

YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 学 校

Lego League Tournament
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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,

What a whirlwind trip to China I had! With an early morning departure on Thursday and arrival to Xiamen, the site of the 9th Global Confucius Institute Conference, at 3:30AM Saturday, I literally hit the ground running. I was delighted and honored to represent our school in this auspicious ceremony and to receive the Confucius Classroom of the Year Award for Yinghua. What was so impressive was that we were one of only five recipients from around the world! I was asked to meet with a journalist after the ceremony, which I agreed to do. When I arrived to find 15+ media with cameras and recorders, I realized just how outstanding this achievement was! Needless to say, I always find it easy to "brag" about YA, and I did so for these curious Chinese reporters. Lo and behold, I and Yinghua ended up on Chinese television. Every member of our school community can and should be proud; however, I am particularly grateful to Dr. Lien who has contributed to Yinghua's success since day one. How I wish she could have been present to shake the hand of Liu Yandong, Vice Premiere of the P. R. China and Chair of the Council of the Confucius Institute Headquarters!

Report cards will be in the mail on Monday. Be sure to note your student's strengths and accomplishments as well as to realize opportunities for growth. We are on this important journey together!

Enjoy the weekend!
Sue Berg
Executive Director

Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

As many of you know, Number Eight Middle school in Hohhot is our sister school in Inner Mongolia, China. Our Middle School students have been in communication with their peers at the sister school for the past four years.

One of the reasons to have a sister school in China is to support our students to practice Chinese and establish friendship. For the past few years, the students from both schools have visited each other. These visits have been important events for both schools: when our students visited Hohhot, they stayed with families of Middle School Number Eight, experiencing the authentic Chinese family life and shadowing their peers to understand students' life in China. For the sister school

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Upcoming Events and Announcements

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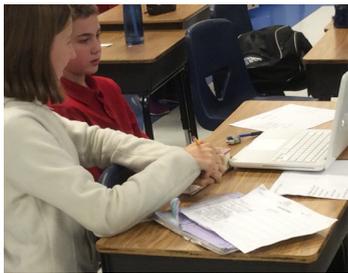
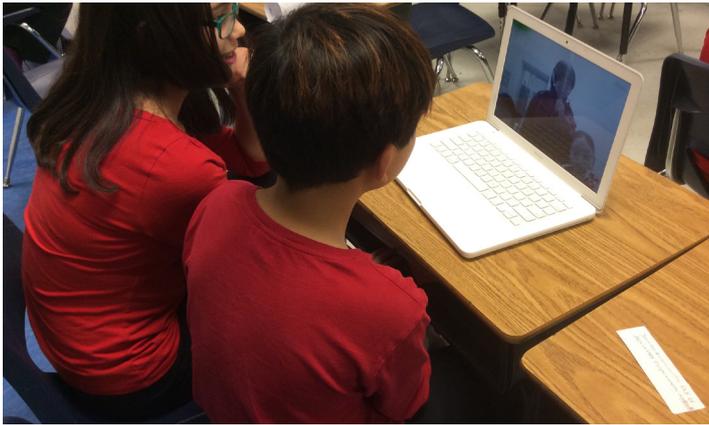
Term I Report Cards Mailed
All report cards from Term I will be sent by post to families by Monday, December 15th. If you do not receive your child's report card by the end of December, please let the main office know.

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Winter Orchestra/Choral Concert
Join us at 7:00 PM in the gym for Yinghua's Annual Winter Orchestra/Choral Concert! Contact Libby Pomroy (libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org) for more detailed information.



Curriculum Corner (continued)

students, they also had the opportunity to stay in our students' homes and visit Yinghua to experience the American family and school cultures and see how our students learn Chinese. The visits have been meaningful for our students, and their feedbacks and reflections touched me and sometimes even surprised me: quite a few students told me that their visit to the sister school changed their perception of China, and much of the information they learned in class had become concrete and accessible; some of them even asked me what they can do to help our sister school! I just received great news that our sister school friends are planning another trip to visit us at the end of January. I will keep everyone posted as I receive more information.

Another important exchange with our sister school is through our monthly video conference. Yesterday we held our first conference for this school year. To enable this communication, some students in Hohhot have to leave for school as early as 6:00AM in order to arrive in time for the chat session which begins at 6:50AM (4:50PM our time). At each session, students first discuss the topic which had been previous assigned, followed by free conversations. The topics range from homework, school policies, school culture, to pop music. Every time I listen in on their dialogues, I can't help wishing I had the power to stop the time so I could forever enjoy their humor and cleverness!

