

YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華

学 校

Olympian Visits 7th Grade
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YA Student Life Period Clubs
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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,

What an exhilarating week it has been! No doubt, you have all read the article in the New York Times featuring Yinghua! Yes, that American School that immerses itself in all things Chinese is us!

As you can imagine, the news has drawn attention and kind words from across the US and China. Jeff Wang, Director of Education and China Learning Initiatives at the Asia Society in NYC wrote, "What a great write-up! Congratulations!" Locally, Joe Nathan, Director of the Center for School Change, sent this: "Congrats on the NY Times story - that's terrific!" Yinghua's Facebook page is full of expressions of pride. Like me, you have probably shared our story, too. I can tell you that our MS kids looked at me quite incredulously when I shared the news with them during our Discovery classes. Jane Peterson, who spent an entire day with us, did a wonderful job of capturing the essence of our school and her inclusion of so many language experts certainly formed an impressive reference point for our mission.

Good news obviously travels fast, as the saying goes. By Wednesday, Dr. Lien learned that the article had been translated and that one of the biggest Chinese national media outlets had featured the story: <http://world.cankaoxiaoxi.com/2014/1028/543048.shtml>

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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Yinghua Families,

I was thrilled to read the article in the New York Times earlier this week about our school. We all should pat ourselves on the back for what we have accomplished! With this great write-up, I feel on one hand very excited, but on the other hand pressured to uphold our reputation.

A dear friend of mine always says: "If something is going well for you, continue doing the right thing and do more of the same!" I think she is absolutely right. We shall keep up with our efforts and continue following our mission to grow this wonderful school.

In October, we conducted two Study Skills 101 sessions with parents to discuss how to help

students do homework and manage their time better. We would like to answer parents' more specific question about assisting students' Singapore Math homework. Our Middle School math team lead, Mrs. Pamella Stommes (Yang Laoshi), will be conducting a workshop "Singapore Math: Stop Tearing Your Hair Out!" from 6:30 to 7:30PM, immediately following the YACA General Mem-

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Upcoming Events and Announcements

11

07

14

Commons Coffee

Join YACA and other parents/community members for Commons Coffee, located in the new lunchroom area, for coffee and good conversation.

11

07

14

Fall MS SLO Dance

Middle School students: Please join us on Friday, November 7, 6:00pm-9:30pm for the Middle School Fall Halloween Dance. Masks and props are welcome, but no blood or violently-themed costumes



Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

Next Wednesday, November 5th we will have the first big Student Life event of the year – The Middle School Student Life Fair!

The purpose of the fair is two-fold. First, the Deputy Head Prefects will be leading their teams in creating displays to promote, educate, and recruit students to join the various committees within their departments. Mrs. Berg and I announced the SLO leaders last week, but in case you missed it, we've attached the 2014-2015 SLO Organizational chart again this week. Each colored box will have its own table. During the fair, which will be in the gym, grades 5-8 will be able to walk around, ask questions, and sign up to be involved in whatever interests them.

Second, every middle school student will be signing up for a Student Life Period Club for each day of the week. SLO Period Clubs are from 11:55-12:35, M-F. Many of the clubs are created and led by students, for students. Some are supervised by teachers and some are not. This is a great opportunity for students to engage in their favorite activities, in a structured way, while also learning leadership and organizational skills. I'm sure many of you are curious to know what kind of clubs the students will get to choose from. Not to worry! I've attached an outline of the schedule for your enjoyment. Take a look! There are a lot of very fun things planned!

As you look over the schedule, you will also notice that there are a few classes, like art and orchestra, that do happen during this time. In addition, we hold our MS Homework Labs

during this period. Homework Lab is mandatory for those MS students who did not complete their HW the day before. Students who find themselves in this situation are assigned to HW Lab the next day by their teacher. When assigned, students are required to attend the HW Lab in lieu of their clubs/recess time and work on the missing HW. It's not really seen as a "consequence" per se. Rather, it's a period of time set aside specifically to help students stay caught up with their HW while also adding a bit of accountability. This will be the third year of the MS HW Lab and it has proven to be very effective and helpful.

