



Sue's News

Dear parents,

Spring officially began yesterday, and we enjoyed that one beautiful day tremendously! Although it is not below zero or snowing today, our patience is wearing thin as we wait ever so patiently for consistently warmer, sunnier weather.

Construction and Renovation Update

At our weekly construction meeting we received the final completion schedule for the construction of the new building. The target date for occupancy is Wednesday, May 28, assuming that there are no more unforeseen circumstances that cause delays. The only space we will not have full access to prior to the end of this school year is the gym because of the installation of the wood flooring; the expected date for completion of the floor is August 14.

Renovation of the inside of the current building will begin no later than Wednesday, June 11. This means that everything must be packed and removed from the classrooms. In addition, we will vacate our Kinder Campus on June 27 so there will be ample opportunities for parent volunteers at both campuses. The hope is to have all work completed by August 20 when new teachers began fall workshop.

All summer classes and camp programs will be held in the new building. In addition, those of us that work over the summer will be setting up temporary work spaces in the new building. Entrance into the building over the summer will be from the south courtyard facing the park outside the new cafeteria/commons.

Looking Ahead: Important Dates

What's the Scoop? Thursday, April 3 from 5:00-6:30PM

This year's session will be for our current 4th graders and their parents and will focus on orientation to 5th grade and Middle School. Please RSVP so that we can divide into 7 small groups; as a group you will travel from one 7-8 minute session to another on the second floor of the school. The different sessions, each led by teachers or administrators, will focus on Math, Chinese, English, Science, SS, Student Life, and specialists' subjects. Although the focus will be on fifth grade, you will get a brief overview of MS, as well. Look for the *What's the Scoop?* postcard in the mail next week.

Yinghua Futures Panel for Students and Parents Thursday, May 1 from 7:00-8:00PM

This evening's panel session will be for MS students and their parents as they think about opportunities beyond Yinghua Academy. The panel will consist of several past YA graduates and their parents, as well as administrators from a variety of high schools across the Twin Cities that might be of interest to our families. In addition, Dr. Lien will highlight the exciting possibilities this summer, next fall and beyond with Minnesota Online High School (MNOHS). I will moderate the panel with a set of questions for each so that everyone in attendance can appreciate the options available.

YACA General Membership Meeting Tuesday, April 29 from 6:30-8:00PM

Feature: Singapore Math presented by Allison Coates

Ms. Coates is back by popular demand after an excellent presentation last spring. To know how to speak your child's mathematical language, you won't want to miss this informative session. Ms. Coates, founder and chair of the Middle School Mathematics Institute, has been involved in mathematics education in various capacities for nearly two decades. A Siebel Scholar, she holds an B.S. in Mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.S. from the University of California, Berkeley.

Perhaps we'll see you next week on either Wednesday morning from 9:30-10:30AM to hear author Jenny Bowen as she speaks to our 7th and 8th graders or on Thursday for a full day of March Music Madness! With 230+ student acts performing from 8:45-3:45, be sure to drop in for a dose of entertainment!

Enjoy the weekend!

Sue Berg
Executive Director

Brewer's Blog

Welcome Back From Break Parents!

Here at school we've hit the ground running, and as Term III gets underway it appears that spring is finally here! Hurray!

Now that it's officially spring, the thaw has begun. With the slightly warmer weather many students are no longer bringing their warm weather clothing which they do still need every day for recess and gym classes. The temp is still likely to fluctuate over the next few weeks and students need to be prepared. More importantly, as the snow and ice thaws the playground and park will get very, very wet. In fact, it's already getting swampy out there.

Humorously, many students have been whining to me the last couple of days as I have been making them wear their snow pants and boots to recess. I'm sure you can just hear them, (insert whiny 2nd or 3rd grade voice here) "But, whaaahyyyy? It's sooo hot out." Nonetheless we have been firm, and sure enough, they all came in from recess with their winter clothing soaked through. I explained that their winter clothes saved their school clothes. Now, they can sit comfortably in class for the rest of the day and focus, without suffering from "wet-butt" as my father calls it. Not fun!

All jesting aside, please do remember to insist that your children bring in all 5 winter clothing items (hat, gloves, jacket, snow pants, and especially boots) every day for at least the next 2-3 weeks. They will need them!

On another note, today was the last day to donate books for the Student Life Philippines Used Book Sale fundraiser. If you forgot to bring in your books, we will still accept them on Monday. The Student Life leaders will be spending all next week sorting and pricing the books in preparation for the sale which is April 2-4. I just took a peek at the pile of books in room 201 and I was impressed! It should be a great event. Thank you to everyone who donated!

