



Sue's News

Dear parents,

As communicated in a note mid-week, you are invited to join me, Dr. Lien, Mr. Brewer, and other interested parents for a discussion about adoption with Signe Nestingen, licensed psychologist, as well as marriage and family therapist. Dr. Nestingen is a professor and director of doctoral internships at St. Mary's University and mom of Yinghua 8th grader, Ellie, who is adopted from China and one of Yinghua's first 1st graders.

The upcoming visit of author Jenny Bowen to Yinghua on March 26 has already been the springboard for wonderful conversations amongst parents. Signe brings a great appreciation for the depth and complexity of life; she is able and willing to help facilitate our conversation further. We are grateful!

You are welcome to join us [on Monday, March 3, from 2:30-3:30PM](#) in the cafeteria. Although the notice is short and this time may not be ideal, we are grateful to Signe for squeezing us in amongst her private practice and university duties. Considering our school community, I know this is a topic of interest to all of us!

We were thrilled to have five full days of school this week; uninterrupted learning has been rare this winter! Luckily the Yinghua calendar has 173 planned school days, as compared to the 165 days required by the Minnesota Department of Education. So, at this point with 7.5 missed days, we do not plan to schedule any make-up days unless weather forces us to miss more days. If that were to happen, we would have school on Friday, May 9, which is currently planned as a Professional Development Day for staff. Cross your fingers; we are!

I've got my pocket book, my appetite, and my dancing shoes ready for the Lantern Festival Gala and Auction! I'll hope to see you there!

Warm regards,
Sue Berg
Executive Director

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Parents,

It's been a very busy week for me and for our Middle School students who will be taking the two-week trip to China over spring break. The plane tickets have been purchased and the itineraries have been finalized. We are at the final stage of the trip preparation and will set off on this educational journey on March 10. We will be visiting Beijing, Inner Mongolia, Xian, and of course, our sister school in Hohhot. I am extremely excited that our students will have an opportunity to experience and be immersed in the language and culture they have been learning for so many years.

It has always been our goal to create a true Chinese immersion environment at Yinghua so that every student, without traveling to a Chinese-speaking region, can have a close-to-authentic immersion experience. I have been very lucky to receive guidance from experts in the language immersion field. These experts (researchers, school principals, and consultants) all agree that creating an environment that is close to that of a real native language country is no easy task, and it takes real effort to maintain and protect this environment. To support this goal, they recommend, everything students see, hear, and say should be in the native language; which means that even in the hallways, the bathrooms, and the cafeteria, posters and signs should be in the native language.

At Yinghua we are doing our best to create this environment: Chinese teachers speak only Chinese to the students and provide them with as much vocabulary as possible; hallway prefects use only Chinese to direct students, and signs and posters in Chinese are on the walls. We ask parents to support us by not walking into a Chinese classroom and use English to communicate with the teacher. We appreciate parents' understanding that we are following our mission and doing this for the benefit of our students, and it does take a village to achieve this goal.

During our trip to China, I will witness how our students react in real Chinese environment. My goal for this educational trip is not only to examine our students' language proficiency, but also to gauge their cultural competency. I will share our immersion experience with you when we return from China.

See you at the Gala!

Sincerely,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D
Academic Director

Brewer's Blog

Hello Parents!

Finals are literally right around the corner. They start on Monday! Right after that it's Spring Break! Whoo-hoo!

Speaking of Spring Break, I know that many families will be taking vacations to recuperate before the start of Term III. In fact, there have been many students who have been telling their teachers over the last few days that they will be missing a portion of Finals Week (March 3-7). While we appreciate our students being so responsible in telling their teachers that they will be gone, we've found that in most cases parents have not yet notified The School about the coming absence.

As a reminder, school policy is that parents must notify The School two weeks in advance of planned absences. Unfortunately, we are past that deadline. So, please contact The School immediately if you know that your child(ren) will be missing any school next week. This is not only for attendance record keeping purposes, but also as a courtesy to our teachers. As I'm sure you can imagine, there is a lot going on right now as the term wraps up. Teachers need to know well in advance if their students are going to miss exams so they can coordinate make-ups. Additionally, all make-up exams must be taken before Spring Break. This is to protect the integrity of the exams and also to help your children be successful because their preparation is "fresh".

You may report absences to The School through one of the three methods listed below.

