



Dear Yinghua families,

What an exhilarating four days it has been! On Tuesday morning, I began my immersion into the Yinghua Academy community by visiting each classroom with Dr. Lien as my able guide. From first impressions, I can assure you that our teachers and students are impressive as they engage in learning together. They have graciously welcomed me to the team and have assured me that they are dedicated to helping me “jumpstart” my educational adventure at Yinghua Academy so that I can hit “cruising speed” ASAP!

I have had the privilege of joining grade level teams as well as Professional Learning Communities (PLC) this week and I've already learned so much. The information regarding data-driven assessment as well as detailed plans regarding the upcoming Chinese New Year Celebration at Bethel University are indicative of the great work being done here. In addition, I have joined discussions regarding behavior expectations, the Middle School program at present and in the future, enrollment for 2012-2013, and topics for professional development. I am pleased to be a part of an environment that is committed to growth of all flavors and to one that recognizes the hard work and investment of time and energy necessary to make it happen. I will value your constructive feedback and thank you, in advance, for your willingness to be part of the solutions to our challenges. As I stated in the parent forum during the interview process, “this is pioneer work”; as such, we are often overcoming hurdles and blazing new pathways. From experience, I know this can be grueling work, but the rewards and sense of accomplishment are unmatched. Thankfully, we share one overriding common goal and that is to prepare our students to be engaged and productive global citizens!

My goal, first and foremost, is to learn each and every child's name. Additionally, I'm anxious to meet each of you and to match you with your child/ren. I will need your help! Already, in the hallways and at the First Friday Coffee, I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you. Feel free to stop in to say hello as you drop off or pick up your children. I look forward to the School Board Meeting at 6:00 on Monday, January 9, as well as the Town Hall Meeting on January 19 as opportunities to meet parents.

*Lastly, please submit your **Intent to Return Form** at your earliest convenience. Although we've heard from nearly 250 of you already, we would like to hear from each and every one of you. We value your family. If you have questions or concerns about your child's future at Yinghua Academy, you may reach me at susan.berg@yinghuaacademy.org or at 612-788-9095, extension 123.*

Warm regards,

Sue Berg, Executive Director

See page 2 for the calendar and notes!

TOWN HALL MEETING will be held on Thursday, January 19 from 6-8 PM in the cafeteria. YACA will sponsor childcare providers in the gym. Please sign up in advance for childcare by emailing

Deb.Peterson@yinghuaacademy.org. Our new director will speak, the board will give projected enrollment and expansion updates, and the School Culture & Community committee will lead discussion to identify our school's values, an important part of the strategic plan implementation process. Mark your calendars!

LANTERN FESTIVAL GALA: A letter will be sent home in backpacks today with the form to order tickets and DVDs. (\$15 each) Please return to school by January 20.

WINTER ENRICHMENT—BASKETBALL: Please call the office today or Monday if you have last minute additions to this class.

Remember this is open to the public, so your friends can come too.

EARLY RELEASE DAY: On February 10, students will be dismissed at 1:00 PM. The school busses will depart at dismissal, running the regular afternoon routes. More details will be shared with bussing families and posted on the website. For families who need child care, it will be available from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM for \$5.00/hr. The After-care schedule and arrangement will remain unchanged for this day.

LATE START DAY: On April 27, school will begin at 11:00 AM. Child care will be available from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM for \$5.00/hr. The schedule for the morning school bus routes will be communicated to the bussing families and posted on the website. The Aftercare will not be affected on this day.

POWERSCHOOL: If you are still having issues logging into PowerSchool, please call Deb Peterson in the office.

UPCOMING DATES	
January 9	School Board Meeting 6:00 PM
January 16	NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19	YACA January Town Hall Meeting with Sue Berg
January 21	Immersion Information/Open House 10:00 AM
January 23	Chinese New Year
January 24	Middle School China Trip Information Meeting 6:00—7:00 PM
January 26	Chinese New Year Celebration At Bethel College 4:00—6:00 PM
January 26– February 4	YACA Red Envelope Campaign
January 27	NO SCHOOL Chinese New Year Break
February 4	Lantern Festival Gala
February 10	EARLY RELEASE DAY 1:00 PM
February 20	NO SCHOOL President's Day
March 2	NO SCHOOL Conference Prep Day