

YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 学 校

3rd Grade Poetry
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Term III Music Lesson Info
See Page 5

www.yinghuaacademy.org

(612) 788-9095

newsletter@yinghuaacademy.org

Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,
Love is in the air! Naturally, there was plenty of love for friends and for teachers, as expressed with cards and candy, as we celebrated Valentine's Day. As a child, this was one of my very favorite days! Of course, preparation for Valentine's Day started well before THE DAY with the making of a Valentine's Day "mail" box or bag at home or in school. Often these creations were covered in foil, glittery, and covered with hearts and often had a theme. Next, we prepared to create or purchase valentines, laboring over a perfect one for each friend and classmate. Of course, it mattered if you were a girl or boy as to what you chose for each recipient.

Receiving special cards from each of my classmates was such fun. Our teachers taught us the art of reading each one carefully, which was especially challenging as a beginning reader, and then going to thank each classmate personally for the card. Of course, any candy, pencil, or sticker was an added bonus but certainly

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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Yinghua Families,

This week's most exciting news was the visit of the delegation from our sister school in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia. They arrived in the Twin Cities on Sunday night around 11:00 PM and stayed with us until Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM. After visiting us, they will travel to Washington DC, Philadelphia, New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

The delegation included a Confucius Classroom coordinator, an English teacher, a college student intern, and 11 eighth and ninth grade students. We recruited 9 Yinghua families to host the students and provided support during their visit in Minnesota. The students shadowed our seventh and eighth grade students on Monday to experience American school life. At the end of the day on Monday, many sister school students played basketball with our basketball team. We then arranged a special event for our friends to attend the Timberwolves game, which included 60+ of our MS students to accompany the sister school delegation. Before the NBA game, our group had a great

position standing in the tunnel to high five the basketball players when the Timberwolves entered the arena from their locker room. The Chinese students also got to buy an American-style dinner at the Target Center. After the game, we were able to take a group photo on the court.

The second day was a shopping day; we took our friends to Mall of America which the Chinese students viewed as a great attraction in Minnesota. After a half-day shopping in the mall, we had a welcome/farewell assembly together in the gym during which the two schools' students exchanged their talents and played together. I am very proud of our students' over-

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Upcoming Events and Announcements

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Valentine's Day

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President's Day: NO SCHOOL



Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

Last Friday's Spirit Day was a lot of fun and the Pep Fest was a blast! We had all of the KG-8th graders in the gym for some cheers. What child doesn't love to scream? I think a few teachers may have wished they had ear plugs. After we did the cheers and the wave a few times, Miss Total talked a little bit about YA sports, promoted the fan appreciation nights this week, and recognized all of the athletes that have participated in YA athletics since the fall. We finished the event with a fun game of Lightning. If you don't know, it's a single elimination basketball game in which each player tries to be the first to score a basket. The last one standing wins. We picked a few representatives to compete for each grade. It was fun watching the students cheer on their classmates! As promised we have included some pics of the day so you all can participate a little in Yinghua Spirit!

Next Friday, February 20th, will be our last Spirit Day of the month. The theme will be the ever popular Pajama & Crazy Hair Day! Students may wear school appropriate pajamas, flannel pants and PJ's, onesies, bathrobes, sweats, slippers, and their best "bed hair" hairdo! Please remember to send shoes and outdoor boots with your child(ren) if they bring slippers to school. Most slippers don't have soles and will only be allowed inside the classroom because they can be slippery in the hallways. Safety first, fun second!

Have a wonderful long weekend!

Jeremy Brewer



Sue's News (continued)

not expected. Looking back, there was a simplicity that I liked; a genuine opportunity to tell someone special that you liked them!

I had great fun last night reliving these fond memories and preparing valentines for each of our staff! The special treat bag of goodies is sure to give you each of them a sugar high! I treasure their work, their contributions to our kids and our school community, and their friendship! This quote exemplifies the important work that we and you as parents do together!

Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.

Happy Valentine's Day to you!

