









### **Sue's News**

Dear parents,

The report cards are in the mail! Check out this first snapshot of your child's academic progress. The teachers invested good effort to share helpful comments beyond the numbers. Should you wish more information or explanation, do not hesitate to contact teachers, Dr. Lien, Mr. Brewer, or me.

I'm amazed by the artistic talent at Yinghua! Forty-eight students entered the recent art contest to design the cover of this year's Chinese New Year Performance program. The creativity of these young artists who worked to capture their interpretation of "the year of the horse" was impressive. I am delighted to announce that fifth grader, Catherine McBride, is this year's winner! Her gorgeous illustration in reds and golds will set the tone for this year's performance. Certificates provided by YACA were awarded to every child who submitted artwork.

I suspect our kids' artistic appetites have been encouraged by art teacher, Meghan Byram, and her multi-faceted approach to teaching art. Just a few highlights of recent topics include:

-  Our first graders have loved learning about Greek mythology through their study of Greek hydria vases, Greek temples, and storytelling in art. They stayed thousands of years in the past when they learned about the ancient Egyptians' unique approach to profile portraiture.
-  Second graders recently wrapped up a unit on the geometric stained glass window designs of Frank Lloyd Wright with a glass cutting demonstration and are now starting a unit on castle architecture.
-  Third graders have explored prehistoric paintings and are using chalks of neutral colors and charcoal to recreate similar works of art.
-  Fourth graders have become masters at architecture through their study of Frank Lloyd Wright and Antoni Gaudi. They can identify roman arches, gothic arches, keystones, capitals, columns, spires, turrets, and pediments, and even better they can incorporate all of them into an architectural drawing. They wish they were planning a big field trip to Spain to see Gaudi's work in person!
-  Seventh graders were pushed to their creative brink as they created Surrealist landscape paintings while studying Rene Magritte and Salvador Dali.
-  5-8th graders have begun the collaborative painting process that will result in the grand works of art available to the highest bidder at the March 1 Red Lantern Gala Festival. The funds raised will help to purchase equipment and supplies for our new art facilities.

The Performing Arts will showcase their talents in next week's orchestral concert on Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30PM. The concert will be held at the Kinder Campus. Dr. Hsuan-Wen Lin will lead both YA orchestras in making beautiful music. Please join us!

Finally, preparations for the Chinese New Year Performance on Friday, January 31, at 6:00PM are well underway. This event will certainly be a wonderful launch of the Chinese New Year. Mark your calendars.

One week to go before winter break!

Sue Berg  
Executive Director

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

Dear Parents,

You may have noticed that in the 2013-2014 School Calendar, a few extra activities have been added to support students' Chinese language learning. Although we have adjusted some of the actual activity dates to accommodate our already busy academic schedule, we are progressing with excitement for each activity. These activities are purposefully planned to promote students language production either verbally or in writing.

To improve students' writing abilities, the first new activity is the Chinese Essay Contest. The contest idea was sparked by our students' successful essay entries to the 2013 Confucius Institute Cup International Writing Competition, where four of our students won top prizes and received recognition at the Chinese Proficiency Award Ceremony. I would like to see more students use Chinese to express their thoughts in writing and be prepared to enter future competitions. The Chinese Essay Contest is open to all students in grades 3 to 8. Students can choose from one of the six pre-determined topics, apply their learned writing knowledge and skills, and work closely with their Chinese Language Arts teachers.

To improve students' Chinese pronunciation and willingness to use Chinese to communicate with others, we will have the students in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes participate in the Chinese poetry Recital Games, and the students in Grades 5 to 8 in a Speech Contest. The purpose of the Chinese Poetry Recital Game for grades K to 2 is to enhance their sense of tones in the Chinese language and enlighten students to appreciate the beauty of the Chinese rhymes and poems.

The Chinese Speech Contest is open to all Middle School students in Grades 5 to 8. The purpose of this contest is twofold: (1) to develop students' leadership skills and interest in public speaking and presentation; (2) to encourage students to use the Chinese language appropriately, including the correct pronunciation and tones. Our students have beautiful pronunciation but need to be reminded to use the right tones. The contest will help students pay attention to such details and learn the proper ways to deliver a speech.

In order to encourage students to gain a better sense of correct Chinese character use, and increase their accuracy of Chinese character usage, the Chinese Dictionary Users' Competition has been planned for grades 3 to 8. We would like to promote dictionary usage and also support students in extending their vocabulary learning and building their confidence in self-directed learning. We will look for students' speed and accuracy while they look up vocabulary in the dictionary.

As the results from each contest become available, we will announce the top winners in the Newsletter. Naturally, we want to recognize each student's effort and will present them with a certificate to celebrate their participation.

Sincerely,

Luyi Lien, Ph.D  
Academic Director

## **Brewer's Blog**

Greetings Parents!

As promised, I have the update you have been waiting for regarding the Bake Sale that the Student Life department is putting together with the help of Isabel Metzdorff in 3C.

