

YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 学 校

CNY DVD Ordering Info

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Health Screening Information

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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,
When it comes to K-12 education, more Americans are actively choosing schools for their children than ever before. You, as parents of Yinghua students, are evidence of this movement.

Luckily in Minnesota, families can choose from an array of school choice options: 1)public charter schools; 2)mandatory inter-district public school choice; 3)public magnet schools focused around a specific theme; 4)online learning; 5) private school choice; and 6)home school freedom. Meanwhile, millions of parents across the United States are still demanding greater access to challenging, motivating educational environments for their children.

National School Choice Week provides an unprecedented opportunity, every January, to shine a spotlight on the need for effective education options for all children. Independently planned by a di-

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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Families,
As you know, summer is usually the time when students forget their Chinese, simply because they do not have contact with the language.

To help students retain as much Chinese as possible over the long summer, we send CDs, movie lists, links to reading materials and video clips, and other assignments home so that they can continue practicing their language skills. We also plan one or two summer camps to help students get back into the "Chinese" mode before the new school year.

I understand many families have started planning their summer activities and would like to know what Yinghua will

offer this year. I am pleased to announce that we will be organizing two camps, one for students entering grades 7 through 9 and one students entering grades K through 6:

Middle School Summer Bridge Camp: Chinese Language Arts, Leadership, and Technology for Students Entering Grades 7 through 9

Dates: July 27 to August 14, 2015 (three-week full day camp)

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Upcoming Events and Announcements

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Martin Luther King Jr. Day:
NO SCHOOL

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20-23

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No Enrichment or Music Conservatory Classes

Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

This coming February will be Spirit Month! We will only have three Fridays to celebrate this year because the fourth Friday will be right before the big Chinese New Year performance. So, that Friday will already be full of costumes, rehearsals, and intense energy as the students and teachers prepare for Saturday's show.

Now that you know when the Spirit Days will be, I'm sure you are curious to know what the themes will be. Well, with Mrs. Berg's approval the Student Life leaders and I have settled on the following:

Friday, February 6 – Pajama/Crazy Hair Day! This is always a student favorite. On this day students may wear school appropriate slippers, pajamas, flannel pants, onesies, bathrobes, etc. and can wear their best "bed hair" hairdo.

Friday, February 13 – Valentine's Day Colors! On this day, students may wear red, white, pink, and purple with jeans to celebrate Saturday's Valentine's Day.

Friday, February 20 – YA Dragon Team Colors! On this day, students may wear red, white, and black, in any arrangement to support YA sports! Minor face paint and pom-poms are welcome as well!

I know there are always questions so we will send out more specific guidelines the Friday before each Spirit Day. Stay tuned for those details! It's gonna be fun and you won't want to miss it!

Enjoy the 3-day weekend everyone!

Jeremy Brewer
Dean of Students

Did You Know?

Last April, the State of Minnesota passed the Safe & Supportive Schools Act into law. This new law provides a clear definition of bullying which can now be applied consistently in every school in the state.

YA includes this new definition in our own bullying policy. The following is taken from pages 71-72 of the YA Student & Family Handbook:

The Safe & Supportive Schools Act defines bullying as intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive AND:

1) there is an actual or perceived imbalance of power between the student engaging in the prohibited conduct (bullying) and the target of the behavior and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; OR

2) materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges.

"Intimidating, threatening, abusive and harming conduct" may involve, but is not limited to:

- conduct that causes physical harm to a student or a student's property or causes a student to be in reasonable fear of harm to person or property;
- violates (under Minnesota common law) a student's reasonable expectation of privacy, defames a student or constitutes intentional infliction of emotional distress against a student;
- is directed at any student or students, based on a person's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, creed, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, marital status, familial status, socio-economic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation –including gender identity and expression, academic status related to student performance, disability, or status with regard to public assistance, age, or any additional characteristics defined in MN Human Rights Law.

For YA's full Bullying Policy, please see pages 70-74 in the handbook. The handbook is available on the school's website under the "Current Families" tab.