Enjoy the long Presidents' Day weekend! See you Tuesday.
Warm regards,
Sue Berg

Curriculum Corner (continued)

all performance and their beautiful Chinese pronunciation. A potluck dinner, hosted by one of our families, Mr. and Mrs. Schneider, took place at the end of the day on Tuesday. After the dinner, students spent the night with their host families.

For the past four years, our Middle School students have been chatting online and exchanging emails with their peers at the sister school. This is the 3rd time that our sister school friends have visited us. We have likewise visited them three times. Through these visits we were able to learn a great deal from each other. In particular, the students from both schools opened each other's eyes and minds to different cultures and enabled them to use their language and social skills to communicate and make international friendships.

We are planning to visit our sister school friends in June. Stay tuned for more information about our China trip!

Sincerely,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D

CNY Volunteer Needs

By Wynnee Igel

We still need CNY volunteers on Friday, 2/27, at Yinghua for the following:

- 11:15 AM-3:45 PM - 1D, 2B, 3C, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th. Especially hair and make-up help needed for 5th-8th grade
- 8 - 10:45 AM - K5, 2D
- 10 AM - 12 PM - staff snack bags
- 10 AM - 2 PM - roving photographer (candids)
- 12 - 3 PM - 4A, 4B
- 4:30 - 5 PM - loading the prop truck

We still need CNY volunteers on Saturday, 2/28, at Bethel for the following:

- 8 - 9 AM - unloading the prop truck
- 8 AM - 12 PM - 1C, 1D, 2B, 3A, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th. Especially hair and make-up help needed for 6th-8th grade
- 11AM - 3 PM - Noon show usher
- 1 - 3 PM - 6th, 7th, 8th
- 2 - 2:45 PM - K3, 3B
- 3 - 4 PM show usher
- 9 AM - 12 PM - photo assist (placing students for the photographer)
- 12 - 5 PM - photo assist (placing students for the photographer)
- 5:30 - 6 PM - dismissal concierge
- 6:30 - 7 PM - unloading props at Yinghua



Night is a Lion, a Jaguar, a Dragon, a Wolf: Third Graders Shake up the Language

By Christine Sikorski, parent of Julia Sikorski Roehsner, 3rd grader

During the last two weeks of January, I had the pleasure of leading poetry workshops for our four Yinghua third grade classes, basing my format on Barbara Juster Esbensen's *A Celebration of Bees: Helping Children to Write Poetry*. Emphasizing strong verbs and surprising language, I led each class in "word-shaking" sessions, then prompted the students to use the results to write their own poems. The third graders gave their imaginations a vigorous work-out as we explored the subjects of night and the moon.

Phaedra thought of Night as an octopus, who could carry eight blankets and tuck in eight people at the same time. RaKai thought of the sun as a king, whom the moon guards. Grady saw the earth as an exercise wheel, with Night running on it. For Cameron, Night was a horse's tail brushing the sky; for Wynn, a "lion pushing you to sleep." Julia saw Night dressed in a purple velvet top hat, while another child saw Night as a wizard wearing a sparkling cloak.

Other images our word-shaking sessions yielded: the crescent moon is a dolphin; Night "faints," afraid of the sun; "the moon cleans the stars;" "the owl bites through the fur of night;" sound "punches holes" in the cloth of Night; "the night zooms away with friends, the moon and the stars;" "Night is a dark blanket rising up to cover the sun"; and Night is "a gigantic forest with angels." As Brady worked to find an energetic verb to describe how his "turtledove," who "shines bright like a night light," travels, Vindya helped by skillfully executing bird motions. Brady hit upon just the right verb: his turtledove "glides over every kid in the world putting them to sleep."

After Wayne's class had had time to work on their poems individually, Wayne approached me, shyly telling me he was finished. I looked down at his paper; his first line took my breath away. After reading his entire poem, I suggested a change to his last line; he responded to my idea, but modified it. As should happen, the writer had the final say! Here is Wayne's poem:

Respectful Night

Who shows respect for the dead ones?