The "W" details are:

**What** – Bake sale. People interested in participating may bake cookies, pies, brownies, and various other goodies to be sold during the sale. Holiday themed treats are preferred, but are not required. Baked items should be brought to school in disposable containers (Ziploc baggies, paper plates wrapped in plastic wrap, etc.) and easily divided (please – no cakes unless they can be sold whole). There is a rumor that there may even be hot chocolate and hot cider for sale too!

**When & Where** – Baked treats are due by the end of the school day on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and should be brought to room 201. The SLO cabinet and other helpers will sort the goodies and prepare them for the sale. The sale itself will start at 6:00pm at the Kinder Campus on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, before, during, and after the Orchestra Concert. Leftover items will be sold before and after school on Thursday and Friday until everything is gone.

**Who** – Open to anyone who has any kind of connection to Yinghua Academy, especially students. So, encourage your parents, grandma and grandpa, and even neighbors. Yes, neighbors. I wouldn't have thought of that either, but a number of the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in Wu Laoshi's class told me they had some neighbors who were phenomenal bakers. They asked me if they could ask them up for some treats. I said of course. Everyone is invited to participate. J

**Why** – To raise money to be donated to help the people in the Philippines who were devastated by typhoon Haiyan.

So, as 8<sup>th</sup> grader Murphy Henning announced to the whole school this afternoon, "If you want to participate and get into the holiday spirit of giving, then get out your cookie dough and cookie sheets and let's help the Philippines!"

But, if baking isn't your thing, don't worry. We're going to be doing a used book sale in January and a pocket change drive to help build a school. There will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to get involved, no matter how big or how small.

Have fun baking!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, & Community

### School Lunch Reminders for Grade 1-8

Due to winter break, and to ensure an accurate lunch count, January 2014 lunch order form is due on Monday, December 16 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)

### Indoor Recess/Gym Class Policy

If either the actual temperature and/or the wind chill temperature are below zero, then students will stay inside for recess and gym class. On rare occasions where it is below zero, but the wind chill is negligible and it's sunny, we may allow gym classes to go outside for 15 minutes.

### Homework FIRST!

Imagine your weeknights free from homework battles because homework is done before students leave school! Starting after winter break, Aftercare students will have a terrific resource for homework help: Yinghua teachers!

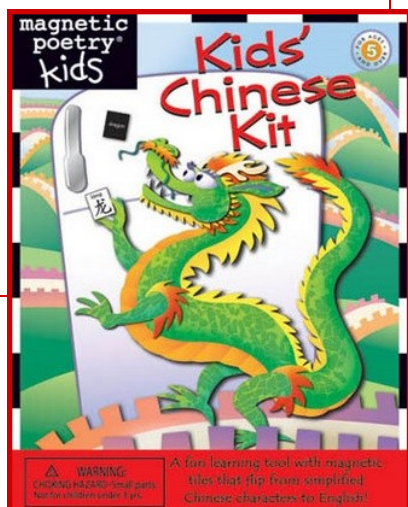
Homework FIRST! features Yinghua teachers who know the curriculum and know your students. They are here to help your students get homework DONE! Any student registered for Aftercare can participate in the program. Learn more about it in the attached Aftercare Update page.

### Kindergarten Chinese Poetry Recital Game

Your printed Yinghua master calendar lists "Chinese Poetry Recital Game, (K-2)" on Monday, December 16. The date for Kindergarteners to participate in this event has been postponed until in Spring 2014.

### Magnetic Poetry Kids' Chinese Kit

Dr. Lien & Librarian Ms. Hoffmann recommend this local gift idea for your kids for the holidays. You can find them at: [www.china-sprout.com/shop/BLP122](http://www.china-sprout.com/shop/BLP122)



### UPCOMING DATES

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>December 16</b><br>6:00PM—8:00PM  | School Board Meeting   |
| <b>December 18</b><br>6:30PM-8:00PM  | Winter Orchestra Concert & Bake Sale (Kinder Campus)   |
| <b>December 19</b><br>9:30AM-10:30AM | School Tour  |
| <b>December 23—January 3</b>         | Winter Break   |
| <b>January 6</b><br>6:30PM-8:30PM    | Term II Enrichment Classes & Music Conservatory Begins<br>Open Enrollment Begins<br>YACA Board Meeting |

### 3rd-8th grade Field Trip

Friday, December 20, 3rd through 8th graders will be going on a field trip to see the U of M Gopher Women's Basketball Game at Williams Arena. Permission slips were sent home today.

