

YINGHUA ACADEMY

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Storybook Character Parade
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Book Fair In Review
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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,

Discovery is defined in Webster's dictionary as "the act or process of sighting or learning the existence of something for the first time".

With hopes of leading Yinghua's Middle School students down a pathway of exploration and self-awareness, we created a class entitled Discovery. I'm the lucky person who will orchestrate the direction of this once per week opportunity for our fifth through eighth graders. Forming the backbone for our yearlong course is a program called Mental Karate, which is focused on character education that is action-oriented. Students will be responsible for selecting and planning a series of actions that they will complete to earn belts that represent proven principles of empowerment centered on initiative, contribution, discipline, courage, and awareness. Each student will record his/her journey in a student journal. Research demonstrates that 70% of learning comes from experience, 20% from reflection and discussion, and just 10% from passive listening so the goal is to fashion the class after this model.

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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Parents,

Thank you for coming to the conferences last week. I hope your meetings with the teachers were informative and you went away with a good idea of how your student has been doing in school. Last Thursday, I attended the 2014 Minnesota Advocates for Immersion Network (MAIN) event at Anwatin Middle School.

MAIN invited 10 current and former Middle and High School language immersion students to share their immersion experiences and talk about how their language abilities will have an impact on their future. The students came from Chinese, French, German, and Spanish immersion programs around the state. Two of our students, Mary McDonald (7th Grade) and Claire Burns (8th Grade), represented Yinghua Academy on the student panel. I sat among the immersion educators in the auditorium

and listened to these students - I was in awe of their eloquence and poise, and of how much one can learn from all of them.

These immersion students shared their views on how immersion education widens their cultural perspectives and enriches their life experiences; it also deepens their understanding of how people think differently. One question was raised about how they view their experience in an immersion school, to which our

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Upcoming Events and Announcements

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National Mix It Up at Lunch Day

Mix It Up at Lunch Day encourages students to identify, question and cross social boundaries. We ask students to move out of their comfort zones and connect with someone new over lunch. It's a simple act with profound implications.

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Storybook Character Parade

Every year, we hold an event called the Story Book Parade to celebrate literacy and literature. This year we have combined this annual event with the Read-a-Thon. The event will be held on Friday, October 31st. Read-a-Thon recognition will begin at 2:15 in the gym. The character parade will start after the Read-a-Thon celebration.



Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

This past Wednesday was National Unity Day Against Bullying. Our students and staff joined students and teachers around the country in wearing orange to show their support and unity in standing up against bullying. To further promote the event, we had an all school Morning Meeting assembly in the gym. And, let me tell you! There was a lot of orange! At the assembly we watched a very heartwarming and powerful Chinese video that perfectly illustrated how uniting and standing together is the most powerful way to confront bullying and wipe it out. Below is the link to the video. Check it out if you have a moment. Even if you don't speak or read Chinese, the message is loud and clear!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHwRqc_4G4M

October 15 & 16 was the fall Book Fair which is always a highlight for many students. The last few years, we have had students from the Student Life Organization help out at the sale. This year, 10 students participated and helped make the event a success. In fact, many parents reported how amazing our students were as they ran the cash registers and answered questions so professionally. Thank you for allowing your students to help out and thank you students for donating your valuable non-school days! You are always amazing!

Speaking of Student Life, Mrs. Berg talked a little bit about SLO in her section and announced our 2014-2015 Student Life Cabinet of leaders. In addition, I have attached a chart of the whole SLO for this year including the students who expressed interest and were chosen to fill the various positions, from Head Prefect (John Owens) to all of the Senior Prefects. Take a look! It's pretty amazing!

Lastly, the MS Fall Dance is coming up on November 7th! I sent out the flyer and registration form to parents last week. In case you missed it, I have attached the flyer to this newsletter as well. Registration is due Friday, October 31st! Be sure to sign your students up. It's a HUGE event and they won't want to miss it!

Thanks and have a wonderful weekend everyone!

Jeremy Brewer

Dean of Students



November Dismissal Plan Form Is Online

by Libby Pomroy

Please complete the online dismissal plan form on Yinghua's front page which communicates your instructions to the school regarding where you wish your child dismissed to every day of the month.

PLEASE NOTE:

Enrichment classes end the week of Nov. 10, with make-up classes the week of Nov. 17. Music lessons end the week of Nov. 10, with make-up lessons the week of Nov. 17. No school Nov. 26-28 Form closes October 31. DO NOT make more than one entry.

Call the office with changes. Print the form before you press SUBMIT to keep a copy of your selections. Be careful to get your child's class correct, as we sort the information by classroom

Curriculum Corner (continued)

student, Claire Burns, said that our immersion teachers place great value on learning and instill the idea 'hard work helps you improve' in the students; at Yinghua, teachers and students are always working hard, and by doing so, we expect quality works and great learning outcomes. Claire went on to say that as a result, the students feel that, "having worked hard and done well in school, all the extracurricular activities seem so easy." Her confidence in learning makes me so proud.