- **Phone** – #612-788-9095
- **Yinghua Website**
 - o Go to - <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/>
 - o Click on "Current Families" tab, then "Report Absence", then fill out form and submit.
- **Written Note**

***In order to accommodate last minute notice before the break, we will also accept emails. If you wish to report an absence for next week via email, send to mary.howard@yinghuaacademy.org and copy your child's teachers and Dr. Lien (luyi.lien@yinghuaacademy.org) so they can start preparations right away. And, don't forget to ask about any make-up work your child may need to do once they return to school.**

Also, to further clarify YA Attendance Policies, parents are reminded that family vacations may be "approved" by The School, but will be recorded as "unexcused" in the student's attendance records. This means that you will still get an email/phone call notification from the school's automated system while you are on vacation, even though you notified us. If this happens, please do not be alarmed. Unfortunately, our system cannot distinguish between unexcused absences that have been approved, and those where parents have not notified The School. Please disregard these messages if you know that you have already reported the absence.

If you would like further clarification of YA's Attendance Policies, please see pages 30-36 in the *YA 2013-2014 Student & Family Handbook*. You can find the handbook on the school website under the "Current Families" tab.

Thank you parents for helping us make finals go as smoothly as possible! And, please enjoy your break!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, and Community



Sometimes it's good to to get your hands dirty!

It's the moment/8 days we've been waiting for, the grand opening of the Yinghua Art Room! Although it may technically open before school is out I'm looking forward to some drawing and clay classes this summer to really get us going. So as not to get too far ahead of ourselves (we want to make absolutely sure that the kiln will be installed and ready to use) there will be further news AND registration forms coming in next week's news letter. Both options will allow for dirty hands as the drawing class will use graphite and charcoal. We are currently shooting for a week and a half from July 7th-July 16th, goofy week and a half schedule is due to the clay firing and glazing process. Stay tuned!



SCHOLASTIC

Scholastic Book Orders English Language Arts Department

Books help promote the love of reading, and your purchase helps provide classroom books for Yinghua students. Hard copies of Scholastic book orders were sent home today with students in grades 1-3, and all grades are open to order online from a wide variety of books for every level.

To order online, register at scholastic.com/readingclub. Enter the class code, H7DQZ. Choose from thousands of books, value packs, and eBooks. Orders are due FRIDAY, MARCH 7.

Email Mrs. Gill (kimberly.gill@yinghuaacademy.org) if you have questions.

UPCOMING DATES

March 1

7:00PM-11:00PM

Lantern Festival Gala at the Grain Belt Bottling House

March 3-7

End of Term Exams

March 3

6:30PM-8:30PM

YACA Board Meeting

March 7

8:30AM-10:00AM

Term II Ends

First Friday Coffee at SIP Coffeebar

March 10-14

Spring Break

NO SCHOOL

March 17

6:00PM-8:00PM

Term II Begins

School Board Meeting

March 20

9:30AM-10:30AM

School Tour



Lantern Festival Gala

Tomorrow night is the night you've all been waiting for—the Lantern Festival Gala. It'll be a night packed with fun—great music, great food, great deals (in the auction), great company and dancing! It's not too late to order tickets at www.yinghuaacademy.org/gala.

Primavera

detail

Sandro Botticelli

1492

Painted by Yinghua 8th Grade Class 2014

This twice masterpiece could be yours! Painted by our 8th graders, it will be auctioned at the Red Lantern Gala TOMORROW! It is 4 feet tall by 3 feet wide, scope out your wall space.

This painting was completed by our Yinghua Academy 8th grade class of 2014 through a collaborative painting process. This detail from Botticelli's masterpiece *Primavera* was chosen for the collaborative project after an extensive unit of study on the Italian Renaissance. Each of our 12 8th graders received a 2" x 2" color copy portion of the original from which to enlarge to their 12"x 12" paper to scale. After drawing their piece in proportion they began to use their knowledge of color theory to match the original colors of Botticelli's work. The 8th grade class was extremely proud of their completed painting.



