



YINGHUA
ACADEMY

WEEKLY PARENT NEWSLETTER

Friday, November 15th, 2013

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Sue's News

Dear parents,

We did it, as our **Give to the Max** banner announced this afternoon! For the second month in a row, the Yinghua Academy school community set a major goal and amazingly once again, we surpassed it. We are grateful for every person who contributed to our grand total of \$28,891! While compared to the Read-a-thon, this was more of an adult venue, our students were intrigued. They noticed the campaign from the banner to the hourly e-mails, featuring their teachers. As they said more charmingly than me in the "thank you" video created by parent and board member, Sarah Whiting, "Xie, xie"!

The second piece of breaking news is a change of dates for **Yinghua's Chinese New Year celebration. The date will be Friday, January 31, 2014, at 6:00PM at the Benson Great Hall at Bethel University. To accompany this change, Monday, February 3, will be a "no school" day.** The change of dates was necessitated by the availability of a proper venue. We are pleased to return to a familiar stage and location, especially without a gymnasium in which to rehearse this year. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Needless to say, watch for more details in the weeks ahead.

Swara Narayanan and Laurel Hansen, representatives from **Free the Children in Toronto, Canada**, spent Wednesday afternoon immersed in Yinghua. They represent the *Me to We* aspect of service learning encouraged by this group and traveled to Minnesota because of the incredible response from school kids like our 7th and 8th graders who attended We Day. They left with evidence that our students are making a difference because of efforts like our We Scare Hunger project. Eighth graders, Rachel Foreseen and Fisher Chu, told the story of Yinghua on behalf of their classmates and they did so brilliantly. In our visitors words, "You're truly cultivating global citizens!"

Gratefully,
Sue Berg
Executive Director

Thank you to all the staff, parents, community members, and grandparents who gave generously on **Give to the Max Day 2013**. Our goal was to raise \$25,000, and we raised **\$28,891!** GiveMN will announce the Golden Ticket winners next week due to their technical difficulties. We are so proud not only to have met our personal goal, but also to have ended the day for the first time on a leaderboard! We finished at #8 on the Small Nonprofits Leaderboard, which comes with a bonus prize of \$500. More details to come next week.

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Yinghua Families,

From November 20 through 26, the students will be taking exams as we wrap up our first term. The main purpose for these assessments is to measure the effectiveness of learning and teaching for both the students and the teachers.

The message we send to the students is simple – testing is a way for them to demonstrate how much and how well they have learned; if they study and prepare well, they should do well. To help students prepare for the finals, the teachers have been reviewing the important concepts with them, teaching them how to organize their time to study, and showing them different ways they can demonstrate their understanding. The students have all been reminded that by paying attention in class, putting in their effort and doing their assignments to reinforce their learning every day, they will be well-prepared.

At home, we would like parents to show the similar, positive attitude towards testing. Encourage your students to follow the steps the teachers have suggested and review the materials brought home from school. We all know that minor uneasiness can be a drive for achieving good scores, but too much anxiety can have the opposite effect. If your student is overly anxious about testing, teach him/her to stay calm and relax; this will help with his/her performance. I know! Easier said than done. :)

The testing schedule for each grade level is posted on the Classroom Pages. You will see that the exams are spread out evenly to allow students the time and energy to do their best. As always, please make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a well-balanced breakfast on testing days.

We constantly remind our students to always try and do their best. These great expectations can be appropriately applied when they sit for exams. We value students' personal best and will celebrate with them by having a homework-free Thanksgiving weekend. The hard work for Term I has been delivered and the students and teachers should enjoy a good holiday!

Have a great weekend!
Luyi Lien, Ph.D
Academic Director

Brewer's Blog

Hello Parents!

The results of *We Scare Hunger* are in! The school raised 29 boxes of non-perishable food that weighed a grand total of 984 pounds! Wow! Way to go Yinghua! On top of the \$27,000 raised during Give To The Max Day, I am blown away! What an incredibly generous community we have. It really makes one proud to be a part of it.