When the facilitator asked these immersion students to provide feedback for the immersion program and their fellow students on the specific things that can support immersion students to keep improving their language, our 7th grader Mary McDonald answered: "I would encourage the immersion students and programs to try and stay in the target language as long as possible." Her words reverberated across the room and the other immersion students soon echoed and agreed on the importance of allowing students to stay in the target language environment and encouraging (or even forcing) them to practice that language. I remember a similar comment made by a group of immersion students at a meeting last year about how they regretted not making the best use of their time practicing the language while they still could, and what they would have done differently if they could turn back time.

The panel discussions went very well and provided me with many great insights. What the students shared with the audience reassured me of what I assessed to be our greatest need: providing more authentic immersion opportunities for our students. I recall one immersion educator mentioning: "In an ideal world, every one speaks two or three languages and that makes the world so vivid and helps us understand each other better. What will be your plan to promote immersion, or multilingualism?" My answer to that is to keep on seeking as many opportunities as possible to support students learning the language. It is not a future plan, it is now.

Speaking of authentic immersion experience, at this week's morning assembly, our sister school in Inner Mongolia joined our MS students over the Internet. Their principal gave us a two-minute speech, greeting and encouraging our students to focus on learning and practicing more in Chinese. Two of their students each gave us a two-minute talk about their Middle School experience in China. Our MS students and teachers enjoyed meeting our friends in China through this special arrangement. Please feel free to email me your questions or comments.

Have a great weekend!

Best,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director



Online Book Fair through Oct. 27

by Becky Hoffmann

If you missed the in-school book fair during conferences, missed out on a popular title, or would like to browse a larger selection of the books Scholastic has to offer, you can shop and order books online. All orders placed through the online fair qualify for free shipping to the school, and are sent home with your student in early November. The online fair runs through

Monday, October 27th. Yinghua receives a percentage of sales in free books, so your purchase means more books for our growing library.

Follow this link for more information: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/yinghua>

Yinghua Athletic News

by Sarah Totall

One more week to sign up for travel basketball. Travel basketball is for girls and boys in grades 5-8. Go to the Yinghua athletic webpage to find out more and/or to register. Questions? Contact Sarah Totall: sarah.totall@yinghuaacademy.org

Sue's News (continued)

What is especially exciting is that this discovery model replicates the structure of our Student Life Organization. Just today we announced the cabinet of our 2014-2015 SLO leadership team after reviewing the applications of all 60 students who are motivated to be actively involved in one of the seven departments. SLO is for students, by students, and of students! Mr. Brewer, Dean of Students, is excited to work with the following 7th and 8th grade student leaders: Head Prefect, John Owens; Co-Deputy Heads of Academics, Alexandria Vang and Elea Besse; Deputy Head of Discipline, Raina Meyer; Deputy Head of Management, CC Yin; Deputy Head of Sports, Timothy Yang; Co-Deputy Heads of Activities, Mia Erickson and Claire Burns; Deputy Head of Community Service, Ashley Chu; and Deputy Head of Lower School, Zoe Parish.

Through these two endeavors, we are actively pursuing a culture of purpose, creativity, and innovation for our students! Let us not underestimate our amazing kids! Get ready, get set, GO!

Enjoy what promises to be a spectacular fall weekend!

Warm regards,

Sue Berg
Executive Director

Math Club is Coming!

By MS Math Team

Dear students and parents,

I have a really exciting announcement to make. Math club is coming soon! This year we will make math club serious and fun. Math is not only about textbooks and exams--math can also be exciting, challenging, and full of fun! We are offering Yinghua's middle school students a chance to enjoy and learn more about math. Additionally, there are some math competitions to prepare for.

In order to prepare our students for America Math Competition 8 and Minnesota Math Master, we will have two sessions each week. The first one is on Tuesday at 12:00 pm to 12:25 pm in Room 247. This one is for 5th and 6th graders. The second one is on Thursday at 12:00 pm to 12:25 pm in Room 247. This one is for 7th and 8th graders.

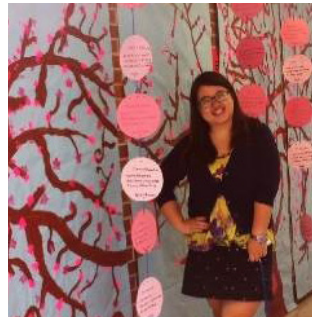
If you like math and you want to explore more about math, the time is now! To join this club, you can email me, or find me in my classroom. My email address is yupeng.deng@yingghuaacademy.org and my room number is 247.

Hope to meet you soon,
MS Math Team

你好老师! Hello Teacher!

By Dave Madsen

Guangzhou is a far cry from Minneapolis. Not only is the southern, Guangdong-based city about 3 times the size of our lowly Midwestern metropolis, but it is also host to a humid subtropical climate—unlike



Chinese Name:

烨程

(Ye Cheng)

Class number/

Subject:

Homeroom

Teacher, 2B

Birthplace/Home-

town:

Guangzhou, China

the tundra our region transforms itself into come wintertime. For Ye Cheng, however, Minneapolis has become a new and welcome home mainly due to her life and work at Yinghua Academy.