With that, I will wish you all a wonderful weekend!

Visitors at Kinder Campus

March 17-20, the Kinder Campus hosted high school visitors from Minnehaha Academy. Pictured left to right are students Weibang (Zach) Du, Hank Olson, Collis McKenzie, Kendra Hutchinson and Anna Zheng and Ming Dong (Dong laoshi) their Chinese teacher.

These five students, who are studying Chinese language at Minnehaha, spent four afternoons at the Kinder Campus helping our students put on their outdoor clothes and assisting the teachers with recess. This was part of the Minnehaha Cultural Field Experience course. Before their visit K-1 Wu laoshi developed a vocabulary list for them: Snow pants, boots, puddle, mud, swing, slide and other playground terms were on the list. They all were quite impressed with our students' language development!



Physical Education Update

Dress for the weather. Winter is not over so please send your child with the "Five" pieces of outdoor clothing for Physical Education. Boots, snow pants, jacket, hat, mittens.

Spring Sports Classes: We still have space in the Tuesday Sports Fitness class for grades 4-8 and the Thursday Sports Sampler class for grades 1-3. Sports Fitness starts on April 8 and Sports Sampler on April 3. No after care fee unless you need it. Check out the sports registration form for more details or contact: Sarah Total sarahtotal@yinghuaacademy.org

Special First Friday Coffee on April 4!

The School Board and the YACA Board are co-hosting a special First Friday coffee event on Friday, April 4 at 9:00 AM in the Kinder Campus Multipurpose Room. Please come to socialize and to learn about the two boards. This is a no pressure, educational event! Members of each board will give a brief introduction including the type of work they do and their upcoming election cycles. Both will take questions, and generally be available for one-on-one discussion. This is a great opportunity to find out if you or someone you know would be a good candidate for the Yinghua Academy School Board, the Yinghua Academy Community Association Board, or a board committee - or simply to learn more about what's going on at your child's school.

Passport Day at the Kinder Campus



Our Kindergarteners traveled the world today. They traveled from Mexico to Norway, and from Japan to Great Britain and more. Below are two pictures from the event.



Current & Incoming Families: Come learn about Singapore Math!

Back by popular demand! The Yinghua Academy Community Association (YACA) has invited Allison Coates, from the Middle School



Mathematics Institute, to speak at the YACA General Membership meeting on Tuesday, April 29th from 6-8pm. The first 20-30 minutes of the meeting will be spent electing the new YACA Board and passing the 2014-15 budget; the remaining time (90 minutes) will be dedicated to Allison's presentation. Allison will present, "**What's So Great about Singapore Math?**"

Singapore's Primary Mathematics program is an internationally renowned elementary mathematics curriculum, producing top international results for Singapore. Is it really that much better than other curricula? Is it really possible that teaching arithmetic well is difficult? Can the pedagogy matter for something as easy as addition? Yes, yes, and yes, and this talk will show you why.

Meant for both parents and educators, this talk will explain the main ideas of Singapore's Primary Mathematics program, what makes it so special, and why it is producing top results. You will learn the core features of a solid mathematics education, focusing on the skills and knowledge needed year over year to be prepared for algebra, and how Primary Mathematics curriculum succeeds in giving your student that preparation. Along the way, you will learn what steps you can take to ensure your child's mathematical preparation for algebra, and how you and your student can enjoy learning mathematics.

The speaker for this event is Allison Coates, executive director of MSMI. Ms. Coates holds an S.B. in Mathematics from MIT and an M.S. in Computer Science from University of California, Berkeley. Allison's talk is 90 minutes, which includes time for questions.

This event is open to both current and incoming families. Childcare will be provided, but you must sign up in advance by emailing Lindsey Alexander at yaca-treasurer@yinghuaacademy.org. Please sign up for childcare no later than **Tuesday, April 22nd**. (If you don't need childcare there is no need to register in advance.)

Summer Art



For anyone who is still interested, there are still some spots left in the summer art classes. With an absolute cap at 12 students in each class, there are 6 spots available in the morning clay class from

10:00-11:30, 5 in the drawing class from 12:00-1:30, and 3 in the afternoon clay class. Students who take any back to back classes can stay in the in between time and will be supervised by me. More information, registration forms, and PICTURES of student clay projects visit my classroom pages.

