

YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 学 院



Brewer's Blog

See Page 2 for more information



Nut Allergy Notice

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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,

With nine days under our belts, we are getting closer and closer to hitting cruising speed at Yinghua. Starting a new school year is a lot like starting a new job; for our kids, it can be simultaneously exciting, exhausting, and sometimes unsettling to adjust to new teachers, new friends, unfamiliar routines, and greater expectations for a higher grade level. WHEW! Let us all take some deep breaths and as the saying goes, "Stay calm and carry on"!

A highlight for me thus far has been teaching a new class called "Discovery" with each section of fifth through eighth grades. In a nutshell, the goal of the class is to provide opportunities for exploration and independent work on a variety of topics. First, we are tackling organization, study skills, and time management. Naturally, homework is always a hot topic and that reminds me of the first verse of a favorite Jack Prelutsky poem:

Homework! Oh, Homework!
I hate you! You stink!
I wish I could wash you away in the sink,
if only a bomb would explode you to bits.
Homework! Oh, homework! You're giving me fits.

In an effort to avoid this kind of sentiment with Yinghua students (and parents and teachers, too), I've

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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Yinghua Families

The second week of school has gone even better than the first week. I am amazed by how quickly the students are adjusting to their new school routines and how ready and eager they are to speak, read, and write Chinese.

Every morning, as I routinely walk around the building, I hear talking and laughing coming out of the classrooms. It brings a smile to my face knowing our students are learning and maturing in such a caring atmosphere.

I am glad to report that we received the official results of our 2014 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA-III) for last year's grades 3 through 8 in Math, Reading, and Science:

	Math	Reading	Science
Yinghua Academy	88.8%	78.8%	83.6%
MN State	60.5%	58.8%	53.4%

We are thrilled to see 88.8% of all Yinghua grades 3-8 students from last year met or exceeded the standards in Math

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Upcoming Events & Announcements

See below for school-specific events and announcements.



Back-to-School Curriculum Night
7:00-7:30pm: Kick-off in Gymnasium
7:30-8:30pm: Conversation in the Classrooms
Please join us for the opportunity to enjoy the new building and learn the key ingredients for your child's success at the new grade level.



Middle School Retreat Begins
For more information about Camp Widjiwagan check out the YMCA's website at www.ym-catwincities.org/camps/camp_widjiwagan. If you have specific questions about the retreat, please contact Jeremy Brewer at jeremy.brewer@yinghuaacademy.org.

Sue's News (continued)

asked the kids to keep a homework log; each night they will track the number of minutes they spend per subject so that we have data. Then we can carefully assess the information from all angles and strike the proper balance per subject per night for our students. Already some of you have offered detailed and constructive feedback, and we appreciate that. It takes a village!

News flash! On Monday morning we will celebrate the official unveiling of our new sparkling gymnasium with our students. That will be a memorable event indeed. On Tuesday night at Back-to-School Curriculum Night, you can enjoy this space and more with us. I hope to see you then!

Warm regards,
Sue Berg
Executive Director



Students enjoy the last few days of summer

Brewer's Blog

By Jeremy Brewer

Dean of Students

Hello Middle School Parents,

I tried to send out the final MS Retreat Info Packet to all of you Thursday evening via email, but we were having technical difficulties. We are giving hard copies to each of your children. The packet will include a schedule, packing list, lots of important information, and three medication forms from the Health Office. We have also attached these four documents to this week's newsletter, just to make sure that you receive them.

Please read over this information carefully. It should answer 99% of your questions about the retreat. I do my best to anticipate things that you might be wondering about, but I'm bound to miss something. So, please, let me know if you have any questions after going through the packet.

One point I would like to emphasize is student medication. The 3 forms that are attached along with the packet are YA medication forms that you will need to review if your child requires medication while on the retreat. One of the forms must be filled out before we will be able to provide meds to your child. Some of you may have already filled this out for the year. But, look it over and be absolutely

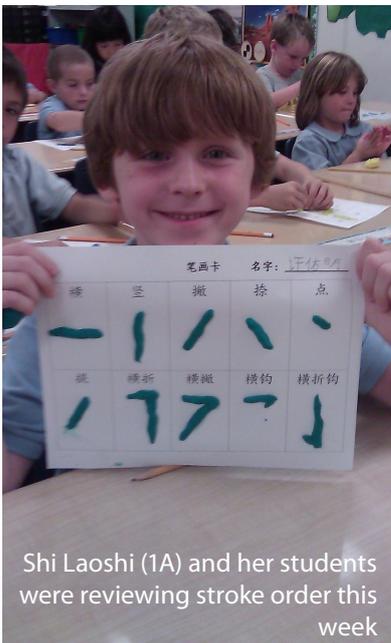
certain. If in doubt, contact the Health Office to check. You will need to coordinate with them anyway to make sure we have the necessary meds ready to go for the retreat.

