

### Sue's News

Dear parents,

#### Student and Family Handbook

The 2013-2014 Student & Family Handbook has been published and is now posted on The School's website. You will find it under the "Current Families" tab. The Table of



2013-2014

District 4140

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Contents will be your guide to locating useful information on school policies, procedures, and expectations. It will answer many of your questions, and help you navigate things that come up throughout the year. It's basically the "manual" for how to do school at YA. Be sure to check it out and bring any questions you might have with you to conferences; amazingly, 380 families are already registered so we look forward to many lively discussions about our kids!

Speaking of conferences, Wednesday, October 16 is a ½ Day. **School will be officially dismissed at 12:15PM, with buses departing at 12:30PM. Children can be picked up from 12:15-12:45.** We will email a ½ day busing schedule to busing parents next week. Please be sure to pick up your children no later than 12:45 so the teachers can have 15 minutes to prepare for the start of conferences at 1:00PM. There is no school for students on Thursday, October 17, due to conferences, or on Friday, October 18.

It has been an eventful week at Yinghua, planned and unplanned! The newsletter is chocked full of details and photos to help illustrate the breadth and depth of what we do here. Next week we look forward to welcoming over 300 grandparents to share their stories with us on Friday, October 11. There will be plenty of mutual admiration amongst our generations, I'm sure!

Check out this link to the Asia Society's website. Naturally, the headline "Chinese Language Matters" caught my eye immediately! I've attached the article, and the website is filled with fascinating information.

<http://asiasociety.org/education>

Enjoy!

Sue Berg

Executive Director

### Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Parents,

As many of you know we are an approved Quality Compensation (Q Comp) school. If you are not familiar with Q Comp, it is a voluntary program that allows local districts and the teachers to design a pay-for-performance system to promote quality teachers and quality education. Being a school with rigor and quality, Yinghua has been approved by the Department of Education to participate in this program for the past four years. Like previous years, to achieve our Q Comp performance goals, we formally organize teachers to be a Professional Learning Community (PLC) to foster a collaborative learning culture, to focus on learning, and to focus on results.

To build a culture of collaboration, the PLC will promote teamwork and ways to coordinate strategies to support students' learning and to remove any barriers to success. To focus on student learning, the PLC will ensure that students learn by addressing three basic questions: What do we want each student to learn? How will we know when each student has learned it? And how will we respond when a student experiences difficulty in learning? To focus on results, the PLC will make certain that staff working together to improve student achievement becomes the routine work of everyone in the school. The data-driven decision will support all students' learning and empower teachers to use various ways to help students. I am looking forward to seeing the PLC make a difference on students' learning!

This past Wednesday evening, I was invited to meet with the

Chinese delegation that came to visit the Children's Home Society and Family Services. Several Yinghua families attended this event and our students were true ambassadors for adoption as they

performed a Chinese song for these special guests. Our students' beautiful singing and self-introduction displayed their cultural connection and knowledge with China. They surprised and delighted the visiting delegates, who clapped and sang along and captured the performance on video.



On Thursday, more than 100 Yinghua students, families, teachers, and board members attended the Chinese Proficiency Award Ceremony and Reception at the Ted Mann Concert Hall. A great number of our students were formally recognized on stage. We are really proud of their excellent work!

This coming Monday, the entire teaching staff will get together at the Main Campus for a professional development session and prepare for the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences. Please remember to sign up for your conference time(s). We look forward to meeting all the parents and sharing your student's progress with you!

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.

Academic Director

## ***Brewer's Blog***

Greetings Parents!

### **For our 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,**

Last Friday's Activity Night to the Shoreview Community Center's Tropics Water Park was a HUGE success. We had 99 students attend and they had a blast! I've got many students asking me if we can do it again in the Spring. I've told them we will see because we want to mix it up a little too. I've attached a few pictures of the evening so you can share in the fun. Thanks for allowing your children to participate!

### **For our 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,**

Don't forget that next Tuesday is WE Day! Students attending the event need to be at school by 7:20am so we can board the buses and depart by 7:30 sharp!

That's it for this week! Have a wonderful weekend!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, & Community



### Construction Update

Great news on the construction livability front is that the very noisy, repetitive pile driving is complete! Your kids, the teachers, and staff all deserve medals for tolerating that noise for many weeks. The relatively quieter tasks of pile capping, backfilling, underground utility, and concrete work are now underway, with the future gym area being the first priority. There will be periodic activity with concrete trucks visiting the site, but they will be scheduled not to conflict with drop off and pick up.

