



Sue's News

Dear Parents,

In January I will celebrate one year as Executive Director of Yinghua Academy. What an exhilarating journey it has been for me! This adventure in immersion education has provided me with rewards and challenges alike. As I told the 4th graders just yesterday, I am green with envy when I witness our students' abilities to speak, read, and write Chinese. WOW, they are amazing! You have given your children the gift of a lifetime, a priceless educational opportunity which is sure to provide a solid foundation in today's big, wide world. Thank you for inviting me to lead our outstanding school community! I look forward to a long and productive future together!

I wish you peace! See you in 2013; it promises to be an exciting one!

Fondly,
Sue

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for all your warm wishes and sweet treats! I will certainly enjoy them over the break! As I reflected upon 2012, I realized that we have come a long way. Together, we have grown from a school with 79 students to one with 518 students today. We have set high academic standards and expectations for our students and staff. We have experienced growing pain and relied on each other's support, and we have shared the joy and celebrated as we learned the great news of making one of the Top 10 Schools in Minnesota! Looking forward to 2013, we will continue to bear the serious responsibility of educating and shaping the young minds, and partnering with parents to foster truly bi-lingual and bi-culture students who are creative thinkers and collaborators with problem solving skills, open-mindedness and world perspective. We will also strive to be the national leader in the field of Chinese language immersion education by seeking improvements in all academic areas, fine-tuning our Chinese curriculum and honing our students' Chinese language skills. I look forward to a great 2013 and celebrating the Chinese New Year with you.

Happy Holidays!



Greetings Parents,

A number of the Student Life Prefects and I have been hard at work planning the Spirit Days in January. As promised, I am announcing the themes so you can plan what you want to wear during break!

Friday, January 12 - Pajamas & Sweats Day

– Wear your comfy sweats or pajamas to school!

Friday, January 19 - Miss-Match Day/Crazy Hair or Hat Day

– Wear clothes that clash or don't go together and do up your hair crazy!

Friday, January 26 - Backwards/Inside Out Day

– Wear your clothes backwards or inside out!

Friday, February 1 - Spirit Day and Pep fest

– Wear Spirit Wear or school colors!

Everyone in grades 1-8 are invited to participate, but it's not required. However, students who choose not to participate will need to wear regular uniform clothes. Remember, even though it's a special uniform day, all clothing still needs to be modest and appropriate. Please, no face paint or masks. And, be sure to bring appropriate gym shoes on days you have gym class. The Pep fest is a month and a half away so we'll send out more details about the festivities as we get closer.

Pennies For Play! - Many of you may have noticed that we are in desperate need of some new playground toys (balls, jump ropes, etc.). The Student Life Prefects had a brilliant idea to collect spare change in classrooms. We're calling it "Pennies for Play"! (The title was Mrs. Berg's brilliant idea!)

How it will work - Each homeroom will be given a jar labeled "Pennies For Play". Students, parents, teachers, and anyone else who wants to contribute can place their spare change in the jars from January 9-30. The money collected will be used to purchase new balls, jump ropes, foot balls, etc. On Wednesday, January 30, the student prefects will collect the money, count it, and then announce how much was raised at the pep fest on Friday, February 1st. In fact, we are going to make it a competition between the homerooms. Every student in the homeroom that collects the most change will receive a special gift at the Pep fest! So, check under your beds, on the floors of your cars, in your cushions, and anywhere else you can think of. Then, consider donating what you find so we can get more toys for recess time and may the best homeroom win!!

Have a wonderful break one and all!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Brewer

"Thank you all Yinghua families that donated to this years Toys for Tots Drive! We ended up with 9 bags of toys, and our goal was 10! Thanks again for all the donations this year and happy holidays! -The Community Service department"

Reminders from the health office

If your child has:	He/she may return to school if there is:
Fever over 100 degrees	No fever for 24 hours without the aid of medication
Vomiting or diarrhea	No vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours after the last episode
Rash	The rash has been diagnosed by a physician

New and Improved Aftercare!

The after-school programs have grown by leaps and bounds, and we've all felt the growing pains. Now, we're launching a new program to make Aftercare safer and more secure. Starting on January 7th, we're changing our procedures. **(FYI, this is a tried-and-proven procedure that Mr. Brewer and Ms. Berg used at a previous school for 10 years... it works!)**

In a nutshell...

1. During afternoon homeroom, students with after-school activities (other than kindergarteners) will select from three choices where they would like to go at 3:30 – directly to the Playground, to the Homework Room or to the Game Room.
2. Homeroom teachers indicate the choices for each student on an Afterschool Activity Roster form designed specifically for each homeroom.
3. Aftercare staff will pick up the forms and organize them on a clipboard – the starting point to track EVERY student that day.
4. Every time a student chooses to move from one area to another (for example, from the Playground to the Game Room), the student has the responsibility to report to the clipboard staff person, who will use the teacher-initiated roster to track the student's location. At any point in time, our staff can pinpoint where each student is.

*See attached Extended Care document for more details.....

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Dear Parents in Grades 6 - 8,

We are forming a student group to visit China this summer. Email Dr. Luyi Lien at luyi.lien@yinghuaacademy.org for information about this exciting opportunity for culture, friendship and fun!

Hey All,

Thank you for the support of YA's Physical Education program! The smiles on faces and the determination to work hard with the skills in the art of the yo-yo was evident in so many students. Dazzling Dave was very pleased with the message our students received about working hard and staying focused with a given task. In the spirit of yo-yos our school was able to raise \$280 that will go directly to the PE department. If you have more yo-yo interest from your child, please visit Dave's website at www.dazzlingdave.com. Have a relaxing and well deserved Holiday Season!

Warm Regards,

De Hanuman

Congratulations to all Yinghua students in completing the MIA's (Minneapolis Institute of Arts) Art Adventure Program. I know some families plan to go to the museum together over break or maybe again at a later date, for you I have made our museum map available on my classroom pages News page. It can be difficult to find specific artwork, the map I've attached is a map of the pieces the students have studied this year. My classroom pages does not require a password and I have attached the map to the announcement as a word document and as a PDF.

Enjoy!

Your Yinghua Art Teacher,
Meghan Wenkel

Calling all Super Spellers!

The Second Annual Yinghua Spelling Bee will take place on January 16th at 1:30pm in the Yinghua Gymnasium. Classroom Bees will take place during English class on Thursday, January 10th. The top two spellers from the classroom Bees in grades 4-8 will be invited to attend the All-School Bee. The winner of the All-School Bee will then go on to represent Yinghua in the regional Scripps Spelling Bee!

A complete list of the words that will be used in the classroom bees can be found on the web page of each of the English teachers. Or e-mail Ms. Rademacher if you are interested in a pdf file of the words via e-mail: bobbi.rademacher@yinghuaacademy.org

UPCOMING DATES

Dec 24—Jan 4	Winter Break
Jan 7	School resumes Open Enrollment Begins Term II New Year's Enrichment Begins
Jan 11 8:30—10AM	First Friday Coffee (SiP Coffeebar)
Jan 12 10:00-11:30AM	Informational Kindergarten Open House (Kinder location)

Reminder

The school office is closed until Wednesday, January 2nd. School resumes on Monday, January 7th.

Have a great holiday break!

See you in 2013!!