Thanks! Ms. Byram

UPCOMING DATES

March 24	<i>Term III Enrichment Classes and Music Conservatory Begins</i>
March 27	March Music Madness
March 28	Professional Development Day for Teachers NO SCHOOL
April 3 9:30AM-10:30AM	School Tour
April 4 9:00AM-10:00AM	<i>Term II Report Cards Mailed</i> First Friday Coffee @Sip Coffeebar
April 7 6:30PM	YACA Board Meeting
April 10 9:30AM-10:30AM	School Tour
April 11 9:30AM-11:00AM 6:00PM-9:30PM	Kindergarten Round-Up (New Families) @Kinder Campus SLO MS Spring Dance (gr. 6-8)
April 17 1:00PM-8:00PM	1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL (12:30PM Dismissal) Spring Book Fair Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 18 8:00AM-2:00PM	NO SCHOOL Spring Book Fair Parent/Teacher Conferences

RevSports Camp Spring 2014 Package Deal

Purchase the remaining three and a half days of camp for only \$120 (full price for individual days \$215), special deal last through Monday 3/24. Camps dates include: 3/28, 4/17 (PM half-day), 4/18, 5/9. Register online at www.RevSports.org.



8th Grade Parent Art Opportunity

Not much time left to come see your student in action here at Yinghua. You are all cordially invited to attend art class with your student this Wednesday, March 26th from 11:00 until 12:40 (or whenever you have to leave). You'll have the chance to learn how to draw a proportionate portrait as well as learn about our artist study portrait painting, the students' next big project. We'd be honored to have you!



After-school Reminders

Term III Enrichment classes and Conservatory of Music lessons begin next week. If you have any questions about what you signed up for, schedules, how Aftercare works with Enrichment and Conservatory of Music, or any other concerns, please contact libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org.

March Music Madness

On Thursday, March 27th, there will be live music performances all day long (including from 11am to 1:00pm) in the cafeteria, from 8:45am until students are dismissed.

We are excited to announce that there are over 300 participants who signed up for March music madness! It will be a fun and musical day. All families and community members are welcome to walk-in the school to celebrate music.

Due to the large numbers of students who signed up, we only offer a limited number of t-shirts for sale. This years March Music t-shirt is \$10 for each. If you would like to buy any t-shirts from last year, they are \$5 each.

Here is the schedule for the March Music Madness:

8:45-9:15 Welcome! (All 1st-3rd graders and 4B)

Staff performance: Lin Laoshi, Jhou Laoshi

Student performance: 4B

9:15-10:05 1B, 6A, 6B, Margaret Kao (*borrow 1A Geneva, 1D Scarlett, 3A Charlie*)

10:08-10:58 2A, 2C (*2B Birka, 2D Wynn*)

(**10:50-11:30** 4C)

11:01-12:00 3A, 3B (*1C Evie*)

12:00-12:55 1D, 2D, 3C, 1A (*5B Anthony*)

(**12:45-1:30** 8)

1:00- 1:45 1C, 4A (*1A Geneva*)

1:48-2:33 5A, 5B (*3C Jacob and Lynn, 2B Eva and Helen*)

2:36-3:21 2B, 7, Mr. Scheid (*2C Vindya*)

3:25-3:35 Mrs. Berg, Dr. Lien, Mr. Brewer and main office staff (All 4th-8th grades)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lin Laoshi (hsuanwen.lin@yinghuaacademy.org) or Jhou Laoshi (huei-mei.jhou@yinghuaacademy.org).

Thank you and hope to see you on 3/27, Thursday!



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

English Language Arts

Students are beginning their last big writing project of the year next week while finishing up preparations for their speeches (8th graders will be doing a debate). This will be a dramatic literature writing project, and students will be working in groups of three or four. Sixth graders will be creating radio dramas, seventh graders will be creating one-act stage plays, and eighth graders will be creating short screenplays. All of these dramatic compositions will be on display at the upcoming academic performances. A select few will even be performed.

Social Studies

Grade 8 students practiced solving a real world problem using mapping technology. They used Google Earth to predict which places are at greatest risk from avian flu. Information they used included population density, poultry density, and number of reported avian flu cases.

Grade 6 students began learning about Minnesota's first industries. This week they read and talked about the flour milling industry.

Technology

On Friday morning, 3/21, grade 6 - 8 students "visited" with their classmates who are traveling in China! Using Skype, Chu Laoshi arranged a camera large enough to show several people at once. While resolution and sound were imperfect, at least we saw happy faces. Simultaneously, 7th graders successfully used Skype to connect with their classmate in Italy.



Science Term 3 Topics

5th graders will study Physical Science, starting with Forms of Energy and then Force and Simple Machines.

6th graders will study the Physical and Chemical Properties of Matter.

7th and 8th graders will study Rocks and Minerals and then Chemistry.

CHINA TRIP PICTURES