I think that's everything for now. If you couldn't tell, the kids are starting to get really excited. Like always, it is sure to be an absolute blast! I for one can't wait!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Jeremy Brewer
Dean of Students

WIDJIWAGAN
YMCA WILDERNESS ADVENTURES



Shi Laoshi (1A) and her students were reviewing stroke order this week

Enrichment Classes and Music Lessons Begin Next Week

by Libby Pomroy

Enrichment classes and Conservatory of Music lessons begin the week of September 15 and run through the week of November 10, with NO classes the week of October 13. If you registered for a class or lesson and have NOT received a confirmation, please contact libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org. September Dismissal Plans have been updated for you

to reflect your students going to Aftercare before and after classes and lessons. When you fill out your October and November Dismissal Plans, BE SURE to select Aftercare for the days your students have classes and lessons.



The Science of Smart



©Alex Kolyer/MPR News

Parents interested in how a bi-lingual education and an immersion language-learning environment can exercise the frontal brain lobe and its executive functioning capabilities should be sure to check out MPR News' American RadioWorks documentary: The Science of Smart.

Follow this line for more information: http://www.mprnews.org/story/2014/09/09/mpr_news_presents

Curriculum Corner (Continued)

(vs. 60.5% proficiency rate among all the grades 3-8 students in the state). I would like to point out that the math proficiency rate for our 3rd graders who were the first-time MCA takers, reached 98.5% and our 4th graders once again achieved 100% proficiency rate in math. Congratulations to all our current 4th through 8th graders for working hard and doing such a great job in the spring!

I would like to invite you to attend the Back-to-School/Curriculum Night at 7:00PM on Tuesday, September 16, to learn all the academic components of your child's new grade level. The event schedule is attached in this week's newsletter. I look forward to greeting all the parents in our newly finished gymnasium next week!

Have a great weekend!
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director



Middle School ELA Update

By Brady Byykkonen

Students in grades 6-8 have already begun working on their first big writing project. Sixth graders will be writing a "short short"--which is a short story of less than 2000 words--that belongs to a genre. The genre is up to the students. Seventh graders will be writing allegorical short stories. Eighth graders will be writing tragic short stories--short stories that are structured according to Freytag's Pyramid and follow at least some of Aristotle's elements of tragedy. It should be an interesting and creative project for students, and I look forward to seeing what they come up with.



Health Office Flash: Please, No Nuts at School!

by Ginger Hao, LSN

Many parents have asked recently if Yinghua Academy is a "peanut-free" school. We strive to be a "peanut-free" environment. However, sometimes unbeknownst to the school, a student will bring in peanuts or other nuts for lunch or snack so we cannot guarantee a 100% peanut-free environment. In order to protect our students with severe allergies, we do ask parents to

avoid peanuts or other nuts when preparing lunches or snacks from home. To learn more about allergy management at YA, or for more Health Office information, please go to our Health Office webpage. Any questions? Please email school nurse, Ginger Hao, LSN, at ginger.hao@yinghuaacademy.org. Thanks!



Grade 6 working on their engineering projects

Middle School Science Update

By Andrew Scheid

Yinghua Middle School students have really enjoyed class in our new Science Lab, room 170. We have plenty of room for group work and access to materials is much greater. All students 5-8 have a dedicated Science Notebook that is a daily record of our work, check out the SNB to know how your child is doing.

Grade 5 students are studying the Scientific Method and Science Process skills. Students are conducting experiments on floating paperclips using our lab report format and the Scientific Method.

Grade 6 students are studying Engineering Design. Students have designed and described their own ideas for engineered products. We have experimented with design challenges in paper helicopters and straw rockets.

Grade 7 and 8 students are studying Life Science. Students have discussed data collection in Life Science and made measurements in our wingspan lab. Habitat factors are the focus of a current experiment with "sea monkeys" (brine shrimp).



Keeping Our Students Safe: Facts about Enterovirus D68

By Ginger Hao, LSN

As you may have seen on the news, people are concerned about the recent outbreaks of enterovirus D68 in some Midwestern states. As of Wednesday, no cases have been confirmed yet in Minnesota. Enteroviruses are common in the late summer/ early fall.

Most people have only mild symptoms, similar to the common cold. However, this particular strain has recently caused more intense respiratory symptoms, such as wheezing or difficulty breathing, especially in children and teens with diagnosed respiratory diseases, such as asthma. In order to keep our students safe from any infectious respiratory illness, such as influenza or enterovirus, please remind your child to:

1. Wash his/her hands with soap and water frequently.
2. Cover his/her cough with his arm or sleeve, not his hand.
3. Keep your student home if he/she is ill.

For more information about enterovirus D68, please read the excellent Star Tribune article presented by Children's Hospitals and Clinic of MN:

The facts about enterovirus D68

<http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/kids-health/childrens/274606411.html?page=all&prepage=1&c=y#continue>

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to notify me or call your health care provider.

Sincerely,
Ginger Hao, LSN
Yinghua Academy School Nurse

Middle School Social Studies Update

By Jan Kleinman

Grade 6 heard a story this week called Uncle Jed's Barbershop. Ask your child about it! After the story, students set themselves a goal for Social Studies class this term.

Grade 8 is doing an exercise called "Food for Thought." We are thinking and asking questions about data we learn. Students experienced how North America uses much more energy than the rest of the world, and how Africans and Asians consume fewer calories than anyone else in the world. Ask your child about these imbalances, and why they matter.