

YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 學 校

2015 Mural Project

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www.yinghuaacademy.org

March Music Madness and Around the World Photo Collage

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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,

After the diligence, focus, and hard work invested by students and teachers in successfully completing Term II, it was refreshing to begin Term III with several special events!

Today a highlight for kindergarten teachers, Dr. Lien, Mr. Brewer, and me was the "Around the World" passport event with our kindergartners. I was proud to represent the United States of America with my blinking Statue of Liberty crown and US flag tablecloth, which worked nicely as a gown. They hustled from country to country to get their passports stamped and to view paraphernalia contributed by Yinghua families; a hit at my table was the opportunity to strum a ukulele!

This week Thursday was a rare kind of fun! The walls and rafters of the new gymnasium were reverberating with excitement due to March Music Madness, especially at the kick-off and finale with 667 students and teachers present! What a marvelous display of talent, poise, creativity, and courage, for some of us! Hats off to Yinghua's music teachers, Lin Laoshi, Li Laoshi, and Ms. Riha for their significant efforts in planning and implementing this event for our school community! The task of orga-

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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Parents,

The first thing I do when I arrive at school in the morning is to walk around the building, greeting teachers and students. I love seeing everyone's smiles along with their cheerful "zao an" (good morning). This ritual helps get my day off to a good start.

As you know, students can be dropped off as early as 8:00 AM, even though they don't physically step into their classrooms until 8:30 AM. The decision to allow this flexibility was made to support our families and students. Research shows that for most students, morning is the best time for reading and learning. Therefore we have different stations set up for students to make good use of the time between 8:00 and 8:30 AM:

- Homework Lab (located in the Art Room #168) is staffed with both Chinese and English teachers to help students in all grade levels with homework questions.
- Computer Lab is open for students who wish to practice their typing skills (using the Type-to-

Learn software).

- Library is open to the Kindergarten students. Mrs. Berg and two EAs are usually there reading to them.
- Classroom #236 is open for 1st graders to listen to stories in either Chinese or English.
- The Cafeteria and Gym are open to students in Grades 2-6. Students can choose to read quietly or do morning exercise.
- Science Lab is designated for 7th and 8th graders to read and do homework quietly.

I remember when I was in elementary school, we were required to find a corner in the classroom and read quietly in the morning for 10 minutes. We also had to record one new

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Upcoming Events and Announcements

04

03

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Professional Development Day:
NO SCHOOL

04

02

15

Parent-Teacher Conference
Sign-ups Close



Dr. Lien, Mr. Brewer, and Mrs. Berg's very special dance routine for March Music Madness

Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

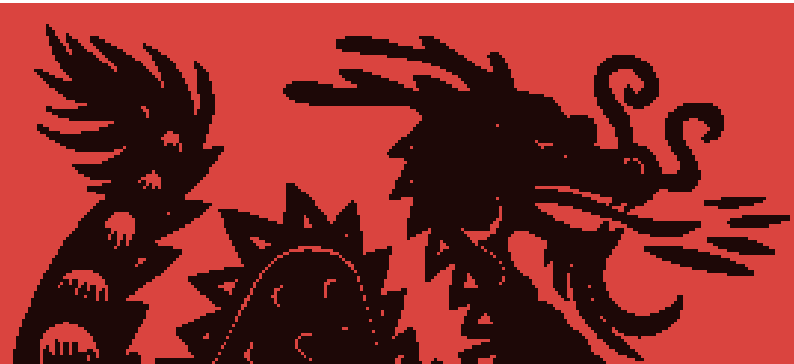
Hello Parents!

Please consider joining us on Thursday, April 9th from 6:30-8:00 PM for a presentation from our special guest, Dave Eisenmann. Mr. Eisenmann is the Director of Instructional Technology & Media Service in the Minnetonka School district. Minnetonka schools are well known for being on the cutting edge in their use of technology in education. Over the last 8 years Mr. Eisenmann has spoken in over 70 school districts across the state about cyber safety, the role and benefits of technology in education, and how parents can maximize the technology while keeping their children safe. He is incredibly knowledgeable and excels at addressing current issues and topics, as well as giving practical guidance to parents of children of all ages, including K-8th graders. His presentations are "very engaging, highly visual, and include live audience interaction through texting polls displayed instantly."

Please note that this evening will be very different from the presentation that Dr. Chu and I made about YA's technology use and general cyber safety at the YACA General Membership Meeting in January. In fact, be sure to check out the Raising Good Digital Citizens: Cybersafety Resources link which lists many topics and resources that Mr. Eisenmann will discuss: tinyurl.com/CyberResources. As you will see, his knowledge and experience is amazing, and we are thrilled to have him as our guest! In many ways, this will be one of the most important presentations parents will ever have the opportunity to attend; even kindergarten parents! So, be sure to mark your calendars! We're hoping to have a large turn-out.

