



Sue's News

Dear Parents,

What a flurry of special events and activities we have had at Yinghua Academy! The value of experiential opportunities such as Chinese Language Day at the MN Zoo and hosting students and faculty from our sister school in Inner Mongolia is priceless. We learned a lot!

1. Both experiences showed our students how much Chinese they really know; their foundation is rock solid! Without a textbook or script, the students were able to communicate beautifully in real life experiences.

2. Our sixth grade animal presentations were more in depth and multi-faceted than any of the presentations, all done by high school students. The MN Zoo staff, Concordia Language Village staff, and representatives from the Confucius Institute were in awe of our students. It was not just their knowledge and their Chinese language skills but their poise in front of 800 others that was impressive.

3. Whereas the high school zoo participants begged our presenters to speak in English, Yinghua kindergarten children understood and were able to ask questions in Chinese.

4. Our MS students are warm and gracious hosts. In just three days, they made true friends with our sister school students. Teenagers around the world, no matter the culture and language, share some common characteristics.

5. Over and over, our adult Hohhot guests commented on the joy, happiness, and passion present at Yinghua in the students and in the staff. They took many photos in hopes of capturing this love of learning to bring back to their school.

6. It is our students' foundation in Chinese, gained from hard work and dedication, that makes this level of accomplishment possible.

Saturday night from 6:00-11:00PM will be another special event for the Yinghua community, the Red Lantern Festival Gala. Over 400 guests will feast on amazing food, enjoy a full night's worth of entertainment, and come home with fabulous silent and live auction items (over 300 donations have been made to the event!). Choose from gift certificates to restaurants, tickets to sporting events and entertainment venues, art, retail merchandise, after school classes hosted by teachers, and even an overnight at Yinghua for students! Tickets will be available for \$50 at the door, 2755 Long Lake Road in Roseville. Please join us!

Warm regards,
Sue

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Families,

The sixth grade students did a fantastic job on their presentations at the Zoo on Wednesday.

To prepare for this event, the students studied the characteristics, the habitats, the eating habits, and other significant facts about the raccoon, the snow money, the grizzly bear, the amur leopard, the sea stars and the lionfish. The students researched and found folk tales to illustrate the relationship between these animals and the human beings. In addition to the beautiful tri-fold boards displaying the animal facts and pictures, the students also creatively adapted well-known tunes and added their own lyrics about the animals to sing to the audience. To wrap up their presentations, the students designed a variety of games to assess the audience's understanding.

I am very proud of the energy and effort the students invested in this project and of the thoroughness and depth of their research. It was truly rewarding to have witnessed how eloquently they talked about each animal and how comfortable they were speaking Chinese in front of a crowd. The feedback was nothing but positive. Even the sixth graders themselves commented on how well-prepared they were and what a great experience it was to talk to students from other local schools in Chinese.

An experience like this corresponds exactly to my education philosophy that all classroom learning should be to prepare students for life and all knowledge learned in schools should be transferable to the real world. We strive to provide as many opportunities as possible for our students to apply their Chinese language skills. Building on the success of this experience, we would like to take this opportunity for our students to continue learning. The sixth graders will use their Conversation class to critique and fine tune their works, and hone their communication and interaction skills. After spring break, they will present their refined animal projects to the students in the lower grades at two morning assemblies, so the younger students can refresh their learning and have more intimate interactions with the older students. And the most wonderful thing is that all the learning will happen in Chinese!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Gala!

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director



Tickets for Yinghua's 3rd annual Lantern Festival Gala are on sale now! Invitations were sent home prior to Winter Break, and are available online at

<http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/gala>

This year we are thrilled to welcome back local music heroes **The New Standards** to the stage! It's going to be a great evening, so get your tickets now, and invite your friends!



Parents,

Please do not use alleys to enter or exit the school area. We sent out a reminder in December, but are still hearing reports from neighbors about Yinghua parents speeding down the alley between Lincoln and Buchanan. One neighbor reported that a car almost hit him while he was salting his driveway in the alley. Another is concerned about young children who play in their driveway who may not be seen by speeding alley traffic due to garages obstructing the driver's and the children's views.

PLEASE: SLOW DOWN and BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR. You have a significant affect on how the community views Yinghua, because traffic is the number one way the neighborhood has been affected by our school's growth. It is important for our ongoing relationship with both MPRB and the Northeast Park neighborhood that everyone affiliated with Yinghua strives to be a respectful neighbor everyday. In this regard, please do not park in the Northeast Park lot. Together, we all represent Yinghua. Your daily decisions make a huge difference!

Thank you,
Jen Shadowens

Parents:

Just a reminder that toys from home are only allowed on “show and tell” days. Please don’t allow your child to bring toys to school on any other occasion.

Thank you,
Jeremy



UPCOMING DATES

Feb 23	Lantern Festival
Mar 1	Spring Enrichment Registration Deadline
8:30-10:00AM	First Friday Coffee (SiP Coffeebar)
Mar 11-15	Spring Break

Looking for childcare on Yinghua’s Non-School Days?

This is a friendly reminder from Revolutionary Sports that Yinghua does not have school:

- Monday February 11 in observance of Chinese New Year
- Monday February 18 in observance of President's day

Revolutionary Sports has openings in camp both days! Our camp price is \$35. However If you take advantage of our 14 day early registration deadline half day camp (7AM - 1PM or 12PM - 6PM) is \$30 and a full day \$50 (7AM-6PM-this is considered two camps).

Please register by:

- Monday January 28th for February 11
- Monday February 4th for February 18th camp days.

If you have already participated in a camp, please confirm by email and if payment is due, drop-off payment by the Mondays listed above.

Please find attached our camp registration form as well as a list of our many evening and weekend classes, camps and leagues.

Some things to note in the flyer:

1) We have sport specific classes for ages three through 15 Monday - Thursday starting at 5:30 PM. Some sports include: Soccer, basketball, baseball, lacrosse, softball, volleyball, and a Team Sport sampler. We also have soccer and basketball leagues on Saturdays and Sundays.

2) We have Saturday camps both in the morning and at night in case kid's (or parents) want a morning or night out.

3) We have adult pick-up sports 8:30-10:00PM. Our schedule includes

- Soccer on Mondays
- Basketball on Tuesdays
- Dodgeball on Wednesdays
- Volleyball on Thursdays.

We recently opened up a new online registration system. We have not worked out all the bugs. If you have any difficulty figuring it out, please let us know Admin@RevolutionarySports.org. You may also use paper registration and turn it in to the Yinghua Academy office.

Coach John Richardson,
Director, Revolutionary Sports, (612)234-7782

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