One other thing to note regarding the Student Life Period Clubs is that we do understand that some parents might not want their children to participate in certain clubs. For example, some families prefer their children to be outside and active during this recess period. Others know their children struggle with HW so they would prefer they go to the library to work on HW a few days a week. And, that's the beauty of SLO Clubs! They are very flexible and can be customized to each family's desire. We do ask that parents have this conversation with their children before the fair though. That way, your children will know exactly what you would prefer they sign up for when they enter the gym on Wednesday.

If you have any questions regarding the Fair or SLO Period Clubs, please let me know.

With that, I'll wish you all a wonderful weekend!

Jeremy Brewer
Dean of Students

Give to the Max Day

by Sarah Whiting
Dear parents,

Every year we participate in Give to the Max Day. Give to the Max works best if we can spread the word to friends, work colleagues, neighbors, and relatives and ask for their support. Please consider reaching out to them for this one-day fundraiser.

GIVE TO THE MAX DAY for Yinghua Academy: Thursday, Nov. 13
Let's do this together. Every step of the way.
<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Yinghua>

After-School Notes

by Libby Pomroy

Aftercare has a new phone number.

Use this number to report that you'll be late picking up, or for any Aftercare-related business after the school office is closed at 5:00PM:

612-212-4463



Curriculum Corner (continued)

bership Meeting on Tuesday, November 11. Parents will receive an overview of the Singapore Math curriculum and learn how it is different from other math curriculum, and how it fits into our overall immersion environment and curriculum design. Yang laoshi will also take parents through the concepts for each grade level and demonstrate how we teach the students to understand and solve math problems. Teachers from each grade level will also be present during the workshop to facilitate small discussion groups and provide hands-on exercise examples for parents. The teachers and I are very excited about working with parents at this workshop. We look forward to seeing you there!

Every Wednesday morning from 10:00 to 11:00, led by their very experienced (and well-respected in the field) Chinese language teacher, Ms. Margaret Wong, the international students from the Breck School come to Yinghua to do their community service project. We particularly welcome these students because many of them are native speakers from China. This week, these Chinese students visited the fourth grade classrooms and presented a variety of topics: one group of students

talked about how to become a successful math student; two shared their experience in learning and studying science topics; another spoke about her dream of becoming a vet and how she planned to reach her goal; and another student's talk about his family pastime of watching Beijing Opera aroused great interest among our fourth graders. Their presentations connected with our students on a very personal level, and both Wong laoshi and I agreed that this authentic sharing experience provided a valuable exchange between the speakers and the listeners. We are planning to have this type of activities more frequently to benefit the students.

The Storybook Character Parade was a lot of fun. I enjoyed celebrating literacy and seeing plenty of creativity!

Have a great weekend!

Best,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D
Academic Director



MS ELA Update

by Bradly Byykkonen

Classroom spelling bees are coming next week! They will be starting on Wednesday, November 5th. Two winners from each class will move on to the school spelling bee, which will take place sometime in December. Good luck students!



Sue's News (continued)

The story spurred more headlines "High Expectations=High Results". You can read it here: <http://better-ed.org/blog/high-expectations-high-results>

Already, we were flying high, and today we wrapped up the week with the exciting Read-a-Thon Celebration, the Storybook Character Parade, and Halloween. I know from YACA that we surpassed our school's fundraising goal of \$25,000, which is brilliant. I'm anxious to know the total minutes read by our 667 students, the participation rate, and the classrooms and individuals who read the most minutes and secured the most money. Watch for these details in next week's newsletter.

As I conclude my contribution to the newsletter, I have just received this e-mail:

Hello Yinghua,

I am a Chinese reporter from the Sinovision. Recently, I find that more and more people are interested in Yinghua and want to know more about it. I just consider, may I have an opportunity to visit Yinghua and take an interview?

It's Amelia Bedilia (my storybook character) signing off for today! Have fun trick-or-treating, if that is in your family's plans for tonight!

Warm regards,

Sue Berg

Executive Director

Physical Education Update

By Sarah Totall

Roller Skating: Grades 1-8 will be roller skating in the gym in December. The cost to skate is \$8 for Grades 3-8 (5 skating sessions) and \$6 for Grades 1-2 (3 skating sessions). The fee covers rental of skates and wrist guards (students need to bring their own helmet). We will use the skates from Skatetime School Program, skates from home are not allowed (this is how we are assured that the gym floor will not be damaged). Before the first day of skating (December 1) all parents must fill out a skating form for their child. The roller skating registration form is available on-line under our new Physical Education webpage.