This year, we plan to add another exchange opportunity by inviting our sister school friends to contribute to the newspaper "英華月报" written by the students in one of the Student Organization Clubs, YA News Channel, so that both schools will have "foreign correspondents" reporting news and events for each other. This activity creates another venue for collaboration and language and cultural understanding for students in both schools. I look forward to reading the reports sent in by our foreign correspondents in Hohhot!

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

Family Fun Skate Night

By Sarah Totall

December 19 from 5:45-8:00pm. Come and skate as a family in the Yinghua gym. If you want, bring your own dinner and eat in the cafeteria between 5:30-6:30, then skate. Skating is free. Bring your own helmet. Adults must sign a waiver. Contact Sarah Totall for more details.

English Language Arts Update

By Bradly Byykkonen

The spelling bee will be on Monday the 15th from 2:00 until it ends (around 3:15 or so) in the cafeteria. Parents of students who will be in the spelling bee are welcome to attend.

Lost and Found Note

By Dave Madsen

Yinghua Academy's Lost and Found has recently been organized. If you think you or your child has lost something at school, please take a look at the table near the music room.



Lego League Tournament

By Meghan Anderson

The Yinghua FIRST Lego League teams, the Dragons and the Tigers, competed in a regional tournament at Highview Middle School in New Brighton last Sunday. Both teams have been working hard this fall in preparation for the tournament, and all that hard work paid off!

In preparation for the tournament, they programmed their Lego Mindstorms robots to complete certain missions on a table by interacting with Lego models, and the teams ran these programs at the tournament while referees awarded points for missions that the robots completed. The teams also each identified a problem and solution related to this year's theme, "World Class", to explore the future of education and learning.

They presented their ideas to a judge at the tournament, and also shared their robot and program designs with judges. The teams made an excellent showing at the tournament, and most importantly, had fun and learned a lot!



Physical Education Update

By Sarah Totalt

Roller Skating: WOW! The students are getting to be good skaters. We have been working on turns, stops, balancing on one foot, dancing and playing skating games like the limbo. Besides having fun and building skills we are working up a sweat.

ATHLETIC UPDATE

The basketball players are working hard on their skills and plays. We are hosting games on some Wednesday and Fridays. You can find the schedule on the athletic webpage. Stop in the gym for a few minutes to check out the action on our next home game Wednesday December 17 from 4:30-6:30pm.



Middle School Speech Contest

By Bo Liu

From December 8th to 10th, 5th to 8th Grade students attended the annual speech contest. In those three days, students gave their speech to their peers and teachers during the morning meeting or Chinese class. 5th grade's topic was "My Winter Break Plan," and students talked about what they plan to do over the winter break. 6th grade's topic was "I Am The Ambassador of Yinghua Academy" and they introduced our school to potential visitors who may come visit us. 7th graders talked about the Chinese Opera from their perspective. 8th graders' topic was "If I Was The Chair Of Yinghua Academy Student Life," and they described how to become an excellent leader and role model for other students.

During the speech contest, students not only gave their speech, but they also graded their peers' speeches. They carefully listened to other speeches, and then recorded their scores in the rating sheet to ensure it was fair and accurate. By the end of Wednesday, December 10th, each grade determined their winners:

5A:

1. Kaelyn Chen 陈凯伦
2. Lillian Burrows 莉莉 & Sanna Walker 王山娜
3. Victoria Byrne 贝恬瑞

5B:

1. Julianne Mason 安子灵
2. Emma Hazen-Disch 何琪琪
3. William Skelly 史伟皓 & Georgiana Besse 海芷楠

5C:

1. Sophia Kelley 文喜
2. Emily Khouw 许慧琳 & Ying Catlin 康盈盈
3. Mira Ho-Chen 何陈乃贤 & Jaeden Vang 汪龙伟

6A:

1. Miriams Meyer 周韵谭
2. Victoria Pekel 柏安雅
3. Sonja Erickson 艾晓雅

6B:

1. Claire Wilcox 惜静
2. Hanjing Munson 马含晶
3. Kyllian Quinlan 奎欢理

7th grade:

1. Annika Johnson 江爱媛
2. Joshua Mason 安书亚 & Ayla Straub 邢爱悦
3. Josephine Lacy 雷丽丽

8th grade:

1. Ashley Chu 朱禹瑾
2. Alexandria Vang 汪爱朗
3. Claire Burns 陈爱恩 & Elea Besse 毕华莲

