

# YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 学 校



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## Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,  
This week at Yinghua we've focused on the value of storytelling. One resource that I utilized with our eighth graders in Discovery Class was StoryCorps, whose "mission is to provide people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share and preserve the stories of our lives".

Dave Isay is the founder of StoryCorps and an author/editor of numerous books that grew out of his public radio documentary work, including *Mom: A Celebration of Mothers from StoryCorps* (<http://story-corps.org/books/>). He stresses the importance of storytelling as a means to remind one another of our shared humanity, to strengthen and build the connections between people, to teach the value of listening, and to weave into the fabric of our culture the understanding that everyone's story matters". This theme is entirely relevant to our soon-to-be graduates as they embark on an important mission in creating Yinghua's story. Each of them will interview 1-2 past Yinghua graduates from the classes of 2012-2014 to learn the value of an Yinghua education and to gain insights about high school that may be

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## Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear parents,

The preparation for our final weeks is underway. There is much to be done to make it a successful dash to the finish line. One of the items the teachers and I are working on is to prepare summer homework.

The purpose of summer assignments is to continue skill practice and to develop necessary "habits of mind" beyond the school year. Summer assignments promote an early start to academic thinking and skill application while supporting common literary experiences that foster immediate instructional opportunities once students arrive on campus in September. For Language immersion, the summer assignments relate to language practice become even more important especially for those who will have little or no resources to connect with Chinese native speakers. Without such practice for a couple months, the loss could be huge. The discussions the teachers and I have include the following points:

- What is the purpose of the summer homework?
- Do we need to give students summer homework?
- What kind of summer homework can be assigned to reach our goals?
- What skills/knowledge would we like our students to achieve along with the summer assignment?

Many teachers already brought forward some good ideas for summer homework. We plan to continue using online tools for Chinese reading and learning; we will also focus on promoting reading and literacy. For math, we are in the process of reassessing the effectiveness of our last

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## Upcoming Events and Announcements

05	12	15	05	12-13	15
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YACA Meeting & Used Uniform Sale

Popsicle Run (see PE update for more info.)



## Brewer's Blog

Hello Parents!

The last couple of weeks have seen two big events happen in Student Life!

First, we had the 4th & 5th Grade Activity night last Friday, May 1st at the Shoreview Community Center's indoor water park. We had 103 students participate, 11 of whom were 6th-8th grade Student Life prefect chaperones. These students did an awesome job working alongside the 4th & 5th grade homeroom teachers to set up and supervise the evening. We dined on pizza and popcorn before heading to the water park for a couple hours of swimming fun. Thank you for allowing your children to participate! The evening was a huge success! I would like to give a special thank you to Deng Laoshi, Yang Laoshi, Wang Laoshi, Dong Laoshi, and Lin Laoshi and the Student Life chaperons for giving up their Friday evening to help. I've said it before, but I truly couldn't make these fun events happen without their support!

Second, we wrapped up the Pet Food Drive last Friday. If you weren't aware, the students did a pet food drive during the month of April. The goal was to collect pet food as our yearly Local Community Service Project. After the event concluded, a number of prefects helped box up the items so we could donate them to The Little Kitchen right here in NE Minneapolis. The Little Kitchen is a food shelf that accepts pet food for families in need. Many folks who struggle have pet companions that mean a great deal to them. When things are tight, it can be very challenging to feed them. I dropped off the pet food today and The Little Kitchen was very grateful. They said our 210 pounds of food will bless many families. Thank you all to those who donated. It may seem like a small thing, but the animals you have fed give a lot of love to a lot of people. Great job YA!

Next we will be starting our used school supply drive through the end of May. The plan is to collect any used school supplies (new supplies will also be welcome) to box up and send over to a small, struggling rural school in China that we have recently connected with. Look for more details to come next week, including what types of items we will be collecting. In the meantime, don't throw any of your old school supplies away as you begin to wrap up in preparation for the summer break. It would be awesome to keep as much stuff out of the landfills as possible, while using it to enhance the lives of students in need in China. Hold onto it for now and stay tuned!

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



## Sue's News (continued)

beneficial to the Class of 2015. We look forward to their stories.

Another poignant opportunity for discussion occurred in Discovery Classes with our fifth through seventh graders this week. The students and I watched "a short film about a short time in life; BEFORE is a 37 minute documentary short that looks at the penultimate tween year through the lens of one 5th grade class on the last day of elementary school. It is a funny, moving and sometimes heartbreaking story about the moment when adolescence begins to eclipse childhood." I encourage you to watch it with your middle school kids, as well, at <https://vimeo.com/120373004>. I hope it will be yet another opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation that will nourish and strengthen your relationships as it did ours at school. I am grateful to the Yinghua parent who discovered and recommended this video. Again, it takes a village!

Come and hear the story about the new Flagship Program at the University of Minnesota from Dr. Joe Allen on Monday, May 11, from 6:30-8:00PM. It will offer fabulous opportunities for our immersion students down the road. I'm sure that parents of our 8th graders will confirm that that journey is shorter than you think!

We look forward to seeing you at Academic Performances for Lower School on Wednesday, May 20, and for Middle School on Thursday, May 21. Also mark your calendars for the Honors Convocation and Graduation on Tuesday, June 9, from 1:30-3:30PM. We are delighted that we will have space to comfortably seat everyone this year!

Happy Mother's Day to all our moms!  
Sue Berg

## Sports Camp for Yinghua Students

By John Richardson

Pla-IT: Revolutionary Sports offers a fun and active camp day when Yinghua students have the day off. Experienced instructors lead sessions that foster learning skills and age-appropriate rules in a fun and interactive environment.

