

YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 学 校

Nov. 2014

Health Office Update

See Page 4

MS, Music, and Phy. Ed Updates

See Page 5

www.yinghuaacademy.org

(612) 788-9095

newsletter@yinghuaacademy.org

Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,
Young or old, *SPARKS* are the hidden flames that "light your fire", get you excited, and tap into your true passion, talents, skills, and dreams.

In his book of the same name, Dr. Peter Benson, a leading authority on childhood and adolescence and former Search Institute President and CEO, describes suggestions for awakening the sparks that live inside each and every young person. "Sparks—when illuminated and nurtured—give young people joy, energy, and direction. They have the power to change a young person's life from one of surviving to thriving." Lucky for kids, his work lives on in part because of the continued and related work of Dr. Kent Pekel, current President and CEO of Search Institute, and Yinghua father!

This week in Discovery Classes with all Yinghua fifth through eighth graders, we explored and identified our sparks and aligned them with our work on the students' INITIATIVE goals or actions, part of the Mental Karate Program. While Benson's research revealed that

continued on page 3

Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Yinghua Families:

Teachers are well respected in Chinese culture. In ancient Chinese literature, the teacher's role was defined as "one who could propagate the doctrine, impart professional knowledge, and resolve doubts."

Most Chinese teachers have this ideology in mind when they prepare themselves to be a role model to students and carefully demonstrate proper behavior in all aspects. At Yinghua, teachers see themselves as having serious responsibilities of educating the students, and dedicate themselves to becoming even better teachers by participating in different professional activities.

This summer we offered an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) workshop,

conducted by American Council on The Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), to provide a basic training on how to conduct interviews and assess students' oral proficiency. Five of the teachers decided to go further and continue this training with ACTFL to become certified interviewers. The training which could take up to two years, involves hundreds of hours of listening and rating practices, and the teachers must be tested to pass different levels – a very long and intense process, indeed! Last week, six teach-

continued on page 6

Upcoming Events and Announcements

11

19-21

14

End of Term Exams

The main purpose for these assessments is to measure the effectiveness of teaching and learning for both the students and the teachers. The testing schedule for each grade level is posted on the Classroom Pages. As always, please make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a well-balanced breakfast on testing days.



Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

Well, it's been a very busy week in Student Life! Last Friday we had our annual Student Life Fair in the gym during the middle school recess period (which we lovingly call "Student Life Period"). In preparation, the Deputy Head Prefects spent the week leading their departments in designing display boards. Their boards included basic information about their departments, as well as examples of past, present, and future projects and activities their departments will be involved with. During the fair, students in grades 5-8 were free to walk around and learn about each department, ask questions, and even sign up to be involved in whatever interested them. The energy was vibrant and the students were truly engaged as they saw Student Life in action. It was a great event!

In addition to learning about the different SLO departments, the students also signed up for the Student Life Period Clubs during the fair. The clubs started this past Monday and the students are loving it! They are so jazzed about being able to plan and lead their own activities! The students will stick with the clubs they chose through the end of December. Then, we'll have another registration session where they'll be able to switch clubs, or sign up for new clubs that have been created. Every day this week students have come to me with new club ideas now that they see how it works. It's truly amazing to see them grow, and empowering them like this is what it's all about!

Speaking of empowering, just this past Wednesday Yang Laoshi and I had the pleasure of bringing the 7th & 8th graders to the second annual WE Day Minnesota event at the Excel Energy Center. Our students spent the day in "Empowerment School" with 18,000 students from around the state. During

the all day event they learned what it means to be empowered, how they could empower others, that even as a young person they have power, and that together we can change "ME to WE" and make a positive difference in the world. As the speakers quoted Gandhi, "Be the change you want to see in the world." The day was all about showing the students how they can do that, especially in the areas of hunger, poverty, bullying, and women's rights. Special guests included Kweku Mandela, Magic Johnson, Martin Sheen, Clementine Wamariya, JR Martinez, Spencer West, Lt. Colonel Eileen Collins, Robin Wiszowaty, Co-Founders Craig & Marc Kielburger, and many others. There were also special guest performers like iLuminate, Colbie Caillat, Lennon & Maisy, Shapeshift, and The Band Perry. It was an amazing day!

Oh! And let's not forget the second big event from last Friday, the Fall MS Dance! 100 students in grades 6-8 attended the Halloween themed party. Every student I talked to said they had an absolute blast! I would like to thank Student Life Prefects Mia Erickson, Claire Burns, Clare Murphy, and Calvin Vang for helping me to plan such a fun evening. I would also like to thank Mr. Scheid, Mrs. Kleinman, Liu Laoshi, Mr. Byykkonen, Lu Laoshi, and Li Laoshi for helping me to chaperone. I couldn't have done it without them!