On that topic of drop off and pick up: because of continuous complaints of Yinghua parents making discourteous traffic-related decisions (i.e., taking shortcuts through alleys, speeding, blocking alleys, parking in alleys, etc.) the city has required us to invest in a Traffic Demand Management Plan, which will occur in October. This not only costs the school thousands of dollars, but it also perpetuates our reputation as an unreliable and sometimes unkind neighbor. Please remember that your DAILY DECISIONS make a big impact on the school's reputation. Please support the leadership team at Yinghua - and follow the traffic laws - by making time for a proper drop off and pick up. Thank you for your partnership.

### A note from the PE Office...

Thank you parents and students for the wonderful cards and gifts on Confucius Day. It was a very nice welcoming to Yinghua Academy. The cards are adding beautiful colors to the grey walls of our temporary PE office.

### Picture Day is coming up!

Picture Day order forms were sent home today. Yinghua's Picture Day will be on October 25. Be sure to get your order forms in and start picking out those picture day outfits as the 25th will be a non-uniform day. Yahoo!

### UPCOMING DATES

<b>October 7</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> Professional Development Day for Teachers
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6:30PM	YACA Board Meeting
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<b>October 11</b>	Grandparents Day Double Ninth Day
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<b>October 14</b>	No enrichment or music conservatory this week
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	YA Read-A-Thon begins
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<b>October 16</b>	<b>1/2 DAY SCHOOL</b>
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12:15PM 1:00PM-8:00PM	Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conferences
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<b>October 17</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
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8:00AM-2:00PM	Parent/Teacher Conferences Fall Book Fair
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<b>October 18</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> Fall Break
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### PHYSICAL EDUCATION REMINDER

Parents, please send your child in gym shoes on their PE days. We have students wearing crocs, boots and dress shoes.

PE Activities: We just finished a volleyball unit and we are looking forward to our football unit followed by a soccer unit. Fitness Activities: We will be working on our jump rope skills all year long. Jumping rope works on coordination, timing, speed, strength, agility and fitness. We are also building up our cardiovascular endurance through slow continuous running (learning how to pace) and mile practice. We are encouraging the students to practice on the weekend.

Stay active.

Thanks,  
Sarah Totall and Erin Thune



# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

## Chinese Language Arts

Starting from October, we will have the once-a-month video conference with our sister school in Inner Mongolia, China. Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be participating by completing the prerequisite subject/assignment. The permission slip has been sent home on Tuesday. Please sign and submit your permission form to your child's homeroom teachers by Monday, October 7th.

Our first video conference will be next Thursday, October 10th between 5:40- 6:30 PM. Please note that this year, we will **NOT** provide free aftercare and snacks for the students who attend the video conferences. You may either pick up your child by 3:45PM then bring him/her back by 5:30 PM for the conference, or your child can stay with the chaperone teachers during that time. You may prepare some convenient snacks for your child. Please discard the option of "use aftercare free-of-charge" on the Return slip. We apologize for the confusion.

If there is any question, please contact Liu Laoshi ([bo.liu@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:bo.liu@yinghuaacademy.org)). Looking forward to seeing your child at the video conference!

## Social Studies

**Grade 6** students are writing about how many representatives from each state serve in the U.S. Congress.

**Grade 7** students are writing a paragraph about Fort Sumter--the battle which started the Civil War--based on 3 different secondary sources.

**Grade 8** students are learning about China's 19th century interactions with western countries.

## Math

If your child wants to be in the MS Math Team, there's still time! The deadline is extended to Oct 8th. Please see the attached document for more information. The team will meet once a week on Fridays in room 210 between 12 - 12:30. The students in the team will have lunch at 12:40 for the day.

Conference Reminders: Sign-up has started! If you do not know for sure who you should meet with, email me!

Calculators: Students may be allowed to use a calculator (may or may not be an ipad application) for solving math questions. However, a calculator may not always provide the correct solutions that a student is seeking.

## Science

**6th Graders** completed an Engineering Design Project by making and testing rubber band cars. Cars were tested for distance traveled and students made changes to the design and chose different size rubber bands for a power source. This also ties in with our current study of Motion and Speed.