Volunteer Needed: We are looking to have someone build us some shelves in the PE equipment room. We can use our equipment room space more efficiently if we build the shelves to fit our space. Please contact Sarah Totall (sarah.totall@yinghuaacademy.org) if you can help solve our messy equipment room problem.

ATHLETIC NEWS

In-house Co-ed Basketball for Grades 3-4. Thursdays from 3:55-5:30pm starting December 4-February 5. Registration form is on the Yinghua athletic webpage.

In-house Co-ed Floor Hockey Grades 3-8. Thursdays from 3:55-5:30pm starting February 12-March 5. Registration forms will be available soon.

Travel Basketball deadline was October 30. Registration form will be available on-line for a few more days, after that please contact Sarah Totall if you are interested in registering your child.

To learn what we are teaching in PE check out our new Physical Education webpage

你好老师! Hello Teacher!

By Dave Madsen

Step into Ms. Byram's art-room and the first thing you may notice—aside from the beautiful views of Downtown Minneapolis—is the sentence, Art is everywhere! plastered proudly on the walls. As Yinghua's art teacher, Meghan Byram believes that art, much like any other ac-



Name:
Meghan Byram

Class number/

Subject:

Art Specialist

Birthplace/Home-
town:

St. Cloud, MN

ademic discipline, is an integral part of our student body's education and academic experience. And, if you've ever walked the stairs of the East Building to see the collaborative portraits made by Ms. Byram and her students, we're sure you can attest to this fact.

Originally from St. Cloud, Ms. Byram heard about Yinghua through the grapevine. Her first

distinct memory as the art teacher was a strange one: "A few second grade boys insisted that I was not the art teacher," she said. "They were so insistent that it was very difficult to even get a word in!" Since Ms. Byram convinced her students that she was, indeed, the art teacher, she's seen her students grow from eager kindergarteners into the creative people they are today. As a specialist teacher, she reported that she "really gets to know the students and families well through their entire life at Yinghua."

If you are ever interested to see what an art class is like at Yinghua Academy, Ms. Byram would like to extend a personal invitation to you to join in the fun: "Please come to art class—visit us any week!"





Zhang Hui Visits Grade 7

By Bo Liu

On the afternoon of Friday, October 24, a special visitor came to our 7th Grade homeroom. Zhang Hui, originally from Harbin, China, is a short-track speed skater who competes for China.

In the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games, she won the gold medal as part of the 3000-meter relay team. Zhang Hui is currently studying at the University of Minnesota as a visiting student. She arrived on October 16, so everything is pretty new to her.

On the day when she visited, the 7th graders were so excited to meet this famous Olympic champion. Students started asking questions, such as “How did you start speed skating?”, “Did you attend 2014 Winter Olympic Games?” One question was deeply insightful: “For being so successful, what did you lose along the way?” Zhang Hui thought for a second, said: “Well, I lost the time with my family. I went to a school in another city to further my skating skills ever since I was 12 years old, and I only got to visit my family during Chinese New Year each year.” Students raised their eyebrows at this—it is hard for them to imagine living away from family at their age.

Students also shared with Zhang Hui the sports they participate in, from baseball to soccer; from gymnastic to Kung Fu. The Olympic gold medalist was amazed how many sports our students are good at outside of the classroom. It was such a wonderful time but it was too short. We hope to see her again, maybe on the ice rink when winter comes!



New State Graduation Assessment Requirements

By Phillip Morris

Beginning with the 2014 – 2015 school year, the Minnesota Department of Education has revised the graduation requirements for students in Minnesota. In order to be eligible for a diploma from a Minnesota public high school, all students must fulfill graduation assessment requirements. Students will now be administered a series of career and college assessments beginning with the ACT Explore in 8th grade and culminating with the ACT Plus Writing (college entrance exam) in 11th grade.

8th grade students at Yinghua Academy will be introduced to the ACT Explore and complete a career interest survey on November 7th during their Discovery period. The administration of the academic exams will take place over two days, Monday, November 10th and Tuesday, November 11th.

