



Sue's News

Dear parents,

Report cards for Term II are in the mail! Needless to say, this summary of your child's progress is just a snapshot of their performance in school over the last twelve weeks. Not only are we focused on results but as importantly we are striving to prepare young people who know how to reach for our "great expectations" in all that they do! Routinely, we discuss these guidelines and their applications with our kids:

- Always try.
- Do your best.
- Cooperate and help others.
- Respect people and property.
- Manage yourself.

I encourage you to use the report card and the expectations as a springboard for a family discussion, as you prepare for upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences on April 17 and 18. Sign up ends on Wednesday, April 9. If all slots are filled, please contact your child's teacher via e-mail to make arrangements.

Recently I have been reminded of the incredible value of the aural, visual, and movement arts. Think about it! From our Chinese New Year Performance to March Music Madness, from in-class portrait instruction to Art Adventure Field Trips this week and next at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts to view Matisse and more, and from cross country skiing this winter to "week on wheels" coming up which will include bikes, scooters, and rollerblades, we "invite students to be active participants in their world rather than mere observers of it"! This quote came from one of the two attached articles which offer great insights.

Happy reading!

Sue Berg
Executive Director

Brewer's Blog

Good Evening Parents!

Traffic Reminders

I figured I'd get the mundane out of the way first. As a reminder, please do not leave your vehicles parked and unattended at the curb in front of the school during the peak hours of 8:00-9:00 and 3:00-4:30. When this happens it disrupts the flow of traffic for all of the parents who are patiently waiting in line to drop off or pick up their children. In addition, do not attempt to go west on 17th or north on Pierce during these hours. When everyone follows the proper procedures things go pretty quickly, but it only takes one person going against the flow to clog things up. Please be sure to follow procedure so that things run smoothly for everyone.

Pajama Spirit Day

Pajama Day on Friday was a ton of fun! The students looked great and so did the teachers. Not only was it a fun and goofy way to celebrate our School Spirit, but as one parent said to me this morning, "It's a nice way to help everyone stay positive and upbeat after the snow storm that just hit us – yet again." I ran around and snapped a few pictures so that you could share in the fun. Be sure to check them out!

The next Spirit Day will be this Friday, April 11. The theme will be Jersey/Team Sportswear Day! Students may wear their favorite team jersey with jeans or uniform bottoms, or other clearly marked team sports wear (team logo'd sweats, warm-ups, hats, etc.). Clothing can be from any professional, college, or high school team they love, or even from their own personal athletic team. I know some of the 5th grade girls are going to be wearing their gymnastics warm-ups with their team logos on the back. I'll be wearing my MN Wild jersey and I can bet you that Mr. Morris will be wearing his Team Canada hockey jersey. Boo!!!

MS Dance

I wanted to send one last reminder about the MS Dance which is this Friday, April 11 from 6:00-9:30 in the cafeteria. Registrations were due today (April 4th) but we did decide to accept them on Monday as well. I've attached the flyer to the newsletter again just in case you missed it last time. If you still need to register your child you can drop off the registration form by the end of the day on Monday.

Philippines Book Sale

The book sale has been going really well. Lots of students, and even a lot of parents and teachers have been snatching up books left and right. The pile is half of what it was two days ago, but there are still a lot left if you haven't had a chance to shop yet. But hurry! Students are carrying the books off by the bundle and the last day to shop is Monday. Be sure to check it out if you can before it's too late!

4th & 5th Grade Activity Night!

Lastly, (but if you ask the 4th & 5th graders it's certainly not least!) is the up-coming Activity Night scheduled for Friday, May 2nd from 6-9:30pm. Registration hasn't yet started, but I wanted to get the excitement going now. I let it slip earlier today and a few of the 5th graders came unglued! So, I figured I best let everyone know that we will be going to the Brunswick Zone, XL in Blaine for an evening of bowling and laser tag! Look for the flyer and registration form in the next couple of weeks. You won't want to miss it!

Thanks parents and have a wonderful weekend!
Jeremy Brewer
Director of Students, Families, and Community

Intent to Return

If you haven't already, please fill out the intent to return form to indicate whether or not you plan on returning to Yinghua next year. This form is helpful for the Board and administrative teams to plan for next year. These forms are due by Friday, April 11.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is back up for parents. Feel free to use it to check grades and comments.

Fix It Clinic

Hennepin County is having their next Fix It Clinic on April 12 in Osseo. Check out the flyer for more information.