Who gives us time to rest?

The night does! The night does!

Who makes the stars shine so bright?

Who helps you grow every day?

The night does! The night does!

Who helps God keep peace in the world?

I know the night does!



I so appreciated how the third graders warmed to the idea of "word shaking," as they saw how their ideas and word choices generated excitement and possibility. You could see, as Mr. Morris and Mrs. Glewwe recorded their images on the board, how their confidence in their own creativity grew. As Mr. Morris assists them in revising their poems, we hope to share more of them with you. Enjoy the richness and surprise!



Term III Music Lessons Begin March 23

By Libby Pomroy

The Yinghua Academy Conservatory of Music's spring term runs from March 23rd to May 21st.

Continuing students: Families of returning Yinghua Academy Conservatory of Music students received invoices for Term III music this week. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org. If your student does not plan to return for Term III, please let Libby know as soon as possible.

New students: Registration information for Term III is on the Yinghua website: <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/current-families/conservatory-of-music/>

Private lessons for piano, violin, guitar, voice and other instruments are available after school for a fee of \$35 per lesson, including Aftercare. There are eight lessons in the term. Print and return your registration form, without payment, to the school office, or to libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org, no later than February 20; you will receive an invoice after your lessons are scheduled. Lessons begin the week of March 23. If you have questions about the Yinghua Academy Conservatory of music, please contact yinghua.music.conservatory@gmail.com.

Middle School ELA Update

By Bradly Byykkonen

Congratulations to Mary McDonald. Last week she took the online spelling bee test, which is the second round of the spelling bee. Students taking the test had to score at least a 34 to move on to the next round. Mary easily qualified, so she will be going on to the district spelling bee and competing against forty-nine other students from the area. The district spelling bee will take place at Augsburg College on March 21, 2015, in the Hoversten Chapel.

CNY Ticket Update

As of February 13th at 3:00 PM, here are the number of tickets sold and remaining for both performances

12:00 PM Performance - 979 tickets sold, 358 remaining

4:00 PM Performance- 1,118 tickets sold, 254 remaining

Middle School Chinese Team CNY Preparation Photos

By Lu Yang



Help Keep Everyone Healthy: When to Keep Your Sick Child Home

By Health Office Staff

As we navigate through a difficult cold and flu season this winter, in order to protect other students and staff, the Health Office would like to remind you as parents to keep your child home from school if he or she has any of the following conditions:

Fever greater than 100°F in the past 24 hours (before fever reducing medications are given) or your child feels ill or is unable to participate in normal daily activities.

Diarrhea or vomiting within the past 24 hours.

Rash with fever or behavior change that is undiagnosed.

Untreated head lice.

Eye drainage, or painful itchy, reddened eyes, possible conjunctivitis (pink eye).

Undiagnosed persistent coughing or yellow/green mucous coming from nose or mouth.

Please remind your child to wash his/her hands frequently after eating, using the bathroom, and after returning from being out in the community. Please also model this behavior for them; they learn from you!

If you have any questions, or are wondering if your child is well if enough to come to school, please call or email us anytime: (612) 788-9095.

Thanks so much!

Ginger Hao, Licensed School Nurse: ginger.hao@yinghuaacademy.org

Wendi Harmsen, Health Para: wendi.harmsen@yinghuaacademy.org

Nina Flynn, Health Para: nina.flynn@yinghuaacademy.org

BETHEL UNIVERSITY SPORTS CAMPS

volleyball • grades 5-12
 boys basketball • grades 3-12
 girls basketball • grades 3-12
 cross country • grades 9-12
 soccer • ages 3-12
 tennis • ages 7-15

BETHELROYALS.COM | [#BUROYALS](https://twitter.com/BETHELROYALS) | [@BETHELROYALS](https://www.instagram.com/BETHELROYALS)

Bethel University Summer Sports Camps

Bethel University has hosted Yinghua Academy's Chinese New Year Performances for the last 4 years. Although it seems far away, spring is almost here and with it goes planning for summer camps. Bethel University offers various Bethel's sports camps for different age groups that may be of interest to you. Check out the information at: bethelroyals.com

Parent Traffic Reminder

By Jeremy Brewer

Please do not drop off your children in front of the dumpsters or enter the staff parking lot to drop off your children before school.

