form.