



Sue's News

Dear Parents,

Nothing can create the excitement generated by the upcoming Chinese New Year performance for the Yinghua school community! However, I want to share details with you regarding two brand new opportunities for our students that have me filled with great anticipation. Our kids are lucky kids, indeed!

Chinese Language Day at the Minnesota Zoo will be held on Wednesday, February 20, from 9:00-12:30. Although the zoo has hosted Spanish and French themed days for many years, Chinese is a newer adventure according to Gina Goralski, World Language Day Coordinator. She was delighted to invite our twenty eight 6th graders to be animal presenters on this special day, which will attract 800-1000 students and families to learn about the zoo and its inhabitants *in Chinese*. YA student hosts will research, create displays, and perform animated presentations for six animal stations; the raccoon, snow monkey, grizzly bear, amur leopard, sea stars, and lionfish. Equally exciting news is that YACA has generously agreed to fund this special day for all Yinghua students! Imagine the school pride of all 518 students plus teachers and parents when our kids take "center stage" at this real world immersion experience and shine. It is the contributions of all Yinghua families that make this rare opportunity possible, and we are grateful.

Permission slips will be sent home in student folders on Wednesday, February 6. They must be signed and returned no later than February 13.

The Nobel Peace Prize Forum hosted by Augsburg College will be held from March 8-10; this dynamic global event features a K-12 Festival Day on Friday, March 8, a special morning of programming designed specifically for younger students. Our 7th and 8th grade students are fortunate to attend this sold-out unique civic learning experience. The theme, "The Power of Ideas: People and Peace" relates well to the content of our students' fall philosophy course, taught by philosophy professor and Yinghua parent, Jason Burrows. Armed with the knowledge that they gained in this course entitled, "The Twain Shall Meet", students can appreciate different perspectives and commonalities between east and west. They will "Adopt a Laureate" from the long list of prize winners and create a display or interactive game to present at the festival. Amazingly, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the 2006 Peace Prize Winner, will inspire this year's attendees by speaking of his efforts to provide loans to the poor in rural Bangladesh. No doubt this will be a thought-provoking day for our kids!

How fitting that our students are beginning this "year of the snake" with such fine opportunities for continuous growth and renewal! Happy New Year to you!

Warm regards,
Sue

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Yinghua Families,

Warm greetings to all Yinghua families and friends! Happy Chinese New Year!

Chinese New Year time is the time for family get-togethers. This is also a time to pass on important family traditions and stories. At Yinghua, we have created a new family where we celebrate the Chinese New Year in a special way that makes all of us joyful.

In Chinese-speaking regions, beginning in the middle of the twelfth month on the lunar calendar, families start preparing for the Chinese New year, creating an atmosphere of joy and renewal. Families spend a lot of time cleaning up the whole house to remove the old and welcome the new. At Yinghua, we have discussed the meaning of cleaning before the New Year and designated a time on Feb. 8th, Friday morning this week leading students to clean up the lockers, hallways, and classrooms.

Traditionally, families also hang red paper couplets on panels of exterior doors. At Yinghua, the main office area and classrooms have been decorated with festive objects, many of them made by teachers and students. Students are immersed in a joyful atmosphere and learning the New Year traditions from teachers.

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Curriculum Corner cont....

On New Year's Eve, which is on Feb. 9th this year, the whole family gathers together to have a sumptuous dinner. At the end of the meal, parents and elders hand out New Year money (red envelopes) to children and wish them luck, health and wealth. At Yinghua, we have arranged for a Friday lunch (Feb. 8th) for all staff to eat lunch with students. We will give students red envelopes (with gold chocolate coins) and wish them a bright future on Feb 12th.

The Chinese are really into prosperity and good luck, so anything that can help bring those things along in the New Year is important. On Feb. 12, we will have special dumpling treats for 1st to 8th grade students at the main campus, and Feb. 15th for Kindergarten students. The dumpling's shape resembles gold ingots so eating lots of them during Chinese New Year is suppose to invite good fortune!

On Feb. 13, Bao Xiaozhang and I will pass oranges and apples to our students. The apples symbolize peace. The word of apple in Chinese is "ping"; the homonym of ping is peace. Orange in Chinese sounds similar to the word "luck", through the play of words, the Chinese are associating the gift of an orange as having an abundance of happiness in good luck and wealth.

During the Chinese New Year, people typically wear new clothes from head to toe to hope for a fresh start in the New Year. People often visit friends and relatives to wish them a Happy New Year. At Yinghua, students learned cultural programs to perform for parents and friends. They also learned to say many auspicious words which were expressed throughout the performance. With the students' innocent hearts and pure intentions, their positive wishes for the New Year will bring good luck and fortune to all who hear their words.

I wish you and your family a very Happy Chinese New Year full of blessing and good adventures.

Sincerely,

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.