This keeps staff from being able to find parking spaces. It also blocks the dumpsters and service vehicle/delivery parking space.

There are also two handicapped parking spaces in the staff lot that are available for public use. Parents wishing to use these spots may enter the staff lot to access them.

However, when parents drop children in the staff lot or in front of the dumpsters, it blocks these handicapped spaces and makes them unusable for families who need them.

Please keep these areas clear of student drop-offs.

Thank you for respecting these policies.





给英华师生的一封信

王若三、张美燕、高勒和八中同学

亲爱的英华领导、各位教师和各位同学们你们好：

首先，感谢所有的老师们，尤其是包校长和连主任。感谢你们的盛情款待。感谢你们几日来的关心和照顾。

第二，感谢所有的同学们，你们是那么好客、坦诚、自信和勇敢，让所有来到这里的中国学生和老师们都爱上你们，同时也坚定了八中学生们努力学习英语的信心。

第三，为了欢迎和陪同我们，你们不断调整 and 改变你们的日程表和原有的安排，所以我在这里表示真诚的歉意。 I am so sorry to bring you so much trouble during our stay.

最后，我们期望着在中国再一次见到你们，也希望我们的友谊万古长青。

Best wishes and Happy Spring Festival! Goodbye, Farewell!

你们的中国朋友

王若三、张美燕、高勒和八中同学

2015年2月11日

A Letter to Yinghua Staff, Teachers, and Students

By Rousan Wang, Meiyang Zhang, Gaole, and Number Eight Middle School students

February 11, 2015

Dear Yinghua administrators, teachers, and students:

Greetings! First of all, thank you to all the educational staff, especially Mrs. Berg and Dr. Lien, for all of your hospitality and care for us over the past few days.

Secondly, thank you to all the students! You have been so hospitable, sincere, confident, and brave—you've warmed our hearts. It is because of you that our students have resolved to work hard on their English so they can better communicate with you.

Thirdly, you have adjusted your daily schedule and plans to welcome and accommodate us for the past few days. We are really grateful but at the same time we would like to express our sincere apologies for any disruption.

Finally, we looking forward to seeing you in China. I hope our friendship will last forever.

Best Wishes and Happy Spring Festival! Goodbye, Farewell!

Your friends from China,

Rousan Wang, Meiyang Zhang, Gaole, and Number Eight Middle School students





PE Update

By Sarah Totall

Climbing Wall Update: We are still on hold for the climbing wall installation. We hope to get back on track so we can get Everlast Climbing to come back out within the next 2 weeks.

Summer Camp: Adventure Summer Camp for students will be held for grades 4-6. Sarah Totall will be running a one-week adventure camp at Yinghua between June 15-19. Once again, we will cruise all over town on our bikes. Last year's highlights included biking, swimming, visiting Dairy Queen, visiting different parks, and exploring the banks of the Mississippi. This year we will add a stop to a local Minneapolis skate park. Registration form can be found on PE webpage.

Wanted: gently used gym shoes of all sizes.

ATHLETICS

Basketball Fan Appreciation Day: Thank you to all who watched the Dragon basketball teams. We had CNY performances at both games. It was fun to practice our school spirit cheers.

Indoor Soccer Tournament: Saturday, March 7th, for Grades 1-5 (1-2:00 PM for Grades 1-2; 3-5:00 PM for Grades 3-5). Does your child like to play soccer or would like to learn more about soccer? Come and enjoy fast-paced games of indoor soccer at the Yinghua gym. Soccer prizes for everyone. Registration form can be found on both the athletic and PE webpage.

Badminton & Track & Field: Go to the athletic webpage to learn more about spring track and badminton.

