



YINGHUA  
ACADEMY

## WEEKLY PARENT NEWSLETTER

Friday November 9, 2012

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### *Sue's News*

Dear parents,

Greetings from China! I applied for and was accepted as a delegate for the 2012 Chinese Bridge Delegation, scheduled for November 7-15. Since 2006 this opportunity, sponsored by the College Board and Hanban, the Ministry of Education in China, has allowed over 3000 US educators to be immersed in Chinese education. The purpose of the program is to provide school leaders with information and inspiration to start, expand, or enrich Chinese language and culture programs in US schools. I also had the great privilege to attend a similar forum in July 2007. The wealth of information amongst us school leaders is valuable as we share best practices and return to our schools energized to implement new ideas.

From China I will be joining Dr. Lien in Philadelphia at the ACTFL (American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages) Annual Convention and World Languages Expo from November 16-18. In addition, we have been invited to partake in a pre-conference "think tank" to discuss early immersion with a select group of pioneers seen as trailblazers in this arena.

As our students show what they've learned through the End-of-Term Exams next week, I am busy learning, too. The "test" for administrators and teachers is to continue to deliver on a top-notch education for our kids and that can only happen when we engage in lifelong learning!

I survived the long flight from Chicago to Beijing and look forward to an early morning wake-up call tomorrow as we hop another flight to Dalian, located between the Bohai and Yellow Seas. We will explore the K-12 schools and universities as well as take in the sights and sounds of this beautiful city.

Warm regards,

Sue



### *Luyi's Curriculum Corner*

Dear Yinghua Families,

This past week, students and teachers have been diligently preparing for the end of term tests. We all want our students to do well in school and have a successful testing experience and results. There are many things that you as parents can do to help your child prepare for tests at school.

Most importantly, you can communicate to your child that school is important and you believe their job in school is to learn, and that testing is a way to show everyone how well he or she has learned.

Second, parents can be supportive by demonstrating a similar attitude toward the tests as the teachers do. Please communicate with your child that the best way to prepare for tests is to study, know the work, and have good test-taking skills. Therefore, please encourage good study skills and become aware of what your child is studying in school and what his/her assignments are. You can also ask your child to **teach** you the concept she/he is studying. We know students learn more and demonstrate mastery when they are able to comprehensively teach a subject.

Third, provide a comfortable, well-lit place for your child to study. It also helps if you work with your child and review your child's homework. Study the study packet with them and offer to help quiz your child on facts he/she needs to know. If you notice that your child is having difficulty, ask his or her teacher for advice.

During exam week, please try to plan ahead and keep normal household routines. Please help your child to understand the importance of testing and reassure and encourage your child.

Please also make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a well-balanced breakfast on testing day. Be encouraging and support them to try their best.

We want our students to have a positive attitude toward exams and be proud of their learning. Parents' support is critical for students' success. If you have any questions about the tests, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or me. Thank you for all your support!

Warm regards,

Luyi Lien, Ph.D., Academic Director

Greetings Parents & Middle School Students,

Don't forget about our MS Dance coming up next Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:30pm. The school calendar says it starts at 6:30, but the students voted to start a little earlier. The theme for this dance is "Hollywood Stars" so come dressed up as your favorite celebrity, or dress as your own celebrity. But, remember, costumes must be appropriate (No Lady Gaga! ☺). Cost will be \$5 and includes admission, beverages, snacks, door prizes, music, and FUN! Students who wish to attend need to return a signed permission slip with payment by Wednesday, November 14th. I have attached a copy of the permission slip to this email for your convenience. See you at the dance!

Thanks!

Jeremy Brewer (Mr. Brewer)

## Enrichment and Extended-Care News

Our new session of enrichment starts November 26 and runs until winter break. It's a little different than previous sessions, with shorter classes (just 4 weeks), many new offerings, and some single-day classes called One-Time Wonders. We're calling this our enrichment sampler, with classes designed to give you a taste of what we have to offer, but with less time commitment and cost. We've even added a few free classes, and we have some options for families as well as kids. Check out the catalog online... <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/current-families/enrichment-program/>

Registrations for the 4-week session are due **Friday, November 16** by 3:30. Note that if you need to drop a class, we can't refund your fees if you cancel after the end the school day on November 16. You will get an email confirmation of your classes before November 26. If we need to cancel a class due to low enrollment, we'll let you know that via email, too.

