



Sue's News

Dear parents,

What a gorgeous week it was! At last, the sun shone, the kids played outside in comfort, and today we insisted that students retire the winter gear! It's hard to believe that just last Friday, we were shoveling out from yet another 10 inches of new snow. In a year without a gymnasium, the weather has been a topic of conversation more than we would have liked, as you well know!

Things are looking up at Yinghua, however! No doubt you've kept a watchful eye on our new facilities and they are taking shape. Last week, equipped with hard hats and neon vests, a few of us had the great privilege of touring the building. WOW, WOW, WOW! I cannot contain my excitement. The sun streaming in those expansive windows, the views of the park, and expansive spaces dedicated to art, science, library, and physical education were indescribable. With a little luck, we'll be able to hold our Honors' Convocation and Graduation in our new cafeteria commons on Thursday, June 5. Let's cross our collective fingers!

Next week, Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday and Friday, April 17 and 18. This topic was the focus of our faculty meeting this week, and we had lively discussions. Each teacher's "homework" assignment was to bring an article to share, and we did. From the Harvard Family Research Project, I loved this guideline for effective two way communication: *"BE HEARD"-Principles for effective parent teacher conferences:*

Best intentions assumed
Emphasis on learning
Home school collaboration
Examples and evidence
Active listening
Respect for all
Dedication to follow-up

In preparation for conferences, try using the attached "Glow and Grow" worksheet as a springboard for a conversation with your child/ren. Needless to say, our kids are an important part of this team and they won't be present to represent themselves.

Enjoy the weekend!
Sue Berg

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Parents,

This morning, we had our Kindergarten Round-up to introduce our incoming Kindergarten students to their new school. We set up activity stations in each Kindergarten classroom and introduced them to their first four Chinese characters: I (我) love (爱) Ying (英) Hua (华). The children each took a picture with Mrs. Berg and me in front of the lion dance prop, and they also had an opportunity to feel what it's like to sit in a school bus. The parents were able to visit different tables and receive information for YACA, After-Care/Enrichment Program, Immersion Summer Camp, and the Health Office.

It was lovely to meet so many young and adorable children. Many of them were reserved and shy in the beginning, but it didn't take them long to warm up and want to participate in the activities. The majority of these children have no previous experience in Chinese, but amazingly I know next year by this time they will have become bilingual and be able to use their Chinese and English proudly. What a wonderful gift we can give to our children!

An incoming Kindergarten parent asked me today how we find Chinese resources for our students. I told her that in addition to purchasing from booksellers all over the country, every time I travel to China, while others browse the souvenir shops, I always visit bookstores and buy as many books and materials as possible to bring back. On last month's MS China Trip, I had all the students help me carry over 100 lbs of books back to Yinghua to support our Book Fair and the classroom libraries. The students were all willing to add a few more pounds to their luggage to make a contribution (in their own way) to support our school. At the Book Fair next week, you will be able to help support Chinese literacy by purchasing the books which the students and I brought back, either for the classroom libraries or for students' home collection. Our students will benefit greatly from reading these age- and developmentally-appropriate Chinese books.

Next week on Monday, our third and fourth grade students will participate in our first Chinese Dictionary Usage Competition in the cafeteria. The purpose of this activity is two-fold: to support students in extending their vocabulary learning and to build their confidence in self-directed learning. We will look for students' speed and accuracy while they look up vocabulary in the dictionary. Certificates will be issued to all participants and to the students who meet the standard level of speed and accuracy respective to their grade. The top three students from each classroom will also receive special recognition.

If you would like to meet with me but haven't signed up for a time, please feel free to send me an email at luyi.lien@yinghuaacademy.org. I look forward to meeting with parents next week. Have a nice weekend!

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director

Brewer's Blog

Happy Friday Parents!

We've got a big night ahead with the MS Dance so I'm going to keep it to a brief blog this week.

Mostly, I wanted to give a final update on the Philippines fund-raisers put on by Student Life. The book sale ended Tuesday evening and was a huge success. The response to my last communication about the \$1 blowout was amazing. At one point Tuesday morning, the hallway was 3 people deep with students and parents alike. I saw many students and even parents walking through the hallways with arms full of books! It was fun to see. I wish I could have gotten a picture of it, but unfortunately I didn't have a camera with me at the time. Speaking of pictures, I noticed that the pics were not attached to last week's newsletter so we have attached them this time.



