

YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 学 院

Brewer's Blog

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Meet the New Office Team!

See Page 3 for more information

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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,

Just as the season gradually shifts from summer to fall, this year will surely prove to be a year of great change for teachers, students, staff, and parents of Yinghua Academy. Returning parents will agree: our facelift has been dramatic! Even with the traditional staff trainings and the unpacking and set up of classrooms and offices, the construction of Yinghua's new addition was wrapped up just in time for the new school year. If you weren't present for Meet Your Teacher Night, you missed quite the tour! The expansion includes a brand new cafeteria commons, science and art rooms, library, computer lab, and a gym with our school's mascot, the Yinghua Dragon, proudly emblazoned on the wall. The newly-coated wooden floor is striped and ready for just about any indoor sport imaginable! These new purpose-built spaces will be enjoyed by everyone.

We're pleased to welcome the incoming class of kindergartners as well as all new older students and their families for this journey in Chinese immersion. First days are always potentially challenging, but ours went remarkably well given the need for refined systems with our increased student population and larger campus. Students were given a tour and hit the ground running with their new teachers, new groups of classmates, new lessons, and new expectations for higher grade levels. Though this first week has only been four days long, we've already built up our routines and systems to ensure your child comes home happy, healthy,

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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Parents,

With the completion of our building expansion and the Middle school, the English and all specialist classrooms situated in the new wing, we are excited to begin a brand new chapter.

During the teacher training and preparation week in late August, we spent time revisiting our school mission and reaffirming our goal to prepare our students to be bi-lingual and bi-cultural. All the teachers also participated in discussion sessions about how to support this goal and create a Chinese immersion environment for our students (separating language usage is one

of the important principles of immersion education). I am happy to report that two new initiatives will be implemented to support this goal:

With the expansion, we now will be able to have the east wing of the school building, where grades K through four are housed, dedicated to be a pure Chinese environment, while the west wing of the building will be a mixed setting, where Chinese will be spoken in Chinese classrooms and English will be used in English classrooms. The Middle School students will be encouraged to consciously select their language usage. All students will be involved in the conversation on why they are

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Upcoming Events

See below for school-specific events and announcements.

Important:

All classroom pages have a new password. To celebrate our new expansion, this year's password is 2014newyinghua.

09

08

14

Mid-Autumn Festival Day

An official harvest festival held on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese calendar. Modern celebrations include lighting lanterns and eating mooncakes.

09

09

14

YACA Board Meeting

Yinghua Academy Community Association's first meeting of the year. Contact Dina Nash for more information.

Sue's News (continued)

and fully sapped of any nervous energy they had during their first few days at school.

Did you know?

- Enrollment is 665 as of today! That's 134 kindergartners, 111 first graders, 110 second graders, 89 third graders, 66 fourth graders, 63 fifth graders, 52 sixth graders, 24 seventh graders, and 16 eighth graders in the Class of 2015!

- There were only 3 teachers who did not change classrooms; that meant enormous moving demands for Facilities Manager, Bill Francois, and his crew. Needless to say, they delivered!

- We have 6 bus routes and 288 riders thus far this year.

A million thanks to the willing parent volunteers in the lunch room and the playground and to the staff who practiced their "all hands on deck" attitude to make these first few days as safe and smooth as possible!

Feedback from firsthand experience is so helpful.

Please join us for Back-to-School Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 16! Besides our facilities, there is something new for everyone, even if you consider yourself an "old-timer" at Yinghua. It's for our kids!

Enjoy the weekend!

Sue Berg

Executive Director

Curriculum Corner (continued)

encouraged to use their Chinese in school. We want our students to realize that the more they use Chinese, the better their Chinese will become.

We also assigned all homeroom teachers to be Chinese-speaking teachers only. In this way, we make sure all students have their morning meetings and messages in Chinese, and have the opportunity to socialize in Chinese.

Our aspiration to provide the best immersion education for our students remains the same after 8 years. Each new school year serves as a good reminder that Yinghua was founded to nurture and prepare our students in a Chinese immersion environment. I look forward to our partnership in your child's immersion education. Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.

Academic Director



Brewer's Blog

By Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, & Community

Hello YA Parents!

Well, we made it through our first week! And, all things considered, it went really, really well! To be sure, a couple challenging areas have been dismissal and busing. However, this is very normal for any school the first week of school.