### Enrichment classes still open!

We have some fantastic classes still open for enrollment in our winter Enrichment program! Here are just a few:

**Media Madness:** Middle schoolers can make a music video, create comic books and much more!

**Chinese Painting and Calligraphy:** Both classes are taught by our Han-ban teacher, and are open to students AND parents! (Grades 4 and up)

**Winter Adventure:** These super popular classes get students outside playing games, sledding, skiing and even a campfire with marshmallows, all with Ms. Totall! (K-5)

**Math Mania:** If math is your thing... or if you just want to gain some new and awesome math skills, this is a fun class! (Grades 2-4)

**Get Ready for Reading:** Get a boost in pre-reading skills with games and fun activities with Ms. Gill. (Grade 1)

### New procedure for Yinghua Aftercare

Starting now, all families who participate in Aftercare need to fill out a monthly Aftercare schedule, selecting which days during the month their students will be in Aftercare. The current system – in which families are asked to schedule for months at a time – is not practical enough for their ever-changing schedules! Pinpointing Aftercare numbers more precisely will help Aftercare staff prep more effectively. It's critical for the Homework FIRST! program to recruit the right teachers based on Aftercare numbers. The January Aftercare sign-up form is due on or before December 20. Find the form attached; fill it out and return it to the school office. EVERY family that plans to use Aftercare must turn in a new sign-up form each month.

### Contacting Aftercare by Phone

In order to most effectively communicate with Yinghua Aftercare staff, **please call our main office line at (612) 788-9095 until 5:00pm. If you need immediate assistance regarding a child in Aftercare, or have an emergency and need to contact Aftercare staff between the hours of 5:00-6:00pm, you may reach them at (612) 401-0715.** (Please note – This number is only active M-F, between the hours of 5:00-6:00pm.)

### Dismissal Changes

If you have a change in your afternoon dismissal routine, you need to contact the Main Office (via phone, email, or note) by 1:00 on the day of the change. If we receive the notice after 1:00, we may not be able to accommodate the request.

### Yinghua Academy Conservatory of Music lessons available for winter and spring terms!

There are openings for piano, violin, erhu (traditional Chinese instrument), and many more! Lessons are available for all grades, K-8. Print a registration form from the Yinghua site under Current Families\Conservatory of Music. Winter lessons begin the week of January 6.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

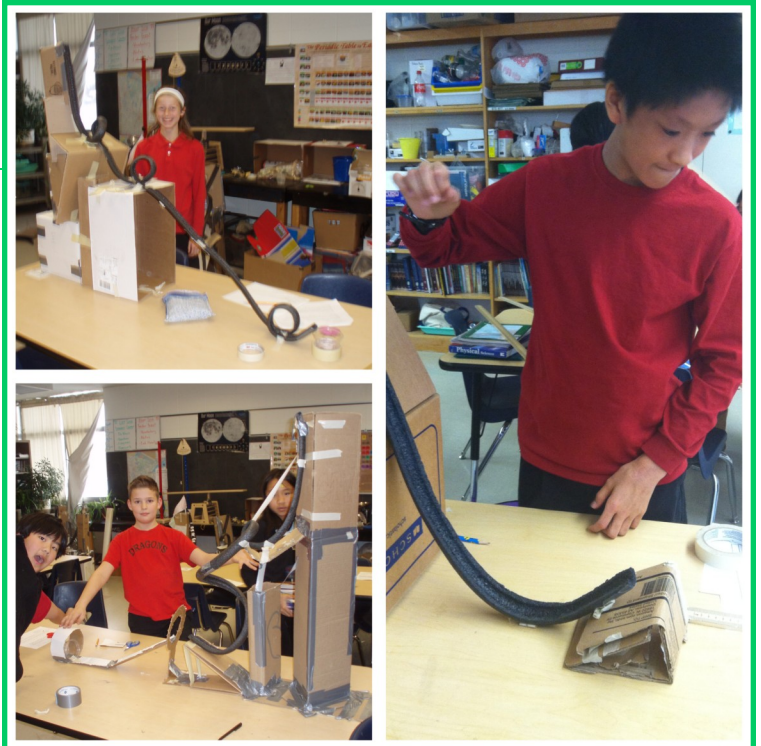
## Outdoor Recess...at last!

The hallways were buzzing today when recess time arrived. For the first time in a few days, students actually were allowed to play outdoors. Why, it felt like summer!



## Science

6th grade Physical Science students are building a roller coaster for a marble out of common and recycled materials. Josh M. had an excellent explanation of our project for visitors to Yinghua, saying "We are testing our roller coaster and keeping track of the changes that we make as part of the Engineering Design Process. It needs to have enough potential energy to make it through the loops and over the jump." Way to go Josh! Another part of the project is to use a wooden roller coaster to actually measure the speed of a marble as it travels, allowing students to track the energy transformation from potential to kinetic energy by the force of gravity.



## Family Outing Opportunities

The Minnesota Historical Society offers holiday events this weekend:

[Hill House Holidays](#), at the James J. Hill House in St. Paul.

[Christmas on the Farm](#), at the Oliver H. Kelley Farm in Elk River

[Victorian Christmas Stories](#), at the James J. Hill House in St. Paul.

**Grade 6** students receive a free admission to Minnesota Historical Sites this year; ask your student to see his/her ticket! And use it with him/her.

Also, at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, there is an exhibit this month called [Iraqi Cultures through Youth Eyes](#). Opening reception is Saturday, 12/14. It was organized by teens!