On a different note, I have attached the MS Spring Dance flyer and registration form in case you missed it. The dance is for current and past students in grades 6-8 and the forms are due next Thursday, April 2nd.

With that, I will wish you all a wonderful weekend!
Jeremy Brewer



Sue's News (continued)

nizing over 300 participants...young and old; solos, duets, and ensembles; students, teachers, parents, and community members... was no ordinary feat. From 8:45AM-3:40PM we enjoyed nearly non-stop music. I was impressed by the comfort and confidence with which our kids approached their debut on Yinghua's stage. The number of original acts this year was impressive. What tickled me most was to watch the faces of the children's teachers in the audience who may have been seeing a side of their students that they had not seen before; their eyes sparkled as they either were touched with pride or filled with laughter. In reverse, the children giggled with glee to see teachers and administrators perform. Dr. Lien, Mr. Brewer, and I are proof that you don't need to display real musical talent in order to participate; we resurrected our "little people" dance routine, backed up by Registrar Jennifer Olsen, Special Education Coordinator Kenny Chan, and Business/HR Manager Jennifer Vanyo. It was a hoot for the students evidenced by the remarks of kindergartner Benjamin Owens, who told me, "Mrs. Berg, that was just crazy!"

It's sure to have put a bounce in the steps of the great many of you who stopped in to enjoy the show throughout the day. We all need this as we wait for spring to arrive outdoors!

Warm regards,
Sue Berg

Spring 2015 Parent-Teacher Conference Sign-ups

By Dave Madsen

Spring 2015 Parent-Teacher Conference sign-ups have been launched! Follow this link to access the sign-up forms: http://www.ptcfast.com/schools/Yinghua_Academy

Note that homeroom teachers in classes K-4 will have 20 minutes per conference and all other grades and specialist teachers will have 10 minutes per conference. Sign-ups will be closed on Thursday, April 2nd at 5:00 PM. After that date, you will need to contact teachers directly to make arrangements.

Middle School families are responsible for knowing who their students' specialist teachers are, as there isn't an option to designate this information on PTCFast.com. Please refer to your student(s) for this information.

As always, our goal is 100% participation!

Curriculum Corner (continued)

phrase or one good sentence for the day. By the end of the school year, the number of the new phrases and good sentences we accumulated was amazing. I learned that 10 minutes of reading daily can add up quickly and make a huge difference.

I encourage you to discuss the morning reading time with your student. A Chinese saying "一年之计在于春, 一日之计在于晨" tells us to plan out the year in the spring and plan out the day in the morning. As we teach our students to manage their time and plan their days well, we consider reading to be one of the great ways to kick off a day. I hope to see many students come in early to read.

Best,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.

A Note Regarding Yinghua Emails

By Chemin Chu

We recently found out that many Yinghua email messages have been delivered to parents' SPAM folders since Tuesday, March 24. Please check your SPAM folder and designate all Yinghua emails as "not spam" so they won't send to the SPAM folder in the future. Thank you!

Pla-IT: Rev Sports Camp Plus

By John Richardson

When Yinghua does not have school, Pla-IT: Revolutionary Sports has camp. Stay active at SportsPlus Camp and sign up for camp. We only have 3 camp days left for the 2014-2015 school year: April 3rd, 23rd and 24th.

April 3rd - You still have time to register! Drop-off at TCIS by 8:15 AM and take bus for field trip to Champions Hall and AirMaxx Trampoline Park. At AirMaxx kids will get the opportunity to play our brand new sport: trampoline games. Kids will be playing classic games like dodgeball, capture the flag, team handball, soccer, volleyball and more with modified rules and on the trampolines!

April 23rd - Yinghua ½ day of school: We offer a bus pick-up at Yinghua.

April 24th - Yinghua camp olympics: 6 or more games all day long

Register at Pla-IT.com



PE Update

By Sarah Total

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

The climbing wall is complete and we have introduced all students to climbing. The wall is a traverse wall where students climb horizontally, also known as bouldering. Tall and small students can use the wall; no rope and/or harness needed. We are looking forward to increasing our upper body strength and challenging our skills.

Fitness Testing for Grades 4-8: We are wrapping up our Fitnessgram testing in the next couple of weeks. All students will receive a computer generated handout on their fitness scores. The forms will be handed out the week of conferences. For more details on Fitnessgram tests you can go to the Yinghua PE webpage.

Kids Play Day is this Saturday, March 28, from 1:00-5:00pm.

