

### Sue's News

Dear parents,

I just opened the **Suggestion Box** and it was filled with some marvelous suggestions from students and grown-ups, or at least so it appears according to the handwriting. One request has already been filled, thank goodness, and that was **"turn the heat on"**! Unfortunately, the ramification of our antiquated heating system, which will be replaced in the building renovation, is that now some rooms are much too toasty, thus the **"cooling system for 2<sup>nd</sup> floor"** suggestion, no doubt. Interestingly, there were 14 suggestions for **"iPads for 6<sup>th</sup> graders"**, probably a plea from the students who know about our enticing 1-on-1 iPad program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Finally, amongst the requests was **"please add a gifted/talented program to challenge students"**.

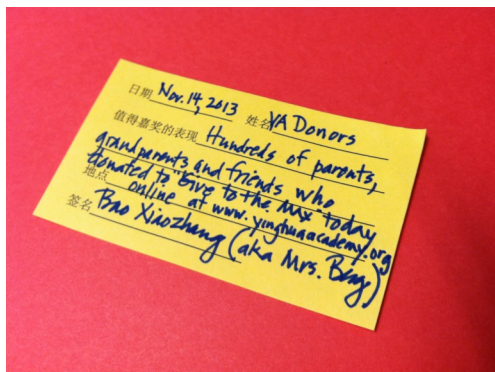


Next week, we look forward to **Give to the Max Day** on Thursday, November 14. This is an opportunity for each and every one of us to show our monetary support for Yinghua Academy. For as little as \$10, our parents, grandparents, neighbors, teachers, and even our students can join this communitywide effort to make "wish lists" come true at Yinghua. There are so many reasons to give generously. The most heartwarming suggestion in the box said **"I ♥ Yinghua!"**

Sit with your families and make a list of all the reasons why you love Yinghua this weekend; perhaps you will come up with a seemingly unending list like mine! Prepare to learn more information about Yinghua's **Give to the Max Day** next week.

Warm regards,

Sue Berg  
Executive Director



### Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear parents,

It is again the season for recruiting new students for next year. We have tours and open house events scheduled through early May. We generally start our tour in the cafeteria with a short presentation by Ms. Cindy Moeller, our school Founder, Mrs. Berg and me to talk about our history and our program. We each then take a small group and show them our facilities and classrooms, and finally reconvene in the cafeteria to answer questions.

As I lead groups of prospective parents through the building, I talk to them about how we support our mission and provide an immersion education in Chinese language and culture. I often point out how we separate languages and create a Chinese environment for students' language learning. For example, we ask our Chinese to only speak Chinese in front of the students, and to use Chinese-only print materials in the classrooms. The teachers have done an excellent job of using 100% Chinese to teach.

I have been asked quite often these two questions on the tour: "how do we make Chinese comprehensible to the students?" and "how do we persuade students to resist the easy path of English when speaking with one another?" The answers to these questions vary from one expert to another. At Yinghua, our teachers use simple, direct language and choose vocabulary and structures that incorporate a large amount of material that is familiar to the learners. They also break down directions and new information into small, incremental steps; use concrete materials, visual aids, gestures, facial expressions, and movements; model every step of the process or the directions being presented. The teachers also monitor and assess students' Chinese usage and make necessary corrections. With teachers' consistent use of Chinese to communicate with students, students now are used to speaking Chinese with the teachers. Unfortunately, there are still times when students cannot resist speaking English with their friends, which is understandable.

Our program is unique amongst immersion programs in that we are able to create a more "pure" Chinese language environment than other schools, which generally offer "immersion classes within a school". We treasure this unique setting and strive to protect it, knowing that the challenges of keeping the Chinese environment in the world of English are abundant! The key to maintain this climate is to encourage and facilitate students to use Chinese everywhere and anywhere in school, and we are working hard on this!

Sincerely,  
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.  
Academic Director, Yinghua Academy

## Brewer's Blog

### Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Clothing Reminder!

Hello Parents!

I don't know about you, but the snow the other day totally caught me off guard. Did fall go by in the blink of an eye for anyone else?! Wow! Ah well, it IS Minnesota after all. Now that we've had our first snow of the year and the temp is dropping, it's time to talk about proper cold weather clothing. As a reminder, all students are expected to go outside every day during recess, and grades 1-8 will be going outside for all of their gym classes. That means that students **must** come to school properly dressed for cold weather. Right now, that means a warm jacket, gloves, hat, and boots. When the snow sticks, all students in grades KG-5 will need to bring snow pants as well. The last few days, we at the school have been shocked to see the number of students arriving to school without jackets, let alone gloves, hats, and boots! When I talked to some of the students about this during recess today, they exclaimed, "There wasn't really any snow yet, so why would we need cold weather clothing?" Exasperated, I explained that their logic was flawed. We don't need snow for it to be cold. All of the lakes and ponds near my house have begun to freeze already! So, everyone needs proper cold weather clothing from now on until Spring. Our fabulous PE teachers certainly know how to dress for the weather! As you are outfitting your children, please remember to label every piece of their clothing with their first and last name in permanent marker. We collect dozens of lost gloves, hats, etc. every day during the winter months. If they are labeled, we are able to return them to their rightful owner. Otherwise, they go to the Lost & Found Monster to be gobbled up and never seen again! With that, I'll wish you all a wonderful weekend!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, and Community



## UPCOMING DATES

<b>November 14</b>	Give to the Max Day
9:30AM-10:30AM	School Tour
<b>November 15</b>	Last Day of Term I Enrichment Classes & Music Conservatory
<b>November 18</b>	
6:00PM	School Board Meeting
<b>November 20-26</b>	End of Term Exams
<b>November 27-29</b>	Thanksgiving Break

### Enrichment is ending!

Fall term enrichment classes end the week of November 11 EXCEPT Monday classes, which end November 18. (There was no school October 7, and this is the 8th class for Monday.) If you'd like to continue with Aftercare when classes end, fill out an Aftercare registration form (on the Yinghua website), or if you're already registered, an Aftercare change form indicating the days you'd like Aftercare.

Watch for the winter term enrichment catalog in early December. Classes start the week of January 6.

### Pictures are in!

We have sent Lifetouch pictures home with your student. If your student needs picture re-takes, be sure to mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 4.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

## Social Studies

**Grade 6** students finished their lessons about the 3 branches of government. They are now learning about the Jobs of Citizens. Families, this is a fine opportunity to talk about voting, jury duty, military service, staying informed via newspaper/radio/TV/internet news sites and other ways you and your family do your civic duty!

**Grade 7** students have finished writing about their research into one battle of the Civil War. They will have a test next week.

## Chinese Language Arts

The November video conference with the sister school from China will be on Thursday, November 14. Topics are including but not limited to the Thanksgiving holidays, hobbies, and school exams. Students will describe and exchange their thoughts and experiences about the topics in Chinese with the Chinese students.

Join us for using Chinese in the real world! Please contact your child's Chinese teacher if you have any questions.