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

Jeremy Brewer
Dean of Students

(P.S. – Be sure to check out all of the pics from these awesome events!)

Sue's News (continued)

38% of U. S. teenagers could not identify their spark, 100% of our students could, and in fact, most listed several. They included drawing, dance, gymnastics, swimming, football, math, reading, caring for animals, acting, being a leader, recycling, religion, soccer, working with younger children, and more! Interestingly, each student listed their sparks on a Post-It note, and we displayed them anonymously. When I read each one, the students' task was to try to guess whose sparks were whose. They know each other incredibly well after all these years together; I was amazed at their depth of understanding of one another. They were all proud to be recognized by classmates for these interests.

Ask your kid about his/her spark (even if you think you know). Dr. Benson suggests that it's important for young people to know that grown-ups care. He calls us caring adults "sparks champions".

As we reiterated in our Give to the Max day messages yesterday, we are thrilled to be on this journey with you—every step of the way!

Warm regards,
Sue Berg
Executive Director

Handicap Parking at Yinghua Academy

By Dave Madsen

Now that the long season of snow and ice is upon us, we'd like to remind everyone in the Yinghua community that the blue handicap sign out in front of the school's main entrance is for those with a legitimate reason to park there. Families with mobility issues have noticed other cars parked and idled in the two spaces without handicap hangers or plates and it is extremely important that that area be reserved for those who need it. We in the office have had reports of families with mobility issues slipping on their way to the parking lot, due to the number of cars parked illegally in the handicap spaces. Even if you or your family is just running into the office for a few minutes, this does not mean you are allowed to use those spaces. Thank you for your cooperation!

你好老师! Hello Teacher!

By Dave Madsen

Q: How did you hear about Yinghua Academy and when did you start teaching here?

A: I first came to know Yinghua Academy through my job at Teaching Temps, Inc., though I came to work at Yinghua after seeing their music posting on the MNASA jobs website. I started teaching at Yinghua in September of 2014.



Name:
Kelsey Riha

Class number/
Subject:
Lower School
Music Teacher
(Grades K-3)

Birthplace/Home-
town:
Waseca, MN

Q: What was your first distinct memory of teaching at Yinghua Academy?

A: The first memory that was really meaningful to me happened when I was eating lunch in the staff room. Through the door, I could hear one of the 2nd grade classes singing "Do, Re, Mi" from The Sound of Music. It made me stop and think, "Wow, something must be working--students are singing their songs from class when no one is watching them!"

Q: How has Yinghua Academy changed since you started teaching here?

A: Although I have only been working at Yinghua Academy for a few months now, I feel that Yinghua Academy has helped me to further develop my ability to think and problem solve creatively. Yinghua Academy staff create a safe environment for creative risk-taking. They encourage students and staff to always try their best, and focus on self-improvement rather than needing to get everything right the first time.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge you've encountered while working at Yinghua Academy? How have you overcome that challenge?

A: The biggest challenge I've encountered while working at Yinghua Academy has been overworking my voice. I've learned that a soft voice is just as effective, if not more effective, than speaking loudly in classroom management, and it saves my voice.

Q: What has been the most rewarding thing about working at Yinghua Academy?

A: The most rewarding thing about working at Yinghua Academy has been seeing students' great enthusiasm about learning. When students ask and answer questions about music, do their best in class, and leave with smiles on their faces, I feel that all my hard work is worthwhile.

Q: What is a message you'd like to send to the parents of Yinghua's students?

A: It has been an amazing experience so far getting to see students' love for and curiosity about music grow. I firmly believe that beyond any one specific skill students learn in class, the most important thing students should get out of class is learning to love and appreciate music.

Give to the Max Day: Thank You!

By Sarah Whiting and Jen Shadowens

Thank you to our wonderful and supportive Yinghua family! On November 13, more than \$23,000 was donated to our great school for GIVE TO THE MAX Day. Yinghua will use these funds for academic enhancement, teacher recruitment and retention, and technology. If you missed your chance to give during Give to the Max Day, or prefer writing a check instead of making an online contribution, please donate at the school or on the school page www.yinghuaacademy.org through next Tuesday.

Ebola: Low Risk in Minnesota

By Ginger Hao

Most of you have been probably hearing a lot about Ebola on the news lately. Since news agencies tend to sensationalize things, it is easy to feel anxious at times or wonder what risk we have in our own communities. I wanted to include the most recent information released by the Minnesota Department of Health to help give you some basic facts and also some tips about how to talk about it with your children if they appear worried or have questions.