Sue's News (continued)

verse coalition of individuals, schools and organizations, this week is a nonpartisan and nonpolitical public awareness effort. Yinghua is one of more than 9,000 schools that will help shine the spotlight on opportunity in education.

Last Saturday we had a full house for our Kindergarten Informational Session, which included a sample Chinese immersion lesson for prospective students and their parents. I am sure that many of you remember this era of searching for the perfect school match for your children. We were fortunate to have 8-10 current parents join us; like them, you are an invaluable resource for interested families. Of course, most have done extensive research on Yinghua via our website and many have visited on a Thursday for a school day tour. They value specific feedback regarding all aspects of school from a broad range of viewpoints. This is where all willing and interested parents can help!

I invite you to share what you value about Yinghua. There are various avenues and vehicles for your feedback. Send us a note to use as a testimonial or visit any one of the school rating websites such as Great Schools. You all had the opportunity to choose from an array of educational settings; we hope that you are happy with your choice. If not and we can help, please talk to us directly so that we can work together for your child's sake.

Enjoy the long weekend due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on Monday!

Warm regards,
Sue Berg

Curriculum Corner (continued)

This camp is designed to offer students an intensive Chinese Language Arts experience, to help develop character and leadership skills, and to provide an orientation to online learning. Weeks 1: students will take an extensive language course on site in the morning, and receive leadership training in the afternoon. The language course, developed by Yinghua staff, will be delivered online in partnership with Minnesota Online High School (MNOHS) and give students an opportunity to earn future high school credit. Weeks 2 and 3: students will continue with the language course and complete their internship and service learning component by working alongside language coaches in the summer camp for students in grades K through 6. This course will prepare students with the skills to take future online courses in high school and the ability to use online tools for further study of Chinese.

Chinese Immersion Literacy and Theater Camp for Students Entering Grades K to 5

Dates: August 3 to August 14 (two-week morning camp - afternoon care program available)

This camp is designed to help students become familiar with the Chinese language by introducing famous Chinese folk stories to inspire students to write and put on a play in Chinese. Craft activities, music, and traditional Chinese games will be incorporated to reinforce listening, speaking, reading, and writing of the language. Campers will also interact and communicate with students in the Middle School camp using Chinese. Parents will be invited on the last day of the camp to watch their theatrical production.

Camp registration forms will be available in early March. I encourage you to consider one of these camp opportunities for your student to help them stay connected with Chinese. If I can help answer any questions, please feel free to contact me. Aren't we all looking forward to summer?!

Best,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.



Order Your 2015 Chinese New Year Performance DVD today!

By Annie Sparrows

Chinese New Year 2015 Performance DVDs are available for pre-order on the school's online store at <http://yinghua.corecommerce.com/>

You can choose between AM or PM performances for \$15 each, or order a combo pack for \$20. Deadline for orders is March 6th. Get yours today!

Upcoming Family Concert

By Jennifer Olsen

The Chamber Music Society of Minnesota is offering free admission for all K-12 students to their annual Family Concert on Sunday, January 25, 2015 at 4:00PM. The program will feature Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss and works by Kallman, Mozart, and Bach. Our own orchestra teacher, Hsuan-Wen Lin, will be performing in this concert as well!

The concert will be held at Dragseth Auditorium, 4725 South View Lane, Edina. For more information please visit www.chambermusicmn.org.

Rev. Sports for President's Day

By John Richardson

Come join Revolutionary Sports on President's Day for a field trip to Champions Hall and to AirMaxx Trampoline Park.

Full day campers only. Kids will have an exciting day of sports, jumping on trampolines, playing laser tag and more! Drop-off and pick-up at usual camp location, Twin Cities Indoor Sports (TCIS). From there the kids will have full all day of awesome organized activities before returning back to the TCIS. If you live in SW Metro, you may sign-up for drop-off and pick-up at Champions Hall. All activities, jumping, lunch and snacks included!