ACT Explore Dates

Friday, November 7th - Introduction to ACT Explore (45 min)

Monday, November 10th - English and Math exams (60 min)

Tuesday, November 11th - Reading and Science exams (60 min)

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting Information

By Hattie Bonds

The mission of the Yinghua Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is to provide input into the decision-making process of the special education department, provide a communication link with the community at large, advocate for high-quality educational programs for all learners, and assure the implementation of Yinghua Academy's and Special Education's mission to all students attending Yinghua Academy.

Parents of special education students and other interested persons, please mark your calendars for the SEAC meetings scheduled for this year: we will meet Thursday, November 20; Tuesday, February 10, 2015; and Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Meetings will begin at 4:30 PM and feature a guest speaker with time for questions and answers with the speaker, administration, and Special Education staff from 4:30-5:30 PM. From 5:30-6:00 PM, we will meet as a parent group for open discussion. For the first SEAC meeting of the 2014-2015 school year, Kenny Chan will present Tips on How to Support Your Child with Disabilities at Home. If you have ideas, comments, suggestions or concerns feel free to contact me at any time by phone at 612-226-4381 or by email at women.united7777@gmail.com. We look forward to a great year!



Science Update

By Andrew Scheid

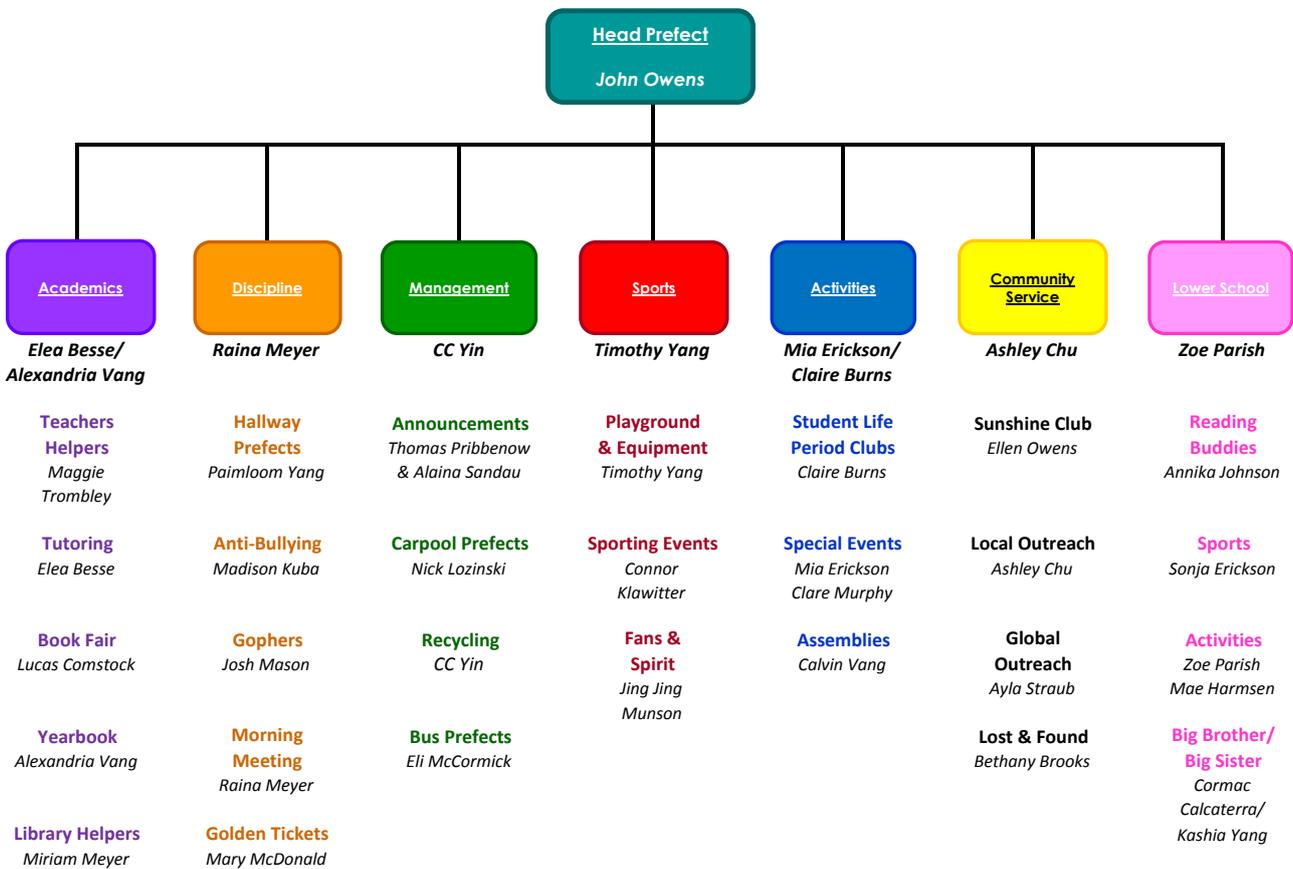
5th grade finished a unit on Plants with a flower dissection. Students were surprised that our germinated kidney beans also have flowered in the lab. The next unit will be on Ecosystems.