Ebola Background

- At this time, there is no need to exclude or avoid anyone because they have recently traveled to a country where Ebola is occurring.
- The risk of Ebola disease being spread in Minnesota continues to be extremely low.
- Ebola is transmitted when a person has had direct contact with the blood or body fluids (e.g., saliva, urine, vomit, feces) of an Ebola-infected person or with objects contaminated with that person's blood or body fluids.
- People returning from the affected areas who do not have symptoms are not infectious. There should be no restrictions on their attendance or activities.
- Fever in people who traveled to the affected areas is most likely due to more common infectious diseases in West Africa (e.g., malaria), but should still be checked by a doctor urgently.

Reassuring Children

Understandably, there is heavy coverage in the media about the spread of Ebola. It is a good idea to limit young children's exposure to news stories about it. This way, parents can decide what information they want to share based on their child's level of understanding. Here are some things to remind children if they are concerned:

- They are safe.
- Our health care system is among the best in the world for taking care of sick people.
- Ebola is rare and does not exist everywhere. When cases are found, the person with the infection is taken to a safe place to be cared for so that they can get better and not make anyone else sick.
- Doctors and scientists who know a lot about Ebola are working hard to find ways to prevent or cure this illness.

Pay attention to children and youth because they are paying attention to the news. Some things to consider:

- Media coverage of Ebola can worry or frighten children and adolescents (and adults).
- The news media tend to emphasize the most frightening aspects of an outbreak.
- Ebola does not have to be in your community for media coverage to affect your child.
- You can help young children by restricting their exposure to media coverage.
- With all children and adolescents, active mediation (monitoring and explaining) can help them cope with media coverage of Ebola.

The most important thing you can do is to talk about Ebola media coverage with your child.

For current information, see the Minnesota Department of Health website and the CDC website (www.cdc.gov/ebola).



Conservatory of Music Registration is Open!

By Karen Lin

Students interested in private music lessons through our Yinghua Academy Conservatory of Music can sign up starting today. Find the registration form on the Current Families/Forms web page, and also on the Current Families/Conservatory of Music web page. Print the form, fill it out, and return it to the office no later than Monday, November 24.

Lessons are \$35 per lesson and include Aftercare. Term II begins the week of January 5 and runs through February 27. Lessons are once a week for 8 weeks (Monday classes meet 6 times). The Conservatory of Music welcomes Kindergarten through 8th grade students. Note that lesson times are filled on a first-come, first served basis. There are lesson times at 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30 and 6:00. Students who are current Conservatory of Music participants DO NOT need to reregister for Term II or Term III. Contact yinghua.music.conservatory@gmail.com for questions about instruments and Conservatory staff. Contact libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org for questions about scheduling.



Middle School Math Team Updates

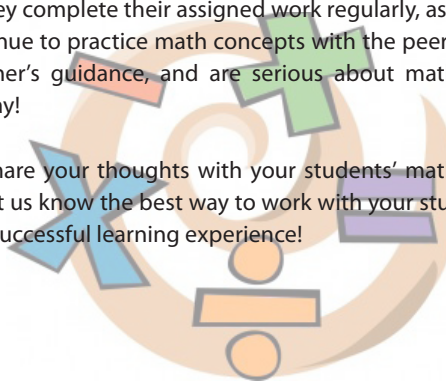
By Pamella Stommes & MS Math Team

Math Club sign-ups and application process will be open until the 17th of November. Please see the attachment for more information.

Math tutoring sessions during activity periods have begun! Mondays and Fridays are open for any 5-8th Grade students who would like to talk/discuss about their math learning and problem solving strategies. Talk to the students' math teachers for more details.

The Term One final is coming up! Math knowledge is built over the entire term and students will be assessed on the learned contents. Students can expect an outstanding performance on the final if they complete their assigned work regularly, ask questions, continue to practice math concepts with the peers under the teacher's guidance, and are serious about math learning everyday!

Please always share your thoughts with your students' math teachers. And let us know the best way to work with your students toward a successful learning experience!



Music Department Update

By HsuanWen Lin

Performance Day: There were over 80 performances from students during music classes last week!

Save the date for the Orchestra Winter Concert: Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 PM in the Gymnasium.