So, at this point, I'm sure you're all wondering how much money we raised. Well, after combining the proceeds from both the fall bake sale and the recent book sale we raised a grand total of \$1186!!!! Holy cow!! The Student Life prefects and Isabel Metzdorff (the 3rd grader who came up with the idea) are so excited! As advertised, we will be donating the money to the Philippines Red Cross so we know it will be put to good use and go directly to the Philippines relief efforts.

I would like to thank all of you who donated baked goods and books so these two events could happen. We couldn't have done it without you. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Isabel, Ellie Nestingen (Head Prefect), Emily Glewwe (Head of Community Service), and Ashley Chu (Senior Prefect of Global Outreach) for all of their hard work in making these two events so successful. Way to go girls! You make us all proud! Please be sure to check out their picture above so you know who they are and can thank them yourselves when you see them in the hallway.

With that, I'll wish you all a wonderful weekend! For me, it's off to the Glow Dance Party! Whoo-hoo!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, & Community



School Lunch Reminders for Grade 1-8

May lunch order form is due on Friday, April 18 in the main office. *Check/cash must be submitted with each order for each student. Families using ACH must check the appropriate box on the order form. Order form without a name will not be accepted.*

Attention: we will not be accepting late orders.

Thank you for your cooperation. (Helen Hindrawati, Food Coordinator)

Current & Incoming Families: Come learn about Singapore Math!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 29th from 6-8pm. YACA will be hosting Allison Coates to present on Singapore Math. The YACA Board members for 2014-15 will be elected, and the budget will be reviewed as well.

This event is open to both current and incoming families. Childcare will be provided, but you must sign up in advance by emailing Lindsey Alexander at yaca-treasurer@yinghuaacademy.org. Please sign up for childcare no later than **Tuesday, April 22nd**. (If you don't need childcare there is no need to register in advance.)

Upcoming School Board Elections

If you are interested in running for the Yinghua Academy School Board, this coming Wednesday, April 16, is the deadline to submit the School Board Candidate Form to the main office by 6 PM. You can find School Board Candidate Forms at <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/2014-School-Board-Candidate-Form.pdf>. School Board Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 20, at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria.

Easter Egg Hunt at United Noodles

United Noodles is holding an Easter egg hunt for the community next Saturday, April 19th. The hunt will run from 10-11 AM. Participants will get free tea eggs and there will be a ton of great prizes, including candy and all-day passes to Nickelodeon Universe. Check out the Facebook event page [here](#) for more information.



Class Picture Day is Coming Up!

Mark your calendar for Class Picture Day on Tuesday, April 29. Pictures will be taken of each class in uniform. Class Picture order forms will be sent home next week.



UPCOMING DATES

April 17	1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL (12:30PM Dismissal) Spring Book Fair
1:00PM-8:00PM	Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 18	NO SCHOOL Spring Book Fair
8:00AM-2:00PM	Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 21	
6:00PM-8:00PM	School Board Meeting
April 29	Spring Class Pictures
6:00PM-8:00PM	YACA General Membership Meeting

Awesome New Activities in Aftercare!

On Mondays and Wednesdays, our own Aftercare staff member Margaret Kao will be holding informal classes in Chinese singing and tai chi. Through the end of the school year, those students in Aftercare who choose to participate can join Kao Laoshi for a short class filled with fun and learning. No sign-ups necessary -- this is a special offering for students who happen to be in Aftercare on those days.

The May Aftercare form is attached to today's newsletter. Those families planning to use Aftercare in May should return the form by April 18 to the school office or email to libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org.

Yinghua Overnight for grades 3-8!

On Friday, April 25th, Mrs. Berg, Mr. Brewer and Dr. Lien will host a school sleepover for students in grades 3-8. Includes dinner, fun and games indoors and out (weather permitting), a late-night snack, 10PM bedtime and 11PM lights out.

Everyone will sleep upstairs in carpeted classrooms. Drop-off is in the cafeteria at 6PM, or participants may attend aftercare at no additional cost. Pick up between 8AM and 9AM sharp on Saturday, April 26th.

What to bring: Sleeping bag, pillow, comfy clothes, tennis shoes, jacket, flashlight, pajamas, toothbrush and toothpaste. Limited to 50 students.