6th grade is analyzing speed and acceleration with a car and ramp setup. Engineering is a focus as well with students designing and building rubber band cars. Exciting races next week!

7th and 8th grade Biology students have been studying the Chemistry of Life. Nutrients that sustain and compose organisms have been researched by students and they also had the opportunity to denature protein from milk and eggs.



**YINGHUA ACADEMY STUDENT LIFE ORGANIZATION
2014-2015**



YA STUDENT LIFE PERIOD CLUBS & ACTIVITIES – FALL 2014

**Clubs are from 11:55-12:35, M-F*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Homework Lab 6-8	Homework Lab 6-8	Homework Lab 6-8	Homework Lab 6-8	Homework Lab 6-8
Homework Lab 5	Homework Lab 5	Homework Lab 5	Homework Lab 5	Homework Lab 5
Violin Concerto <i>Lin</i>	Viola/Cello Concertino <i>Lin</i>	Viola/Cello Concerto <i>Lin</i>		
Art 8 <i>Byram</i>	Art 7 <i>Byram</i>		Art 6 <i>Byram</i>	
Math Tutor	5-6 Grade Math Club		Math Club 7-8	Math Tutor
Library	Library	Library	Library	Library
Computer Lab		Computer Lab	Photo/Video Club (Computer Lab)	Computer Lab
Recess Club (PG)	Recess Club (PG)	Recess Club (PG)	Recess Club (PG)	Recess Club (PG)
Ultimate Frisbee Club (PG)	Basketball Club (Gym)	Soccer Club (PG)	3-Step Club (Gym)	Volleyball Club (Gym)
Video Game Club		Book Club		STEM Club (Science Lab)
Game Club		Nap Club		
Cartoon Club	Chinese Movie Club	Rainbow Loom Bracelet Club	Chinese Character Hero Club	Movie Club
Magic & Pokemon Club	Yu-Gi-Oh Club	Dungeons & Dragons	World Media Club	Ever After High Club
Drama Club		Poem & Song Writing Club	YA Newspaper Club	Book Club
Drawing Club	Arts & Crafts Club	Comics Club	Baking Club	Seasonal Crafts Club
STUDENT LIFE PREFECT JOBS	STUDENT LIFE PREFECT JOBS	STUDENT LIFE PREFECT JOBS	STUDENT LIFE PREFECT JOBS	STUDENT LIFE PREFECT JOBS
Teacher Helpers	Teacher Helpers	Teacher Helpers	Teacher Helpers	Teacher Helpers
Tutoring	Tutoring	Tutoring	Tutoring	Tutoring
Hallway Prefects	Hallway Prefects	Hallway Prefects	Hallway Prefects	Hallway Prefects
Gophers	Gophers	Gophers	Gophers	Gophers
Playground Prefects	Playground Prefects	Playground Prefects	Playground Prefects	Playground Prefects
Reading Buddies	Reading Buddies	Reading Buddies	Reading Buddies	Reading Buddies
Library Helpers	Library Helpers	Library Helpers	Library Helpers	Library Helpers
	Yearbook (Computer Lab)	Birthday Board (Office)		
	Science Assistants		Science Assistants	