Ye Cheng heard of Yinghua through the grapevine of her friends in 2013. She was initially impressed by the students' oral Chinese ability while she was a participant in the teachers' training program during the same year. Since she started her work as the homeroom teacher of 2B, her class size has grown from 23 to 28 with the recent expansion. She reported that the most rewarding aspect of her work is the unyielding cooperation of the Yinghua community, no matter how difficult an obstacle may be. She loves the school, she said, even if the winters aren't exactly ideal.

Middle School Fall Halloween Dance

Middle School students! Join us in Yinghua's new gym and cafeteria commons for a night of fun filled with music, dancing, treats, pizza, beverages, and socializing with your friends, sponsored by Yinghua's Student Life Organization and chaperoned by your teachers! Be sure to dress up in your favorite costume! Masks and props are welcome at this event. However, no blood and no violently themed costumes please!

If you would like your child(ren) to attend the Middle School Fall Dance at Yinghua Academy, please return a signed permission slip with \$10 payment per child to the Main Office by Friday, October 31, 2014. Links to the permission

slip can be found on the school's website. Please make checks out to Yinghua Academy. Contact Mr. Brewer with questions at (612) 788-9095/jeremy.brewer@yinghuaacademy.org



Fall Book Fair In Review

By Becky Hoffman

This year's fall book fair was a huge success. Unlike last year, this year's fair was set up prior to conferences, providing students and teachers an opportunity to preview the fair in advance.

For this special opportunity, the book fair organizers would like to thank the physical education department for allowing them to take over half of the wonderful new gymnasium for the better part of a week.

Sales from Scholastic totalled \$6700 and the Usborne representative reported that this was our most successful fair to date with sales topping \$3700. Numerous books were generously donated to teachers and classrooms during the two day event and our library is expected to grow by several hundred volumes thanks to parent contributions and book fair profits.

The book fair organizers would also like to send out a special thank you to the parents and middle school volunteers who helped out during the fair. The execution of a successful book fair requires a tremendous amount organization and support and we are extremely grateful to all of you who donated your time to help organize, set up, manage, and tear down this year's book fair.



Read-a-thon Reminder

by Sara Pierce
Dear Parents,

The past ten days have flown by! It's time to tally all those minutes and congratulate our students on all those hours of reading accomplished over the last week and a half. I have enjoyed the times I've sat down with my son this week to read with him and was touched when he initiated bed time stories with his sister. Remember that all record sheets, pledge sheets, and money collected are due this Monday morning, October 27th. That leaves one more weekend to round up those last minute donors! And if your student achieves the minimum 300 minutes and 30 dollars their name will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 Scholastic Gift Certificate. One winner will be drawn for each grade category. Thanks again for all your support for Yinghua Academy's Read-a-thon.

1-on-1 iPad App Note

by Chemin Chu
7th and 8th Grade Parents,

The purpose for our 1-on-1 iPad program is educational only and thus only the apps that the school or you as parents installed are allowed to be used at home. If you find something suspicious, feel free to contact Jeremy Brewer (Dean of Students) or me, Chemin Chu (IT Manager).



Annual Storybook Character Parade

Every year, we hold an event called the Storybook Character Parade to celebrate literacy. We have combined this annual event with the finale of the Read-a-Thon. The parade will be held on Friday, October 31 at 2:45 after the Read-a-Thon celebration. This year we plan to parade outside weather permitting.

Students should come in uniform on this day. Kindergarten through eighth grade students can bring a costume based on a favorite book to change into for the parade. The costume must be based off a character in a book and the child must bring the book on the day of the parade. While we understand that some characters



in books are traditionally seen with certain props, costumes cannot include masks, weapons, or inappropriate language or content. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office. Please make sure the costume is easy for children to put on and that they are able to be worn on top of the uniform, if at all possible. We hope to have 100% participation at every grade level.

The teachers will help the students change into costumes, if necessary, between 1:48 and 2:15. The Read-a-Thon Assembly will start at 2:15 in the gymnasium. After the assembly, we will parade outside, starting at approximately 2:45.

Parents may come and watch the parade. Once the festivities are over, parents may check out their children with the classroom teacher.





FALL HALLOWEEN DANCE!

Middle School students! Join us in Yinghua's new gym and cafeteria commons for a night of fun filled with music, dancing, treats, pizza, beverages, and socializing with your friends, sponsored by Yinghua's Student Life Organization and chaperoned by your teachers!

Be sure to dress up in your favorite costume! Masks and props are welcome at this event. However, no blood and no violently themed costumes please!



Friday, November 7
6:00pm-9:30pm

*Open to current and past
Yinghua Academy students in
grades 6-8 only.

Cost: \$10 per student

Contact Mr. Brewer with questions @
#612-788-9095 or jeremy.brewer@yinghuaacademy.org



YINGHUA ACADEMY STUDENT LIFE ORGANIZATION 2014-2015

