



**YINGHUA  
ACADEMY**

## WEEKLY PARENT NEWSLETTER

Friday, November 22nd, 2013

[www.yinghuaacademy.org](http://www.yinghuaacademy.org)

612-788-9095

[newsletter@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:newsletter@yinghuaacademy.org)

### **Sue's News**

Dear parents,

Evidence of hard work was apparent this week as we wrap up Term I. Lively revision sessions modeled after *Bingo* for the little ones and *Jeopardy* for the more sophisticated learners helped to prepare students to show what they know. This juncture in the school year is a check point for us to gauge individual as well as whole class learning. Our end goal is to maximize each student's full potential appropriate for his/her age and grade...cognitive, social, emotional, and physical... by year end. We are a TEAM and look forward to utilizing this feedback as we plan for Term II. You can look forward to report cards in mid-December.

It is that time of year when we begin to plan for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year, believe it or not! As per the Yinghua Academy master calendar, on Tuesday evening, December 3, from 6:30-8:00, we will hold an informational Open House for prospective kindergarten parents at the Kinder Campus. We look forward to this opportunity to share our story, mission, and vision with interested families. Although this event is the first step in the process and for adults only, we look forward to a second opportunity on Saturday, January 11, from 10:00-11:30AM, which will be hands-on, interactive and give parents an opportunity to observe their children "live" with our KG Chinese immersion teachers in a demonstration. No doubt, you share your enthusiasm about YA with family, friends, and colleagues routinely. We'd love it if you would extend a personal invitation to any who might have current 4-5 year olds!

School tours are another facet of our outreach. On Thursday mornings from December through January from 9:30-10:30 we conduct a walk-talk opportunity for interested participants, which allows for a real sneak preview of Yinghua's students and teachers in action. Although led by me, Dr. Lien, or other school staff, we are excited to involve our students as ambassadors. What left such a lasting impression from my last trip to China were the children in the schools that we visited. From KG through university, the Chinese knew how to showcase their students! They spoke and acted with such passion, ownership, and pride. We were immersed in morning calisthenics on the field, still-life sketching in the art room, orchestra rehearsal in the music room, and English lessons in the lab; the brochures and literature could not duplicate these rich, firsthand experiences narrated by young boys and girls. We left fully able to imagine "a day in the life" of these students. I'm confident we can capture that same vibrancy here by allowing our students to help tell Yinghua Academy's story! After all, they can communicate our culture in two languages! Again, please spread the good word about Yinghua.

Over the last two months I served as a member of a Site Visit Review Team, focusing on immersion education, for the Minneapolis Public Schools; specifically I visited Anwatin Middle School and Windom Elementary. The opportunity to learn the inner workings of other schools and to share expertise is certainly a win-win situation for everyone involved. A prime take-away for me has been incredible confirmation of and pride in Yinghua Academy! I am grateful for our students, our families, our teachers, our support staff, our administrators, and our Board of Education. No newsletter next week.

Happy Thanksgiving! May you enjoy special times with family and friends.

Sue Berg

Executive Director

### **Luyi's Curriculum Corner**

Dear Yinghua Families,

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching. Every year around this time, people are being acknowledged for their contributions. It feels good to express our gratitude to others; and it is equally great to be recognized and appreciated. A few weeks ago, I had a discussion with my colleagues about the meaning of "thank you" notes, and soon after our conversation, I stumbled upon an article written by Sarah McKibben in Education Update entitled "Tapping into the Power of Gratitude". The article talks about how the appreciative mindset can have an impact on students' academic and social well-being, and asks educators to be a great model for young learners and help them use the appreciation lens to view the world.

Mrs. Berg and I shared this article with the staff at a recent Professional Learning Community meeting and asked every teacher to perform a simple task by thinking of at least one thing, one person, or one situation per day to be thankful for, and observe how different their life will become. We would like the teachers to be the change and model for the students because they play such an important role guiding them and shaping their worldview. The Chinese saying "言教不如身教" (loosely translated, "a good example is the best sermon") has the same idea: telling someone what to do is not as effective as showing them how to do.

When I was in elementary school, every lesson would begin with the students standing up, taking a bow, and greeting the teacher in unison: "laoshi hao!" At the end of each lesson, we would all stand up, take another bow, and shouted out: "xiexie laoshi!" to thank the teacher for sharing his/her knowledge with us and teaching us to be a good citizen. This practice of expressing gratitude has been deeply rooted in me and affected my attitude towards life.

In my appreciation log, I keep notes of many situations and people that I am thankful for: a brief conversation I had in the hallway where two teachers helped me solve a transition conflict; my colleagues who collaborate with me and help Yinghua operate smoothly; the teachers who dedicate themselves to helping students and making a difference in their lives; parents who trusted us with their children; volunteers who help generate such great community support; students who inspire me to become a better teacher; and most importantly, my family, whose unconditional support enables me to devote my time and energy to my passion in education. I feel truly lucky and blessed!