- Campers will play at least six different sports and activities
- Ages Kindergarten-8th; all experience levels. Players divided by age and ability
- Non-competitive approach focuses on building teamwork and leadership skills

Join us on Friday May 22, 2015 for a recently added camp day. To celebrate the end of school and start of the summer season, we will be offering a full day of camp for the price of a half-day and an early bird discounted price of \$25 when you register by May 17th.

Check out our summer camp schedule offered every Monday-Friday, June 8-August 28. Visit [www.Pla-IT.com/mplsacamp](http://www.Pla-IT.com/mplsacamp) for more details and to register.

## Curriculum Corner (continued)

summer's math challenge questions and organizing some fun math activities.

As we prepare to support our students' summer learning, I would also like to share the suggestions Jamie Woolf, columnist and author, has for parents to help children develop a positive attitude towards homework: (1) Change your perspective. Parents' positive view of homework will have a positive impact on students' attitude towards working on their homework; (2) Enlist your child in setting big picture goals. It will be more meaningful if you help your child see the bigger picture on how each small step of doing homework will help him/her achieve even bigger success. This will help students to understand and motivate them to do homework without struggles; (3) Adopt the right coaching strategies. Try to diagnose any problem you have with helping students with homework and provide the right kind of help; (4) Encourage neatness and organization. Set a place for your child to work on his/her own and hold him/her accountable for keeping everything in its place. This will support your child to develop organization and neatness – these skills will serve him/her well throughout life. (5) Teach accountability. Discuss with your child the reasons for his/her homework problems. Ask the right questions, such as "what can you do to influence the situation?" so your child will not use excuses to avoid responsibility. (6) Don't give up when bad habits return. When your child's bad habit returns, stay cool and refocus on smaller, more manageable parts so he/she can reestablish his/her good routine. (7) Connect success with effort. The message we want to pass on to our students is that the effort and perseverance will lead to success.

The complete article "Seven Tactics to Help Parents Ease Homework Struggles" can be found at <http://sandiego-family.com/resources-by-age/big-kid/406-seven-tactics-to-help-parents-ease-homework-struggles>

Please feel free to email me with your ideas and suggestions for summer homework.

Best,  
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.



## Physical Education News

By Sarah Totall

### Popsicle Run May 12th & 13th

We will be running for the Popsicle Run next week! Come cheer on the runners or run with the kids. Bring a noise maker to make this a festive event. We could also use a few volunteers to help with score keeping (check in with the PE teachers if you can help).

- All KG on May 12: K5 at 12:55; KG1 & 3 at 1:25; K2 & 4 @ 2:00 PM.
- Grade 1B & D: May 12 at 2:36 PM; Grade 1A & C: May 13 at 2:36 PM.
- Grade 2A & B: May 13 at 9:15 AM; Grade 2C & D: May 13 at 10:08 AM.
- Grade 3B & D: May 12 at 10:08 AM; Grade 3A & C: May 12 at 11:01 AM.
- Grade 4C: May 12 at 9:15 AM; Grade 4A & B: May 13 at 11:00 AM.
- Grade 5B: May 14 at 9:15 AM; Grade 5C: May 15 at 9:15 AM; 5A: May 15 at 10:08 AM.
- Grade 6A & B: May 13 at 1:00 PM.
- Grades 7-8: May 13 at 1:48 PM.

### Wheels Week: May 18-29

Grade 1-8 will spend 2 weeks of fun on wheels. Don't forget to get a helmet and wrist guards (for those who are using a rip stick, skates, or skateboard). Details on Wheels Week are listed by grade on the PE webpage. Volunteers needed to help with this event. Contact Sarah Totall: [sarah.totall@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:sarah.totall@yinghuaacademy.org)

## Summer Camp Alert

By Jan Kleinman

Minnesota Historical Society offers various summer day camps. Does your child like outdoor skills, like those practiced by early pioneers? Maybe he/she prefers dressing up and using proper manners? Or solving age-old mysteries? Set at historic sites such as Fort Snelling or the Alexander Ramsey House, these camps fill fast, so check them out soon: <http://tickets.mnhs.org/default.asp?cgcode=37>

## Cleft Palate Parent Forum

By Kenny Chan

Cleft Palate Parent Forum with special guests Isabeau Hill and Kerry Dixon. A former Yinghua Academy student has completed her final cleft-related surgery and will share her experience. Families of children with clefts are welcome to attend. Time: Monday, May 11, 3:30 PM. Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room



## Yinghua Mural Update

By Jenni Hoyt

Thanks to all parents, teachers, staff, and students for helping with the mural! Remember to sign up on the school website if you want to paint: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1P-J0mu9lbeW9SElZgtu42NVugGXusf\\_AM3PUQ0w9m8al/view-form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1P-J0mu9lbeW9SElZgtu42NVugGXusf_AM3PUQ0w9m8al/view-form)

We still need help to finish before the end of the year!





# Kung Fu Master Visits Yinghua

By Jennifer Olsen

Kung Fu master Huang Wei Zhong (黄伟忠) from Foshan, China (in Guangdong province) visited Yinghua on Thursday, May 7th and demonstrated the Tui Shou style of Tai Chi to our students in grades 4 through 8. Students enjoyed learning the basic footwork and stance of defense, and the fun game of pushing and maintaining their balance.

Master Huang is a Tai Chi champion and the Vice Secretary General of Foshan Martial Arts Association. Minneapolis was the first stop of his three-city US tour; he will also visit Washington D.C. and New York City to promote the Tui Shou style of Tai Chi to young students.

Xie Xie, Master Shifu!