Middle School English Language Arts Update

By Bradly Byykkonen

Congratulations to the two students who won in each of the classroom spelling bees! These students will be going on to the next round--the school-wide spelling bee (grades 3-8), which is coming in December. The following students won their classroom spelling bees:

- 5A: Ganga Corsaro and Sanna Walker
- 5B: Emma Hazen-Disch and William Skelly
- 5C: Alayna Tan and Olivia Goddard
- 6A: Jethro Zheng and Nathaniel Sundeen
- 6B: Owen Buchanan and Noah Qiu
- 7: Calvin Vang and Mary McDonald
- 8: Alaina Sandau and Jasmine Quinlan

Physical Education Update

By Sarah Tottall

THE ROLLER SKATES ARE COMING! The skates will be here December 1. Have you signed the permission slip for your child to skate in PE class? No one can skate without a signed permission form. Click on [Grades 1-2 Form](#) or [Grades 3-8 Form](#) to register your child today.

ATHLETIC NEWS

In-house Basketball: Co-ed In-House basketball for students in grades 3-4. Basketball will be once a week on Thursdays from 3:55-5:30 starting on December 4 and running for 8 weeks (ending February 5). Register on-line by going to the Yinghua Athletic webpage.

In-house Floor Hockey: Co-ed Floor Hockey for Grades 3-8 in the gymnasium. Four sessions of floor hockey on Thursdays 3:55-5:30, February 12 - March 5, 2015. Register online by going to the Yinghua Athletic webpage.



Curriculum Corner (continued)

ers attended a Singapore Math workshop put on by Staff Development for Educators to deepen their understanding and learn new teaching strategies of the Singapore Math curriculum. For this school year, our teachers will also attend (or have attended) conferences and workshops ranging from Reading the Common Core Standards, Reading and Literacy, Special Education, 504 Plans, to assessments. Teachers are always encouraged to submit a proposal to attend a professional development workshop they are interested in to the administration. The proposals will be carefully reviewed and approved based on the budget. We value on-going professional development and consider this activity very crucial for teachers to continue improving themselves. Mrs. Berg and I attend trainings and workshops as well to seek continuous improvement and we always welcome feedback and suggestions to make our school an excellent place to grow for our teachers.

In addition to outside professional development opportunities, internally our weekly meetings with each grade level team provides a platform for the teachers to discuss their teaching strategies and address their concerns. Currently Mrs. Berg and I are also working on conducting informal walk-in observations, where we randomly walk into a classroom and capture a few minutes of the teacher in action on our iPads. A copy of this recording will be shared with the teacher before we meet with him/her individually to provide feedback and set up tangible professional development or instructional goals for our next observation session. The purpose for this process is to clearly articulate the objective: both the teacher and the administrator follow up with the goals. It also gives the teachers clear, measurable, and bite-size objectives to work on for each of their lessons and helps set up teachers for success. The teachers will also have the opportunity to observe their peers and learn from them, in order to reflect on various aspects of one's own teaching - recognizing and identifying the positives, and thus enhancing teaching quality and improving student learning experiences.

Great teachers help foster great students. We are working towards helping every teacher to become a successful one. I welcome any suggestions you might have to help achieve this goal.

Sincerely,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director

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!

Experience Chinese Pipa Music first-hand!

By Dave Madsen

Gao Hong, world-renowned Chinese musical prodigy and master of the pipa (a pear-shaped lute), will captivate you with music steeped in Chinese styles but familiar to western ears. The pipa is one of the most widely-played instruments in China and has been played for almost two thousand years, starting sometime in the Han Dynasty.

Now you have a chance to experience the stylings of the pipa right here in Minnesota! From 2:00 - 3:00 PM on Saturday, November 15th, Hong will perform at the Northeast Library, located on Central Avenue NE and 22nd Avenue NE. For those who are unfamiliar with the area, that's about eight blocks away from Yinghua! For more information, visit <http://www.hclib.org/programs/events-calendar>



Pla-IT: Rev Sports Registration Now Online

By Coach John

Pla-IT: Revolutionary Sports has all camp days through February available now for online registration. Register now and receive the best prices: \$50 for a full-day (7:30-5:30), or \$30 for half-day. These prices are valid as long as you register two-weeks in advance. If you forgot to register for Wednesday, November 26th, we have extended early registration through Sunday, November 16th. Visit www.Pla-IT.com for more information about camp.



Middle School News

Andrew Scheid | Science Teacher

Term 1 Finals Start Next Week! Check your student's planner and the classroom pages for exact dates and more details about the subject exams.

Winter Opportunity: Ski and Snowboard at Como Park

City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation has an established Downhill Ski and Snowboard Program at Como Park. There is a 5-Lesson Program offering, as well as Winter Break Day Clinics and Open Ski times. I have been an instructor with the program for more than 10 years! Check out <http://www.mountcomo.com> or <http://www.stpaul.gov/parks> for more information.

Science Update:

5th grade: Students are using our knowledge of plants and their adaptations in a study of Ecosystems. Minnesota has four distinct Biomes; Ask your student to describe them! Students also did research on invasive species, pollutants and other threats to the diversity of life.

