



Sue's News

Mrs. Berg will be attending her son's wedding tomorrow. We'll hear more from her next week.



Brewer's Blog

Greetings Parents!

One of the biggest things going on in the school right now are our Chinese New Year preparations. Currently, the staff and many parent volunteers are working hard to put the final plans together for the celebration. If you have visited the school during the day, chances are you have seen students doing kung fu, dancing with streamers, singing songs, working on their dance moves, chanting, yelling, banging on drums, or any number of other fun activities as they practice the shows that they will be performing at the big event on January 31st.

With all of the focus on the Chinese New Year, NWEA Exams, and course work, there isn't a whole lot else to report on right now, other than a quick attendance reminder.

Please remember to always contact the school whenever your child (ren) are going to be absent for any reason. You may do this in three ways:

- A) **Phone #612-788-9095**
- B) **Yinghua Website**
 - a. Go to – <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/>
 - b. Click on "Current Families" tab, then "Report Absence", then fill out the form and submit.
- C) **Written Note to the Main Office.**

In addition, it is okay to email your child's teacher directly, especially if you are wondering about missed homework. However, notifying your child's teacher does not take the place of notifying the Main Office through one of the three methods listed above. It is vitally important that the office be notified directly for safety reasons and so the school has accurate attendance records. Your child's teachers will notice your child is absent and will record it on the daily attendance sheets, but they do not enter the attendance records themselves. In addition, they are very busy during the day and are not consistently able to forward your emails or phone calls to the office. Moreover, if you only notify your child's teacher, you will usually get an automated phone call or email from the school saying your child is unexcused because the office was not notified as well.

I hope that helps clarify the attendance reporting policy and explains why some of you are still getting the auto call/email even after telling your child's teacher. If you still have attendance questions, please feel free to contact Mary Howard in the Main Office at mary.howard@yinghuaacademy.org, or me at jeremy.brewer@yinghuaacademy.org.

Thanks and enjoy the long weekend!
Jeremy Brewer
Director of Students, Families, and Community

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Yinghua Families:

We are off to a great start of 2014. On the academic front, we continue to diligently educate our students and prepare them to become global citizens and face future challenges.

This month, students are taking the NWEA reading and math assessments. The NWEA results will provide a picture as to how students will perform on the Minnesota Comprehension Assessments (MCAs). MCAs, mandated by the Minnesota Department of Education, are administered every spring to students in grades 3 through 8 to measure their performance on the Minnesota Academic Standards in math and reading. Students in grades 5 and 8 will also be assessed in science. These standards define what students should know and do in a particular grade. The testing dates for the NWEA and the MCAs will be announced in the classroom newsletters later in January.

To help students prepare for the MCAs, we have the following plan for this year:

- Add one more English-speaking teacher to the existing morning homework support. This teacher will be available Mondays and Thursdays (from now until the MCAs are done) in the computer lab to answer the questions students may have while reviewing the MCA packets in math, English, or science. (The morning homework support runs from 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM daily in the computer lab and is staffed with both Chinese- and English-speaking teachers. Students may bring their work or questions to the computer lab and ask the teachers for help. Please encourage your child to take advantage of this valuable resource.)
- Add a power study session after school from 3:24 PM to 4:10 PM to provide extra support to students whose test-taking skills in English or math need sharpening. Teachers will soon contact parents to obtain permission for these students to stay extra time after school for this support.

If you have any questions regarding the morning homework support or the after school power study session, please feel free to email me at luyi.lien@yinghuaacademy.org and I will be more than happy to get back to you.

Sincerely,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director

Physical Education Update

Cross Country Skiing: The 1-8 grade students have enjoyed two weeks of skiing and sledding thanks to the use of the Minnesota Youth Ski League trailer. In just one or two lessons, the students quickly adapted to the skis. We skied without poles to work on our balance and coordination.

Cold Weather and PE: We will continue to hold Physical Education outside for the rest of the winter. We **need** the students to have "five" pieces of winter clothing for class. Five: hat, jacket, snow pants, boots, mittens. These five should be "real winter" clothing not fashion clothing such as Ugg boots, thin stretch gloves, hats that don't cover ears. Thank you.

Erin Thune and Sarah Total



UPCOMING DATES

January 20	NO SCHOOL <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>
January 23 9:30AM-10:30AM	School Tour
January 30 9:30AM-10:30AM	Chinese New Year begins (Year of the Horse) School Tour
January 31 5:00PM 6:00PM	Open Enrollment Ends Chinese New Year Performance
February 3	NO SCHOOL <i>Chinese New Year Holiday</i>

Expansion Update

Be sure to check out the Yinghua Academy Expansion Project Update attached to the newsletter.

Yinghua Extended Care News

February Aftercare Sign-Up: The February form is attached, and you can also find it on the Yinghua website under Current Families/Extended Care. This form is due JANUARY 24. Thanks to all who completed forms this month; this is REALLY helping us track our students better.

Computer Lab: We do offer computer lab time most days. Ashley, one of our Aftercare staff, has experience teaching computer skills, and she has introduced some educational and creative sites to our students. Time on the computers is limited. Students in grades 1 and up are offered computer lab time later in the day.