ATHLETIC NEWS

Track and Field: Starts April 16. Mondays and Thursdays for Grade 4-8. Registration form is on the Yinghua Athletic webpage.

Sports Sampler after school athletics for Grades 1-3. Thursdays from 3:45-5:30 starting April 30-June 4. Registration form can be found on the Yinghua Athletic webpage.



CLA Update

By Bo Liu

In Term III, we are sharpening our Chinese proficiency to achieve new levels. 5th graders are learning the story of the famous Italian scientist, Galileo. 6th grade students are studying the relationship between language and wisdom. 7th grade students are learning how information is delivered and different types of media. 8th grade students are studying language expression skills. Later, they will practice their skills for debating and get ready for their Academic Performances.

We Are Yinghua 2015 Mural Project

By Jenni Hoyt

With the support of the administration, the mural team of Jenni Hoyt, Yu-Chia Chen and Ying Li, applied for and received a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. The grant is for a mural designed and painted by our community. We are asking for ideas, sketches and drawings, as well as help actually painting the walls. The mural will be painted on the two walls leading from Door #2 directly into the cafeteria.

The theme of the mural is, "What makes Yinghua unique?" Ideas include images of our students and families doing the activities that we love here in Minnesota and also images of Chinese landscape, culture, and activities.

What does your family do in the winter and summer, indoors and outdoors? What images come to mind when you think of the Chinese culture and Yinghua? We are hoping for playful, whimsical, and childlike drawing styles. Line drawings and stick people are welcome as well as drawings with a little more detail.

Painting will begin the week of March 30. Check this link <https://docs.google.com/a/yinghuaacademy.org/forms/d/1PJ0mu9IbeW9SEIZgtu42NVuGdGXusfAM3PUQ0w9m8al/viewform> for after school and weekend painting times. Families, including grandparents and younger siblings are invited to paint on Saturdays. Bring your paint clothes, and inner and (outer) artist! Place drawings and ideas in the dropbox in the office. Please label your drawings with name, grade, and email contact. All ideas are welcome, will be considered, and hopefully will make it on the wall. We are hoping for many participants; the more the better!

Contact Jenni Hoyt with questions or comments: JenniLHoyt@gmail.com; 651-636-4792



Social Studies News

By Jan Kleinman

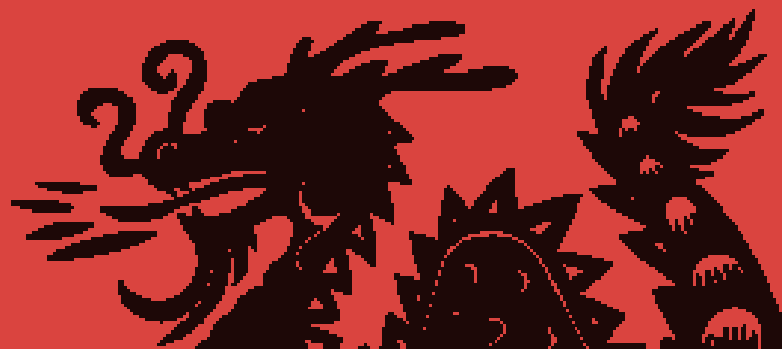
Grade 6 learned in Term 2 about Hmong immigration to Minnesota. Just this month, the Minnesota History Center opened an exhibit (<http://www.minnesotahistorycenter.org/exhibits/we-are-hmong-minnesota>) about that very topic! I enjoyed learning some of what we read in our textbook, seeing film footage, and viewing actual artifacts of Hmong culture and the journey to Minnesota. What a great family outing idea!

What's the Scoop Registration Reminder

By Dave Madsen

4th Grade Parents and Students,

If you haven't already registered for the What's the Scoop? event, please call the main office or email me (dave.madsen@yinghuaacademy.org) with your name(s) and your student's name by Monday at Noon to ensure you receive ice cream and pizza.



March Music Madness



Around the World





Y A S P R I N G F O R M A L !

Cost: \$10 per student

Middle School students! Join us in Yinghua Academy's gym and cafeteria commons for a night of fun filled with music, dancing, treats, pizza, beverages, and socializing with your friends, sponsored by Yinghua's Student Life Organization and chaperoned by your teachers! Be sure to dress up in your favorite dress clothes (i.e.—Dresses, slacks, dress shirts, ties, suits)

**F R I D A Y , A P R I L 1 0
6 : 0 0 P M - 9 : 3 0 P M**



Open to current and
past Yinghua
Academy students in
grades 6-8 only.

**CONTACT MR. BREWER WITH QUESTIONS @
#612-788-9095 OR
JEREMY.BREWER@YINGHUAACADEMY.ORG**