UPCOMING DATES

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



Fun in 3C!

Last Monday, 3C enjoyed making dumplings in class. The ingredients include:

Filling: pork, cabbage, green onion, ginger, salt, soy sauce, sugar, sesame oil, pepper
(Vegetarian dumplings: cabbage, carrots, sesame oil, pepper, salt)
Wraps: flour, water



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.

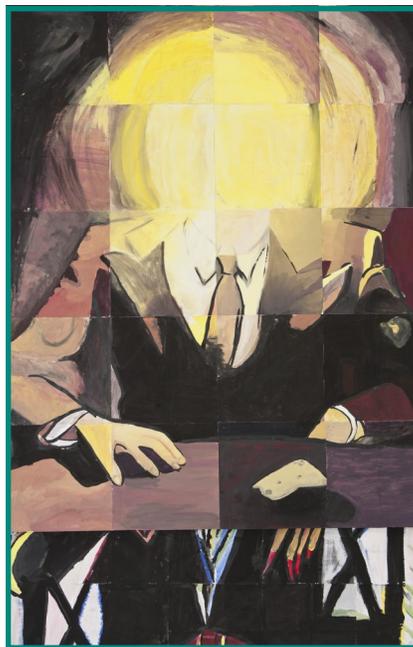
The speaker for this event is Allison Coates, executive director of MSMI. Ms. Coates holds an S.B. in Mathematics from MIT and an M.S. in Computer Science from University of California, Berkeley. Allison's talk is 90 minutes, which includes time for questions.

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



Bid! Fight! Win!

At the 2014 Lantern Festival 2nd chance online auction fundraiser! Gift Certificates, art, mid-mod antiques, there's something for everyone. PLUS the middle school collaborative paintings are up for grabs and they're gorgeous. Bidding started on Friday 4/4 at <http://www.32auctions.com/secondchance2014>



PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

It is wet and muddy out there. Send your child in winter/rain boots until further notice. Physical Education class will be held outside the rest of the year.

ADVENTURE TREKKER CAMP

FOR GRADES 4-6. JUNE 16-20 & 23-27. There is still space in both sessions. Camp class is kept small for biking. Session one has about 7 openings and session two has 3-4 spots left. Camp activities: fishing, biking, swimming, geo-caching and more. See attachment for registration forms. For more information, contact Sarah Totall, or go to Yinghua Athletic webpage.



ACTIVE ADVENTURE CAMP IS FULL

The pictures below are recess with the 6th graders. They made a giant snowman, and it took lots of teamwork.



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Social Studies

Grade 6

This week, we learned about Minnesota's short-lived (1880-1900 or so) but lively lumber industry. Here is a link to a [folk song from that era which we heard in class, "Roll, Drivers, Roll."](#)

Grade 8

We are studying new nation-states which became independent in 1991, after the Soviet Union ended. Ask your student how many of the 15 new countries s/he can name!

Asian Pacific Heritage event at Minnesota History Center -- April 12, 2014!

It includes art, artists, music and dance from various cultures. Many role models for our students!

Math

What's the Scoop - We had a fun and interactive information session with the 4th grade parents and students on 4/3 after school. It was very successful and we are looking forward to seeing all of you this Fall! Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us anytime!

MCA Prep - Yearly MCA assessment is coming up!! MCA is a Math Standardized Exam assessed using the state of Minnesota academic standards. Every year, we are ambitious to be fully prepared and are anxious to see the result. MS math teachers began the preparation with each student since February in class and during recess periods. When we returned in term 3, we have also added the option of sign-up review sessions (For additional sign-up, please contact Pamella.Stommes@yinghuaacademy.org). All MS students are encouraged to work with their teacher at least once a week outside of the class periods (during recess, PM homeroom, etc) for a more personalized math review. Our goal is to help our students achieve their academic goals and become an independent problem solver!

Curriculum Update - 8th grade students have completed high school level Geometry and are currently studying lines, equations, and functions using Algebra II textbook. 7th grade students have completed Algebra I Concepts and Skills and are currently studying high school level Geometry. 6th grade students have begun the study of Algebra I - functions and graphs.

Math Goals - Yinghua Academy uses Singapore Math method to help the students build math problem solving skills. Singapore Math also helps the students create a perfect bridge to connect to advanced math topics. In middle school, the students are expected to complete the advanced math studies and be fully prepared for Geometry, Algebra II, or Pre-Calculus by 9th grade.