We have one more week in the current fall enrichment session; classes run through November 16.

Any questions? Shoot me an email at [libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org) or call 612-401-0715 between 2:00 and 6:00 on weekdays.

Picture retakes will be **Friday, November 16th**. Please bring your 1st set of photos in their original envelope to return to the photographer. Students having a retake, may dress in non-uniform clothes but will need to change into a uniform after their picture is taken.



### UPCOMING DATES

Nov 9	Last Day of Term I Enrichment
	Enrichment Registration Form sent in Friday Folders
Nov 12-Nov 16	End-of-Term I Final Exams Grades 1-8
Nov 12 6:00 PM	School Board
Nov 15 6:30 PM	Give to the Max Day YACA Board meeting
Nov 16	Individual Picture Retakes
	Term II Winter Sampler Enrichment Registration Deadline
6:00-9:30PM	SLO MS Dance (Grades 6-8)

Don't forget to register  
for **Dragons Basketball!**

Deadline is **November 20th**.



Middle School parents attached is a flyer about the upcoming information session on **November 26th, from 6-7PM for the 2013 China trip.**



#### Terracotta Warriors Event!

Yinghua Families,

I'm writing to tell you about a can't miss, FREE, opportunity! The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) monthly Target Family Day is this Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 11am - 5pm at the MIA. Each month there is a different theme. In celebration of the opening of the Terracotta Warriors exhibit, this month's theme is CHINA! This means there are tons of events and activities museum wide that celebrate the Chinese culture.

There will be music, calligraphy, paper cutting demonstrations and much more plus, free admission to the Terracotta Warriors exhibit. One of the art studios is a clay warrior project that I am lucky enough to be leading, I hope to see a lot of familiar faces!

See you Sunday,

Meghan Wenkel  
Yinghua Academy Art Specialist

Some more schedule and events information:  
[http://www.artsmia.org/index.php?section\\_id=197](http://www.artsmia.org/index.php?section_id=197)

#### NEW TO YINGHUA

Lexia reading and phonics  
online curriculum

We are excited to share with you information regarding Lexia. This online curriculum is available to all students at Yinghua. This program can be downloaded on your home computers and students can have access daily. On Friday, each student will be receiving a letter with an explanation of the program, downloading instructions and a password.

Lexia will offer our students an opportunity to work on phonics and reading skills at home. Skills are presented systematically and students work through and pass levels. If they come to a level they are having difficulty with, we can provide additional practice to get them through this difficult area. This is an individualized, targeted practice students need to master their reading skills. Yinghua's English teachers will be able to monitor each student's progress online.

Our expectation is that kindergarten and first grade students will all use the program. Since we do not start English till second grade, we feel it is important to provide a consistent model to all our students. We would like all incoming second graders to know all the letters and sounds of letters, be able to discriminate vowel sounds from consonant sounds, and be able to read basic sight words. This program is a perfect way to begin that learning.

Our expectation for second and third graders is that they all use the program as well. Many third grade students need phonics practice, which we continue to work on in classrooms through spelling, but the additional practice in using Lexia will help those who are not quite at a comfortable reading level.

For our fourth and fifth graders we are sending letters home to students via teacher recommendation. Ms. Rademacher will provide a brief explanation on those letters. If your student is in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade and they receive a letter for Lexia we are strongly suggesting they use the program.

Once a student has confidence in reading, their whole world falls into place. We want our students to learn to read and then read to learn. Please join us in creating this successful reading culture at Yinghua.

Happy Learning,

Your English Department -  
Ms. Rademacher, Mr. Morris,  
Mr. Byykkonen and Mrs. Hansen