The great news is that both have steadily improved every day this week. In fact, we reached the end of our parent walk-up line yesterday at 4:15, and the end of our car line by 4:20-4:25! Not bad when you realize that our goal from the start has been to be done by 4:15. In addition, we got all of the buses on their way by 4:00 yesterday (only 5 minutes late) and all 6 buses were here this morning by 8:43! In three years of managing buses for YA, I have never seen that much improvement by the end of the first week! Pretty amazing when you think about the logistical challenge of getting 670 students, with roughly 250 of them being KG-1st graders, to and from school safely and efficiently. It takes a lot of coordination and teamwork so I would like to officially thank all of the parents and staff who have helped to operate "the machine".

Of course, we are still working to improve things even more. Many have asked about busing times. We have been working daily with the bus company to smooth out the kinks, and there are more solutions and adjustments in the works. We will keep our busing families abreast of any changes we make so stay tuned. Speaking of that, our Power An-

nouncement tool is now up and running. We will use this whenever possible for notifying busing families through email and SMS (text) whenever their bus is running late.



As for dismissal, we have spent a good hour or more every evening debriefing and tweaking things. The results of those adjustments have been seen daily. We do have a few more plans to adjust things internally that will continue to improve the system. These changes won't affect parents and how you pick up your children, and if they do, we will let you know. It is our hope that we will have everything running like a well oiled machine by the end of next week.

We thank you all for your patience and



Meet the New Office Team!

By Dave Madsen and Mary Schultz

As we're all aware, Yinghua has gone through some major changes over the summer: new classrooms, new teachers, new students, and the list goes on. And, along with the new reception desk and entirely new layout, two new additions you may have noticed while peeking the front office are Dave Madsen, the Office/Communications Manager, and Mary Shultz, the Receptionist.

For the past three years of his life, Dave Madsen has been living and working in China. During the first year of his travels, he was a volunteer English teacher through WorldTeach. He was the only foreigner in a relatively small town (with a population the size of Minneapolis) called Chenxi, which is located in the Huaihua prefecture in Hunan province. It was a challenging academic year, but he came out of it with a familiarity with Chinese culture and a conversational language level.

After a year in Hunan, he moved to Zhenjiang, which is located in Jiangsu Province. In Zhenjiang, Dave was a Writing and Business English teacher for students at Jiangsu University. He then spent the last year in Shanghai teaching graduate students at

Shanghai International Studies University. Dave looks forward to meeting the parents and students at Yinghua and is excited to practice his Chinese throughout the year.

Mary Schultz is pleased to join the Yinghua Academy team as the new Receptionist. Originally from northwestern Wisconsin, Mary is a recent graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where she majored in English and minored in Music and Classical Studies, and for the past four summers, she worked as a counselor at Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, Wisconsin. Among her many hobbies,

Mary enjoys reading, scrapbooking, and cooking. She and her husband Mike are especially passionate about music. She is very excited to be in such a vibrant learning community, and she looks forward to getting to know both the students and their parents in the coming months. Look for her in the front office with your questions about attendance, dismissal, or anything else!

understanding as we have gotten the school year up and running. It's a challenge for sure and many of you have expressed your appreciation and gratitude for what we are doing. We all very much appreciate your support! Thank you, thank you! And, it will only get better and better!

Oh! One last thing this week for middle school parents (grades 5-8). Next week I will be sending out a parent informational packet for the retreat. To save paper, it will be sent via email. I will also post it on the website. The packet will include things such as a basic schedule, packing list, YA medication/health forms, and other general information you may be wondering about. Keep your eyes open for that packet!

With that, I'll wish you a wonderful weekend! It's supposed to be beautiful!

Sincerely,
Jeremy Brewer

YINGHUA
ACADEMY

Yinghua Athletics

by Sarah Totall

Smash! Clear!
Drive! Net
Kill! Learn
badminton basics.
Come play
badminton
in the new

gym. Grades
4-8, Tuesdays
3:55-5:30. See
Yinghua Athletic
webpage
for registration
form.
Questions?

Contact Sarah
Totall, Athletic
Coordinator
sarah.totall@
yinghuaacademy.org

Orchestra starts on Monday, Sep 8!

by Hsuan Wen Lin

Concerto (advanced)
rehearsal schedule
Entire Concerto:
Tuesday mornings,
8:30-9:10.
Violin sectional:
Monday mornings,
8:10-8:40.

Viola, Cello sectional:
Wednesday noons,
11:55-12:30.
Concertino (beginner-intermediate)
rehearsal schedule
Entire Concertino:
Wednesday morn-

ings, 8:30-9:10.

Violin sectional:
Monday noons,
11:55-12:30.

Viola, Cello sectional:
Tuesday noons,
11:55-12:30.