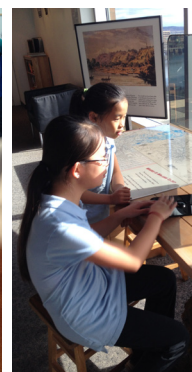
6th Grade: Students are studying Forces and Motion. Objects in motion have predictable behavior according to Newton's laws. Students will make diagrams and record measurements of objects in motion, such as student designed planes and cars.

7th/8th Grade: Students are studying Ecology and the factors that affect living communities. Interactions between organisms and between organisms and the environment will be researched and explored in class. Pollution, Deforestation and Climate Change will also be discussion topics.

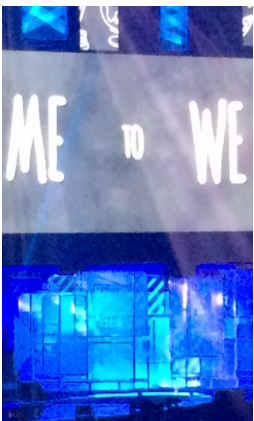
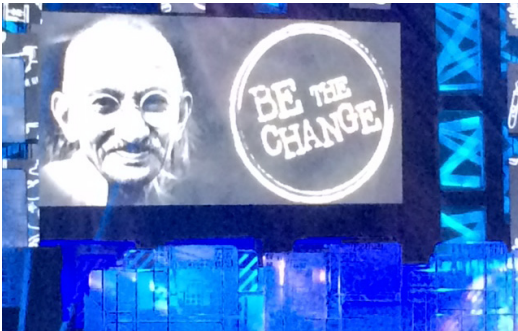
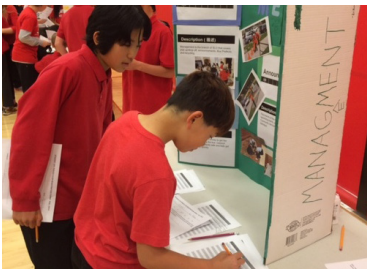
Super Science Enrichment: After-care students get messy and have fun with Mr. Scheid. Students made silly putty, exploded bags, designed/flew paper airplanes, and did chemistry with pennies. Look for the offering in Term 2!



4th Grade Science Museum Field Trip



SLO Fair





Dear Middle School Students and the Parents,

This letter is to both you and your family regarding 2014-2015 Yinghua Math Team and Student Math Club.

Yinghua Academy wants to invite MS students to join the math team and prepare the students for a higher challenge in math education.

Each year, over 350,000 students in the United States participate in the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) American Mathematics Contests (AMC). The students who have outstanding performance on AMCs are invited to participate in The American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME) and United States of America Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO/USAJMO).

At Yinghua Academy, we are committed to provide the highest quality of math education to our students. Middle School 5-8 math curriculum at Yinghua Academy is designed to challenge the students' math skills from pre-algebra to pre-calculus. Furthermore, we want our students to participate in the national competitions to reassure their math knowledge and proficiency.

Please take some time to discuss the opportunity and benefit of joining the YA Math Club/Team with your family. Yinghua Academy continuously strives to provide you and the family an outstanding educational experience. I thank you for your commitment, support, and trust that make us the exceptional educators and academic leaders!

Sincere Regards,

The Middle School Math Team

YA Math Club/Team Application

To apply:

1. Fill out the application form with your parents.
2. Provide a **Statement of Interest** using double spaced standard 12 point font and margins.
3. Attend the Math Club/Team Meeting on Nov. 17th in Room 247 at Noon, and submit the application and **Statement of Interest** in person.

Math Team 2014-2015					
Applicant (To be filled out by the applicant)					
Last Name		First Name		Middle Initial	
Date of Birth (Age)	()		Gender		
Email Address			Skyp ID (If any)		
Parents/Guardians (To be filled out by the parents or guardians)					
Last Name		First Name		Relationship	
Emergency Contact Information (In case of emergency)					
Name (Last, First)					
Phone Number (W)			(Home/ Cell)		
Email Address #1			#2		
Certification					
I understand by signing this application that I am responsible for my position in the YA Math Club/Team. I am to obey the YA Math Team rules, attend the scheduled team meetings, participate appropriately in the group activities, and complete YA Math Club/Team related tasks. I may be called for an interview for further information. I understand that the absence of any of the above actions may result in DISQUALIFICATION of my position in the club/team of the school year 2014-2015.					
Applicant's Signature			Date		
Parents/Guardians' Signature			Date		
Official Use Only					
Other Notes:					
Teacher's Signature			Date		
Academic Director's Signature			Date		