Homework First: We are thrilled with the response from students and parents about the launch of Homework First. Yinghua teachers staff the homework room, encouraging and helping students get homework DONE. This is available to students, 4:00-5:00, who are in Aftercare, Enrichment and Conservatory of Music. If you would like your student to be sent to Homework First, just contact libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org.

School Lunch Reminders for Grade 1-8:

February lunch order form is due on Wednesday, January 22 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 forms without a name will not be accepted.* Please find more lunch information and extra order forms at <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/current-families/school-lunch-menu/>

Attention: we will not be accepting late orders.

Spelling Bee

The Spelling Bee will be held next Tuesday, January 21. This year, the third grade class winners are invited to participate in the bee for practice for next year.

Chinese New Year Tickets

If you haven't already, please reserve your seats for the Chinese New Year performance at: <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/yaca-overview/yaca-activities/chinese-new-year/>

Revolutionary Sports Camps

Revolutionary Sports is offering full day and half day camps on Yinghua Academy's upcoming days off. Camp dates include January 20th, February 3rd & February 17th. These camps are located at Van Cleve Rec Center, only 6 minutes away from Yinghua Academy. For more information or to register visit www.RevolutionarySports.org.

ATTENTION: 2014-15 Kinder Parents

If you have a younger sibling who will be starting Kindergarten for the year of 2014-2015, be sure to have your application in **no later than 5pm on January 31**. **All prospective students must turn in an application for next year, even if you have a student currently attending.** All applications can be found at: <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/prospective-families/enrollment-process/>

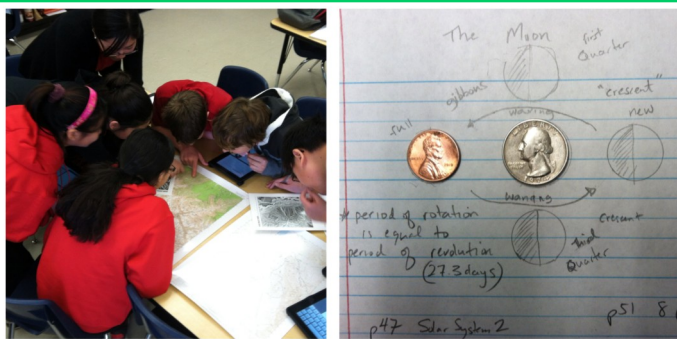
MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Science

5th grade has been studying the Solar System with a focus on the Earth, Moon, and Sun relationship. Check out the pictured diagram and ask your student to explain it! Students will also learn about the planets in comparison to each other and the tools that astronomers and space explorers use to study the cosmos.

6th grade is using simple machines to explore work and energy transfer. Students created a lever balance to show how force and distance can be manipulated to create mechanical advantage. Inclined planes and pulleys will also be studied. Students will soon be moving on to study harmonic motion and waves in sound and light.

7th and 8th grade used topographical maps to explore landforms and Earth's surface. Students improved their map skills and read about how today's maps are created. They used coordinates of latitude and longitude to find locations on Earth. Next, we will study how Earth has changed over time in the theory of Plate Tectonics.



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Continued...

Chinese New Year preparations AND academic work

Practice for the big celebration are in full swing! Every middle school student has spent time practicing this week. Nevertheless, academic work goes on at the same time. All students still have homework and class work to complete. Families can help keep their children focused by talking about what students are learning at school.



Social Studies

Grade 6 is concluding its study of the U.S. Dakota War with a project called Avoiding War. Ask your 6th grader how s/he thinks the war could have been avoided!

Grade 7 is engrossed in a library research project. Students are using online library databases to take notes about one of three unusual people involved in World War II -- a Tuskegee Airman, the Women's Army Corps founder, and an internee from one of the Japanese-American internment camps. Ask you student about what s/he is learning!

CORRECTED: Chinese Language Arts Speech Contest Results

The first Yinghua middle school speech contest has had a big success. The judges, Dr. Lien and Middle School Chinese teachers, were pretty impressed by participants' clear thinking and speaking, outstanding performance , and of course their high proficiency in Chinese. Thanks to all of the Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 7 and Grade 8 students' excellent job and teachers' hard work! We look forward to the next speech contest.

Congratulations to the winners!

The 5th grade speech contest

五年级演讲比赛

First place	白小李	Selia Buchl	惜静	Clare Wilcox	杨白龙	Paimloom Yang
Second place	艾晓雅	Sonja Erickson	林凯莉	Catherine McBride	贝华	Meili Burt
Third place	柏安雅	Victoria Pikel	民如俏	Grace Olsen	包丽安	Liliana Boyd

The 6th grade speech contest

六年级演讲比赛

1st	冰冰	Jade Bing Zalaznik
2nd	宋美珊	Madison Kuba
2nd	章美琳	Jenna Chuong
3rd	雷丽丽	Josephine Lacy

The 7th grade speech contest

七年级演讲比赛

1st	朱禹瑾	Ashley Chu
2nd	陈爱恩	Claire Burns
3rd	汪爱朗	Alexandria Vang

The 8th grade speech contest

八年级演讲比赛

1st	朱禹臻	Fisher Chu
2nd	林婉芳	Zoe Lindberg
3rd	蕲福景	Elizabeth Bender
3rd	欧亦蕾	Lucy Okerstrom