The article "Tapping into the Power of Gratitude" is available at the front office, if you are interested in reading it (due to copyright restrictions, I am unable to share it as a Newsletter attachment). I encourage you to be a great role model for your child, and discuss with him/her about being grateful. Together as a team, we can positively transform our students.

Thank you and have a wonderful weekend!

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.

Academic Director

## Brewer's Blog

Hello YA Parents!

Burrrrr!! It's getting cold outside! Cold enough in fact that I have been shocked by the number of students who are still coming to school without proper winter clothing. Many are still coming without jackets and I've seen even more in simply hoodies or thin fleece sweat-shirts. Please remember that it is winter and when we return from Thanksgiving Break, it will be December. Students are required to go outside for recess and especially gym class, so they really do need to bring proper outdoor winter clothing.

In many ways it's just like being properly prepared for any other class like Math, English, Chinese, Art, or Music. If a student doesn't bring the proper materials to class, like their book, notebook, or writing utensil, musical instrument, etc., they cannot participate or learn. It's the same with gym class. Students not dressed properly cannot participate. Out of respect for the hard work that Miss Thune and Miss Totall are investing in your children's classes, please help us by insuring that your children bring the proper attire to school. That means a warm jacket, hat, gloves, and boots every day. When the snow sticks, students will also need snow pants. As you can see in the picture, Miss Thune and Miss Totall are setting a great example of how to dress properly!

Thank you and have a wonderful weekend!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, and Community



### Calling All Artists!

With so many talented artists at Yinghua, YACA would like to invite all interested artists in grades 1-8 to enter the Chinese New Year Art Contest. The winner's art will be featured on our printed materials, such as programs, DVDs etc. All artists who submit a design will have their artwork exhibited at the event. Please see the attached flyer for details, in addition students received a flyer in their folder today.

### LOST & FOUND

Due to the lice outbreaks in a few of the grades, **we will be throwing out anything in the lost & found after school by November 26.** Please stop by to look for missing items before it's too late.

### PARKING IN FRONT OF YINGHUA

Please be careful of parking on the south side of 17th St. This week there was a parking officer administering \$42 tickets after he received a complaint. Look closely at the "no parking signs" on the south side of 17th, and do not park there between 8am and 5pm. If you are coming to pick up a student during those times, please park along Buchanan, Pierce, or on the north side of 17th.

### Revolutionary Sports Camps

Revolutionary Sports will continue to offer day camps for non school days. The flyer attached includes the upcoming dates for the rest of the year.

### Picture Retakes

Picture Retakes are on Wednesday, December 4. Please send the picture packet you received with your student. Lifetouch needs to scan the barcode on the old picture packet before taking another picture. If you would like to change your picture order, you can pick up a new picture form in the office.

### UPCOMING DATES

<b>November 25-26</b>	End of Term Exams
<b>November 26</b>	Term I Ends
<b>November 27-December 1</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> Thanksgiving Break
<b>December 2</b>	Term II Begins (aftercare only, no enrichment)
6:30PM	YACA Board Meeting
<b>December 3</b> 6:30-8:00PM	Informational Kindergarten Open House (at Kinder Campus)
<b>December 4</b>	Picture Retake Day
<b>December 5</b>	Term II Enrichment Catalog Online
8:30AM-10:00AM	First Friday Coffee (at Sip Coffeebar)
<b>December 6</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

## Media Studies

Our **5th-8th graders** have been working hard in Media Studies throughout this term, and they have a surprise for you on Thanksgiving. They will share the project we just finished with families and express their gratitude. Hope you will enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving night!

## Math

Well done, **5th graders**! The students have completed their final exam today. All term one concepts and materials have been assessed. The students did a beautiful job!

**7th and 8th graders** have completed the first part of the exams. Please remind the students to review the contents and sample questions using the study guide.

**6th graders'** final is on Tuesday. Please remind your students to study the sample questions using the study guide.

### **Math Club - AMC 8**

**6th, 7th, and 8th grade** students participated in 2013 AMC 8 on 11/19. Students were excited and have already started brainstorming for new and advanced strategies for the next competition. I am very proud of the MS students!

Math Club will meet again after returning from the Thanksgiving break on Fridays.

Have a great weekend and a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## Homeroom

Feeling grateful improves our lives and school performance! Thanks to an article provided by Mrs. Berg and Dr. Lien, staff learned "studies show that grateful youth have higher GPAs; experience more positive emotions; and ultimately, go on to live more meaningful lives." This pre-Thanksgiving week seemed like a good time to actively think about what and whom we appreciate. **Grade 7 and 8** students journaled this week about things they feel grateful for: people, experiences, knowledge and things. They wrote a paragraph about one thing in detail. In Chinese, they also acknowledged one person at school for whom they are grateful. In addition, students are placing one representative picture or small thing on our homeroom bulletin board. According to the research, we will all benefit!