



Dear Yinghua families,  
The highlight of my week was a special note from one of our students! Your children are truly my inspiration. Ellen in Grade 3 sent me these touching words of encouragement that I have proudly displayed on my bulletin board:

Dear Ms. Berg,  
Your Chinese is getting so good! Keep up the good work! What is it like to be a principal? I hope you have a good time at Yinghua.  
Yours truly,  
Ellen

I enjoyed the company of Yinghua parents and staff at the Lantern Festival Gala last Saturday evening. What a treat to enjoy the outstanding entertainment of “The New Standards” while trading stories, nibbling on good food, and spending money all for the sake of our kids. It was a sellout crowd and the proceeds will surely enrich the educational experience of Yinghua students. Hats off to Becky Hoffman, Maren Leafblad, and their entire event team for the tireless effort in putting together such a first-class party!

The final word spelled correctly by **Katherine St. Martin-Norburg** in this week’s Yinghua Academy spelling bee for finalists in grades 2-5 was “**onslaught**” and she nailed it! As fellow students, teachers, and parents looked on, contestants stepped up to the microphone. The competition stood tall for 9-10 rounds; each student in an outwardly calm manner carefully contemplated each word. Each participant can be proud of his/her success under such pressure. We are proud to send Katherine forward to the next level in April; we are confident she will represent Yinghua Academy well!

Stay warm!

Sue Berg, Executive Director

### ***Luyi’s Curriculum Highlight***

This week’s early dismissal day gave our teaching staff the opportunity to participate in professional development workshops on topics in technology (SmartBoard, iPad applications for instruction) and immersion teaching (strategies and curriculum). We were delighted to have Mr. Kevin Chang, Chinese Program Director at Chinese American International School in San Francisco, help us with the immersion teaching workshops. Mr. Chang is a veteran in the field of immersion education, with over 12 years of teaching and administrative experiences. He spent one and a half days visiting our classrooms and was impressed by what we have accomplished. In his workshop presentation, he integrated suggestions for improvements for our teachers. The dialogue he facilitated with our teaching staff definitely had an impact on our staff.

I would like to explain the upcoming Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA). Students in grades three through eight will be assessed in math and reading; in addition, students in grades five and eight will take the science test. The MCA Math is now administered online and students will take it twice. The first one will occur during the month of February and the second test will occur in late April/early May. The online MCA Mathematics test is an adaptive test. This means that the test will adjust to each student’s skills. Every time a student answers a question, his/her response will determine the next question he/she must answer. It is designed to be a more precise measure of a student’s skill in math than a traditional paper and pencil test. MCA Reading will be a paper and pencil test taken once in April and Science will be online in May, also taken once.

In addition, fourth grade students will take a pilot test of an online version of the MCA Reading test on February 28th. No individual scores will be reported. The state will use the results of the tests in preparation for the official on-line MCA Reading test next year.

Dr. Luyi Lien

**See page 2 for the calendar and notes!**

#### Online MCA Mathematics Testing Schedule for February

	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
	<b>Feb 14th</b>	<b>Feb 15th</b>	<b>Feb 16th</b>	<b>Feb 17th</b>
Grade Level	6 <sup>th</sup> , 3A, 3C	6 <sup>th</sup> , 3A, 3C	4A, 5A, 5B	4A, 5A, 5B
	<b>Feb 21st</b>	<b>Feb 22nd</b>	<b>Feb 23rd</b>	<b>Feb 24th</b>
Grade Level	4B	4B	3B, 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>	3B, 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>

MCA math make up dates: Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

**SPRING SPORTS:** See the website for Spring Flag Football, Volleyball, Soccer, and Track registrations.

**OUTDOOR CLOTHING:** Please send your children to school with snow pants, gloves, hats and warm coats. When the wind-chill is above zero at recess time, we go outside.

**TOWNHALL MEETING:** The February town hall will be held on Thursday, February 16, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM. Please sign up in advance for childcare by emailing [Deb.Peterson@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:Deb.Peterson@yinghuaacademy.org).

**YACA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Saturday, February 18th from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. We will have a nutritionist guest speaker to talk about healthy food habits and a representative from CKC Food will also be featured. To sign up for free childcare, please e-mail [yaca@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:yaca@yinghuaacademy.org)

**DAILY HOMEWORK HELP** for English and Chinese is available in the cafeteria from 7:50 AM to 8:30 AM. We encourage all students to take advantage of this service, should they need additional support with homework

**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.

Has your child been "caught" doing extraordinary things at school? Golden tickets are being earned daily and Bao Xiaozhang's heart-shaped bucket is filling fast! In this first week of implementation, it was Yang Laoshi's phenomenal kindergarten students who earned a whopping 16 golden tickets already! The most noted accomplishment was "determination to speak Chinese only"! That should be true inspiration for all students. Please help encourage our kids to go above and beyond in behavior and in academics!

**ARE YOU MISSING ITEMS?** Found at Bethel after our Chinese New Year performance were an earring, a gray knitted scarf, several water bottles, and a brown insulated mug.

Also found earlier in the year was a brass and ceramic carousel horse figurine.

If you are missing one or all of these, please come to the office.

#### UPCOMING DATES

<b>February 14-17</b>	MCA Mathematics Testing
<b>February 16 6:00 - 8:00 PM</b>	Town Hall Meeting
<b>February 18, 10:00 AM- 12:00PM</b>	YACA General Membership Meeting
<b>February 20</b>	NO SCHOOL President's Day
<b>February 21-24</b>	MCA Mathematics Testing
<b>February 27 11:20 AM- 12:20 PM</b>	8th Grade History Day Presentations
<b>March 2</b>	NO SCHOOL Conference Prep Day
<b>March 5 6:00 PM</b>	Yinghua School Board Meeting
<b>March 7-8</b>	Evening Conferences
<b>March 9</b>	NO SCHOOL Day Conferences 8:00 AM—12:00 PM
<b>March 15 6:00-8:00 PM</b>	Town Hall Meeting
<b>April 2-6</b>	NO SCHOOL Spring Break