So, you may be curious about where we ended up donating the food. Well, this morning the 8th graders helped me load all of the boxes into my truck. I then brought the food over to "The Little Kitchen" which is a little food shelf located right next door to the Kinder Campus in the Grace Center building. While I was unloading the food, some of the K3 students walked over with Ruan Laoshi to help me officially make the gift (see the pic – so cute!).

Pastor Craig and Grace Center were incredibly blessed by your generosity. In fact, we just learned that they recently had a miss-hap with their large refrigerator and lost a large amount of donated food. As Pastor Craig told me, this is the time of year when they especially need food for the needy. Losing all that food was a huge blow and it made the YA gift all that much more precious. He said the food will bless many families. Thank you all for your generosity. I would like to extend a special thank you to Emily Glewwe (Deputy Head of Community Service), Ellie Nestingen (Head Prefect), and the rest of the 7th & 8th graders for their leadership during the *We Scare Hunger* food drive. Good Job YA!!

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

Jeremy Brewer
Director of Students, Families,
& Community



Reminder : Enrichment Ends Monday

Enrichment classes and music conservatory are ending on Monday. Be sure to make afterschool arrangements from now until Christmas break., Thanks!

Math & Science Family Fun Fair

Tomorrow (on Saturday, November 16) from 10am—4pm, the University of Minnesota is hosting a day of fun for families and kids of all ages including fascinating activities, hands-on exhibits and entertaining presentations showcasing science, technology, engineering, and math. For more details, visit cse.umn.edu/funfair. **Mr. Scheid recommends this event and encourages families to attend!**

Power School

PowerSchool Access will be turned off from November 20 through December 13 during grading and report card preparation. Thanks.

UPCOMING DATES

November 18 6:00PM	School Board Meeting
November 20-26	End of Term Exams
November 26	Term I Ends
November 27- December 1	Thanksgiving Break

Spirit Wear

The deadline for returning order forms for the Fall/Winter Spirit Wear merchandise is Tuesday, Nov. 19. This allows enough time to get all merchandise back to you before the holidays. The next order for Spirit Wear will be in the Spring. As a reminder, Spirit Wear can be worn every Friday as an alternative to the school uniform. Order forms and size information can be found online at <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/yaca-overview/fundraising/spirit-wear/>. Contact Mel Chaput at mafchaput@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you!

School Lunch Reminders for Grade 1-8:

December lunch order form is due on Tuesday, November 19 in the main office. *Check/cash must be submitted with each order for each student. Families using ACH must check the appropriate box on the order form.* **Order form without a name will not be accepted.** Please find more lunch information and extra order forms at <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/current-families/school-lunch-menu/>
Attention: we will not be accepting late orders.

Thank you for your cooperation. (Helen Hindrawati, Food Coordinator)

Scholastic Book Orders

Scholastic Book Orders were sent home today with second and third grade students. Please see your child's take-home folder to find some great gift ideas for the holiday season. Email Kimberly Gill (kimberly.gill@yinghuaacademy.org) if you have any questions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Morning Meeting

Grades 7 & 8: Starting this week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Qin Laoshi began engaging students in Chinese language morning meeting. Ask your son or daughter about the game 2 Truths and 1 Lie. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Mr. Scheid and Ke Laoshi engage students in a variety of activities: greetings, games, current events, problem-solving and read-alouds. Ask your student about the Indian space program. Also, ask him/her how Frederick Douglass learned to read and write.

Math

Geometric Figures:

What is a sphere? What is a sphere made of? 7th grade students had an opportunity to study the shape of sphere and look beyond its smooth surface. Ask your students to show you how it works!

Term One Final:

Math final exam consists of two parts. For the exam schedule please go to the teacher's classroom page.

American Math Competition:

AMC 8, the American Mathematics Competition, is on 11/19. The students have 40 minutes to complete 25 math questions at the middle school level. Please remind your students to have a great rest on Monday evening and be in the testing room (Yinghua cafeteria) by 8:40 in the morning on 11/19.