We are still taking registrations for MLK Day on January 19th. Join us for Capture the flag, Rugby and Football in the morning followed by Basketball, Badminton and Volleyball during the afternoon. Kids will also have a take home project home during the day.

Sign-up today at pla-it.com

2015-2016 Sibling Enrollment for Current Yinghua Families

By Jennifer Olsen

Please remember to submit an application for your incoming Kindergartener by January 30 in order to secure a sibling-preference spot. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Jennifer Olsen, school Registrar, at 612-788-9095 or by email at jennifer.olsen@yinghuaacademy.org.

Grades 4 - 8: National Geography Bee

By Jan Kleinman

With YACA support, grades 4 - 8 students can participate in the National Geography Bee. While completely optional (except for grade 8,) this is a fun chance for students to show what they know about geography!

Grade 4 will compete during recess on Thursday, January 22. Grades 5 - 7 will compete during SLO time on Thursday, January 29. Grade 8 will compete during Social Studies class that same day. There will be a final round for the highest scorers on Friday, January 30. Students who wish to practice and learn more geography can check this website for a daily quiz:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geo-bee/quiz/today/>

or these websites for information to read and learn:

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geo-bee/study-corner/>

Questions? Write to Jan Kleinman: jan.kleinman@yinghuaacademy.org



Physical Education Update

By Sarah Tall

We have enjoyed cross country skiing for 2 weeks. Now its time for another school to enjoy the ski trailer. We learned the basics of skiing, balance, co-ordination and of course how to fall and get back up again.

Climbing Wall Progress: The fundraising is finished. Thanks to all who donated to the wall. The wall was ordered on January 14. If all goes well we will have the wall installed in about 4 weeks. We're so excited. Erin Thune and I really appreciate all the support from the Yinghua community. You are great.

Yinghua Athletics

Travel Volleyball grades 5-8. The athletic department is now taking registrations for spring volleyball. The season will start at the end of February and run through early May. You can find more details on the registration form on the Yinghua Athletic web-page.

Track & Field (intra-mural) Grades 3-8: We will be offering intra-mural track and field this spring. We are fine-tuning the details and will post more information by the end of January.



Free Health Screening for K-5 Students

By Health Office Staff

Free health screenings for Yinghua students in K – 5th grade will be offered February 2 – 6 right here at our school. This service is free to families and funded by MVNA, Greater Twin Cities United Way, Minneapolis and Hennepin County.

Families of students in grades K-5 received a positive consent form in their backpacks on Tuesday January 13, 2015. If you want your child to take part in these screenings, sign and return the consent form by Tuesday January 20, 2015. If you do not wish to participate, you do not need to do anything.

The screenings included are hearing, vision, oral health, and growing healthy.

Hearing – Audiometer Test

Vision – Check vision with wall chart, muscle balance and color vision

Oral Health – Inspection for tooth decay

Growing Healthy & Active – Children are weighed and height or length measured. BMI or weight for length calculated.

Screenings are performed by MVNA health care workers and will be performed with respect and care for your child. Teachers will ensure that students who are receiving the health screening will not miss any classroom content during the testing.

If you have questions, please contact the Health Office.



MS Chinese Language Arts Update

By Ying Li

In Chinese class, the 5th graders are learning a story about “paper cutting.” By reading this story, they not only learn more about the Chinese culture, but they are also experiencing it by cutting paper. The main idea of this lesson is that when you are learning something, the experience can have a sweet side and a bitter side in it.

The 6th graders are learning the Spring Festival couplets. During Chinese New Year, most people in China hang up the Spring Festival couplets. They represent the hopes and wishes for the coming year.

The 7th graders are learning Mulan. Mulan is a very famous woman in China because she loved her father so much that she went to the army in place of her father. In this lesson, they are learning about how Mulan is kind to her family, loyal to her country, and brave.

The 8th graders are learning Peach-Blossom Source that describes a very beautiful place that many people are yearning for. This is the Chinese version of Utopia.