Cost: \$50 per student. Send a check payable to YACA with memo: Overnight.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

We hope the snow is finished for the season. We will soon begin our training for the trail run (aka "Popsicle Run"). Here is a sample of some of our special spring activities.

Trash, Treasure or Recycle. In honor of Earth Day, April 22, we will be cleaning up the park the days before. What will we find, trash or treasure?

Popsicle Run. Week of May 12th for grades 1-8. Come join us. You can be a participant or a fan. Grade 1 = 1/2 mile. Grade 2 = 2/3 mile. Grade 3-8 = 1 mile. Exact day and time TBD.

Wheels Week. Week of May 19th for grades 1-6. Grades 1-2 will learn scooter and pedestrian safety. Grades 3-6 will be encouraged to bring a bike, scooter or in-line skates.

SUMMER CAMP: Adventure Trekker Camp (Grades 4-6)

Session One June 16-20 needs more campers. Session Two June 23-27 is full. Class size limited to 12, so we can safely "trek" around town by bike. This camp is action packed but with time to enjoy (no rushing from one activity to the next). Biking to North Mississippi Park and the Mississippi river, fishing, geo-caching, swimming, camp fire skills and more. Registration forms are in attachment. For questions, contact Sarah Total.

Active Adventure Camp for Grades 1-3 is FULL.



Orchestra Update



Rehearsal: Whole orchestra rehearsal will resume on the week of April 28 in the cafeteria. Concerto Orchestra rehearses on Wednesday, 8:30am-9:15am. Concertino Orchestra rehearses on Thursday, 8:30-9:15am. Regular sectional schedule is still applied.

Performance: Since we have not had access to the new facility for full orchestra rehearsal this year, we have cancelled the Spring Orchestra Concert on the calendar for May 22. However, both orchestras will perform at the Honors Convocation on Thursday, June 5th.

Audition for 2014-2015: Audition dates are May 27, 28, and 29 during the morning meeting time and noon time.

Future orchestra students and current orchestra students ALL need to audition for next school year. Each audition lasts for up to 5 minutes. Lin Laoshi will introduce all scales in 4th-grade string class. However, as with anything in life "practice makes perfect"; please encourage your students to invest additional time outside of class if they are interested.

It's Book Fair Time!

The Spring Book Fair will be held in the cafeteria on the Main Campus during conferences; a mini-fair also will be available at the Kinder Campus. Hours of operation are:

1PM - 8PM on Thursday 4/17 and
8AM - 2PM on Friday 4/18.

If you miss the book fair or would like to browse a larger selection of the books that Schoalstic has to offer, you can shop and order [online](#). Any books you order through the online fair are shipped to the school **free of charge** and sent home with your student. The online fair runs through Monday, 4/28.

Thanks for shopping! Remember, we receive a percentage of sales in free books, so your purchase means more books for Yinghua's growing library.

Volunteers needed for the Book Fair!

Parent helpers are needed to set up the fair, staff the student/teacher previews, and work at the cash registers with our middle school volunteers. Sign up here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4EAAAF23A75-spring>



FREE ART!

I checked my calendar, and this Sunday, April 13th, just happens to be the second Sunday of the month.... MIA Family Day!!!! This month's theme is April Showers. There will be lots of art making plus other activities throughout the museum. Over the past two weeks, our 4th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders have had trips to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts as part of our involvement with Art Adventure. The 2nd grade has their trip in May; while the 1st, 3rd and 5th graders will not go this year, they learned about the eight pieces in our "Let's Celebrate Life" collection. I will be there Sunday; I'd love to have some visitors! If your student would like to guide you through the museum to see the art they've learned about, a map is included in the attachments.

-Ms. Byram

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Fort Snelling Field Trip

Grade 6 visited Fort Snelling today. They were fully engaged learners. These photos show them learning how to cure the sick and do the laundry -- 1820s style. Maybe you can ask them to perform these chores at home?



Social Studies

Grade 8 students are doing an independent project this week. It involves either art, music, dance or another fine art in the new-nation state they chose. Ask them what they are learning!

Math

Parent-Teacher Conferences are next Thursday and Friday! We would like to thank you in advance for making time to meet with us. Your child's success in math is our priority. So, we want to invite you to email/contact us with any concerns or questions you have prior to the meeting and help us create a more meaningful and successful conference!

If you would like to have additional sessions, please schedule with your math teacher directly.