Academic Director

Thursday, February 14—Valentine's Day

- A non-uniform day! All students and staff are invited to wear red, white and/or pink. Each class will have an afternoon party the last period of the day to celebrate the Valentine's Day holiday.
- In Lower School, Grades KG-4, students should bring a Valentine's Day card for everyone in the class. Cards may be handmade or store-bought, and you may include a small treat (such as a no-nut candy or a pencil) for each child if you wish. This is an exercise of kindness and caring, and it also is an opportunity for students to **practice handwriting** the letters of each classmate's Chinese and English name.
- Homeroom teachers will send a current class list (which will go home in Thursday's backpack folder).
- On Tuesday, students will make Valentine mailboxes in school so that on Wednesday or Thursday, students may deliver valentines to each of their classmates' mailboxes.
- In Middle School, Grades 5-8, homeroom teachers have discussed the details of the class parties with their students. Whatever the details, each student must include every other classmate in their gesture of kindness and caring.

Chinese New Year 2013 Continuous Growth and Renewal The Year of the Snake

Yinghua Academy will be celebrating the Year of the Snake with a special performance at Benson Great Hall on the Bethel University campus on Friday, February 8th, from 4:40-6:40PM. Please note the start time is 4:40PM, not 4:00PM as previously stated. Doors open at 4:15PM.

Please see attached notice from YACA for more information about this exciting performance!



Greetings Parents!

I hope you had a restful weekend! I sure did, and I needed it! The Pep Fest and last Friday's Spirit Day wore me out! It was worth it though. The students had a blast, and so did the teachers. I received much feedback about how fun it was. I'm so glad it was a success! Hopefully, your children told you all about it. In case they didn't, I'll give you a quick run-down of the festivities. I've also attached a few pictures for you to enjoy.

We started the assembly by calling the middle school basketball team up to the front so we could recognize and honor them for representing us at all of their games. Next, we had all 4 first grade classes come up to do a relay race. The object was to pass a football by alternating over your head and then between your legs through the line of your entire class. The first class to pass the ball all the way down their line was Lin Laoshi's 1A class! Man, it was exciting!

After that, we had a boy's team compete against a girl's team in another silly relay race. Each team was made up of one representative from each of grades 2-8. Mrs. Rademacher, Mrs. Wenkel, Mr. Dammann, and Mr. Hanuman represented the teachers. Each team was sent to various stations along their relay course. The object was to run your stage of the course and then give a "high-five" to the next person in your team so they could start their section. For example, one stage was running with a plate that had a feather on it, without losing the feather! Another station was running with a rubber pig pinched between your knees. We of course had the classic three-legged race in there too. My favorite was the finish line in which each team member had to pop three balloons by sitting on them, one at a time. It was a riot! It was a close one, but the boy's team ended up winning by one balloon!

Then, we had to of course throw a wave into the fun. I do believe it was the first time many of the students had ever been in a wave. I hope they had as much fun doing it as I did watching it.

We ended the Pep Fest by announcing the winners of the "Pennies for Play" drive. Let me again say that we were blown away with the results! Lin Laoshi's 1A class was the winning class with a whopping \$269.14 in donations! Second place goes to Wu Laoshi's 2A class with \$156.24. Third goes to 6th grade with \$129.09. Rounding out fourth place was Liu Laoshi's 1C class with \$127.51. **All together, we raised \$1,788 to be used to purchase new playground equipment!** Thanks again to all who contributed! We'll definitely be able to buy some new playground balls now! ☺

Lastly, I want to send out a special thanks to Student Life Deputy Head Prefects Ellie Nestingen and the Sports Department, and Fisher Chu and the Lower School Department for all of their great ideas and hard work in planning the Spirit Days and the Pep Fest, and also the "Pennies for Play" drive. All of these events were largely a success because of their involvement. I couldn't have done it without them!

Here's to being a Dragon!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, and Community



UPCOMING DATES

Feb 6 6:30PM	Open Enrollment Lottery
Feb 8 4:40PM	Red Envelope Campaign Begins Chinese New Year Performance (Bethel University)
Feb 11	Chinese New Year Holiday NO SCHOOL
Feb 18	Presidents Day NO SCHOOL

Chinese New Year Information from YACA

We sent tickets via backpacks on Friday, February 1st. Please, bring the tickets to Bethel on February 8th. **You need a ticket to get in. Doors will open at 4:15pm.** If you did not get your tickets, please contact yaca-family@yinghuaacademy.org

Parking was an issue last year and we have hired the Bethel traffic crew to help direct traffic. Allow yourself enough time to get to the show to avoid last minute stress. You can obtain maps and directions to Bethel at: <http://www.bethel.edu/about/maps-directions/>

Very important: February 8th will be a special day for Yinghua staff and students. Make sure that your children have plenty of rest the night before. This will be an especially long day for the students. The day of the performance, students will have a special lunch at school before departing to Bethel. After the dress rehearsal, the students will have a snack before the show. **Please pack a more substantial snack for that day. Students must bring their own snack from home.**

After the show, you will pick up your children at an assigned room at Bethel. You will receive a map with classroom locations at the performance. Please make sure that you sign out your children with their teachers.



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!



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