Rui Rui: TC Goodwill Ambassador

Rui Rui Bleifuss has been chosen to be the 2014 Twin Cities Goodwill Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Rui Rui, who is in class 4B, has a neuromuscular condition called Charcot-Marie Tooth. As MDA Ambassador she will appear at various events throughout the Metro area to raise awareness and funds for this outstanding organization. To see a clip of Rui Rui being honored at a recent Timberwolves game, go to <http://youtu.be/7uiB4f8VdtI>

Rui Rui and her family will be participating in the upcoming MDA Walkathon at the Mall of America on March 8. To learn more about this walk, and how you can participate, go to the Team Rui Rui page <http://www2.mda.org/goto/goruirui>

March Music Madness

On Thursday, March 27th, there will be live music performances all day long in the cafeteria from 8:45am until students are dismissed. It is a music marathon day! Families are welcome to attend any part of the day to celebrate music.

All participants will receive a free March Music Madness T-shirt! If you are interested in signing up to perform, please submit the form to Lin Laoshi (hsuanwen.lin@yinghuaacademy.org) or Jhou Laoshi ((huei-mei.jhou@yinghuaacademy.org) by Friday, March 7.

Thank you and hope to see you there!

After School Notes

Enrichment

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday winter term classes/lessons meet next week (March 3, 4, 6, and 7) to make up classes missed for weather-related days off.

Conservatory of Music

Most winter term lessons meet Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday to make up missed lessons. If you're not certain if your teacher is making up lessons next week, please email yinghua.music.conservatory@gmail.com to request a conformation.

Aftercare

Thanks to all who have turned in March Aftercare forms. If you have not turned in a form, you can still send your students to Aftercare on any given day. Please contact the Yinghua office to request an Aftercare day. Also, note that on the March Aftercare form, March 28 was NOT listed as a day off school

Lost & Found Policy

Moving forward, the Lost & Found will be cleared out the last Friday of every month. Please stop by and search for some of your missing items before then.



ATTENTION 2014-2015 Kindergarten Families

Don't forget that your enrollment paperwork is due by next Friday (March 7). We must receive the forms to enroll and secure your child's Kindergarten spot for next year.

Also, the 2013-2014 bus routes have been posted on the Yinghua Academy website for your reference as you start to plan transportation for next year.



News from the PE Office

PE UPDATE

For the last two weeks most classes (weather permitting) had a chance to participate in some Yinghua Olympics. We did bobsled, biathlon and hockey. We will wrap up Term 2 with some winter fun. If it is going to be cold with lots of snow than we might as well do a favorite Minnesota winter pastime activity: sledding, Yeah!!!

SPRING SPORTS

SPRING is just around the corner. It may be hard to imagine but it will come. Athletics is offering two spring sport classes starting in April. Tuesdays is Sport Fitness for grades 4-8 and Thursdays is Sport Sampler for grades 1-3. Class cost is \$85 (no after care fee unless you need it). See attachments or Yinghua Athletic webpage for details and registration forms.

SUMMER CAMP

Have some fun at Yinghua with small class sizes but lots of adventure. Adventure Trekker (Grades 4-6) and Active Adventure (Grades 1-3) Camp June 16-20 & 23-27. See attachments or Yinghua Athletic webpage for details and registration forms.

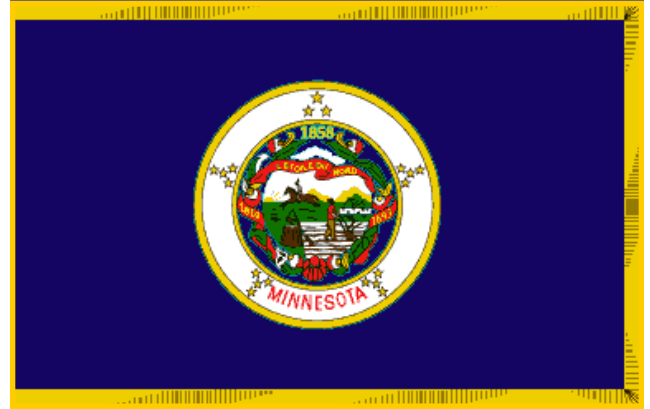


MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Grade 6 Social Studies Update

Grade 6 students are conducting their interviews with an immigrant. Entire project is due before spring break. Many Yinghua teachers, parents and friends have volunteered to be interview subjects. Thanks to all!

Grade 6 students will have their Social Studies final test on Wednesday, March 5. Since they do not meet for Social Studies on Mondays or Tuesdays, families can help their students by offering to help quiz them during the days before their test.



Grade 7 and grade 8 Social Studies

Term 2 was divided between Social Studies in English and Social Studies in Chinese. Students will be tested on material they learned during both halves of the term.