



Sue's News

Dear parents,

Today was a very productive work day as teachers prepared report cards and notes for upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences. After just 24 hours of our new electronic sign-up, an amazing 720 conferences had already been scheduled; registration will be available until April 9 but don't delay. We look forward to seeing all of you as we aim for 100% participation!

Of course, we've saved time for fun, as well! Just last week a highlight for kindergarten teachers, Dr. Lien, Mr. Brewer, and me was the "Around the World" passport event with our kindergartners. Ask them about my costume! 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 viewing paraphernalia contributed by Yinghua families; a hit at my table was the opportunity to strum a ukulele!

Yesterday was a rare kind of fun! The walls of the cafeteria were reverberating with excitement for **March Music Madness!** What a marvelous display of talent, poise, creativity, and courage, for some of us! Hats off to Yinghua's extraordinary music teachers, Jhou Laoshi and Lin Laoshi, for their significant efforts in planning and implementing this event for our school community! The task of organizing 382 participants...young and old; solos, duets, and ensembles; students, teachers, parents, and community members... was no ordinary feat. From 9:00AM-3:30PM 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 to "What Does the Fox Say" down the hallways led by Yinghua's fox, Mr. Brewer. When the festivities ended (as she has every year), Dr. Lien confided in me, "Mrs. Berg, I don't think that the teachers and students have ever seen me be this silly!" I continue to assure her that it is entirely possible to be highly respected, to hold the academic bar very high, and to be fun-loving!

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
Executive Director

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Families,

Our Middle School China Trip group returned from the two-week tour on March 24 safe and sound. 17 MS students, MS math lead teacher, Mrs. Stommes (Yang Laoshi), Dr. Rachel Walker and I went on this trip which was in part sponsored by the Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, commonly known as Hanban.

We visited three cities, Beijing, Hohhot and Xian, on this trip. To make this educational trip meaningful and fun, prior to the trip, we met as a group every Monday to prepare: we reviewed the highlights of each city, read stories about the important historical sites, and discussed cultural and social topics. We also practiced presentations to bring to our friends at the sister school.

We also created a blog and had the students take turns posting the travel highlights so that our families and friends back home could see China through their eyes. Visiting our sister school has been a main focus of this trip and this year, the students were able to spend more time in their classrooms to experience different subjects: Chinese Language Arts, Math, English, Science, PE and Art classes. Our students understood most of what the teachers said but because the sister school students were learning classical Chinese literature, the class seemed difficult to our students. They enjoyed the PE class and ran laps with the sister school students – they finished ahead of their friends! Our students also worked with their peers on creative writing during English class. Their beautiful writing and pronunciation, in both Chinese and English, were appreciated by the teachers and the students of our sister school.

Many of these 17 students challenged themselves to speak only Chinese during the entire trip: they asked local people questions, chatted with friends during meal times, and even bargained with merchants! At least two students expressed interest in becoming a chaperone for next year's trip. Five students shared with me that they loved what they experienced on this trip so much that they resolved to study even harder to better their Chinese.

The students came back from this trip energized and excited. I am grateful and hopeful that this wonderful experience will have a lasting and positive impact on their learning and their world view.

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director

Brewer's Blog

Happy Friday Parents!

I have a few quick announcements that you are not going to want to miss!

Middle School Spring Dance!

The MS spring dance is scheduled for Friday, April 11 from 6:00-9:30. The dance is open to all current and past Yinghua students in grades 6-8. Please see the attached flyer & registration form. We are doing a "glow" theme so be sure to put on your sun glasses before you open it! The cost is \$10 per student and covers everything. Sign-up forms are due in the Main Office by Friday, April 4. Be sure to remind your child(ren) to find their glow-in-the-dark clothes and knick-knacks so they can bring them to the dance. It's gonna be the best one yet!

Spring YA Spirit Days!

Yes, YA School Spirit days are back! This year, we will celebrate our school spirit on the three Fridays of April. The themes are as follows:

Friday, April 4 – Pajama Day!

This is one of the most popular of all time! With this theme, everyone should come to school in your favorite and most comfy pajamas. Make sure they are appropriate for school though. No tighty-whities!

Friday, April 11 – Jersey/Team Wear Day!

On this day, students should wear their favorite team jersey and/or team sports wear to support their team! Clothing can be from any professional, college, or high school team you love, or even their own personal sports team. Just make sure they are washed and don't smell! The only other condition is that the clothes need to clearly support a team.

Friday, April 25 – Beach Day!

With this never-ending winter, the SLO students wanted to celebrate spring. Hopefully it will be here by then! On this day, students may wear shorts, swim trunks, sandals and flip-flops, sunglasses, straw hats, sun shirts, Hawaiian shirts, etc. As with pajama day, clothing must still be appropriate. In addition, if students have gym class on Friday, they need to remember to bring tennis shoes to change into for safety.

Spirit days are always super popular so mark your calendars. We don't want anyone to forget. The more people who participate, the more fun it is for all!

Philippines Relief Used Book Sale!

The Student Life leaders are busy organizing all of the books that were donated over the last few weeks. It's quite a mound! Thank you all for donating all those books! As a last reminder, the sale is going to be next week, April 2-4. It will be in the hallway on second floor and open each day from 8:00-8:30AM, 12:00-12:45PM, and 3:45-5:00PM. The prices will vary so there will be something even piggy banks can afford! Feel free to visit the sale with your kids, or send them on their own! We'll coordinate with Libby in Aftercare to allow those students to check it out too. And, if you missed the memo a few weeks ago, we have settled on donating the money to the Philippine Red Cross.

Ok! I think that's it for this week. Please enjoy the rest of your weekend and we'll see you on Monday!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, & Community

**University of Minnesota Gophers versus UCLA
Basketball Game
Attended by Yinghua's 3-8th graders
in December 2013**



Lantern Festival Online Auction

Bid! Fight! Win! At the 2014 Lantern Festival 2nd chance online auction! Gift Certificates, Art, mid-mod antiques - there's something for everyone. PLUS, the middle school collaborative paintings are up for grabs, and they're gorgeous. Bidding starts Friday 4/4, but you can preview it now at <http://www.32auctions.com/secondchance2014>

Scholastic Book Orders

Mrs. Gill

Scholastic book orders have arrived and were delivered to your child's classroom this week. Please contact Kimberly Gill (kimberly.gill@yinghuaacademy.org) if there were any issues with your order.

Current & Incoming Families: Come learn about Singapore Math!

Back by popular demand! The Yinghua Academy Community Association (YACA) has invited Allison Coates, from the Middle School Mathematics Institute, to speak at the YACA General Membership meeting on Tuesday, April 29th from 6-8pm. The first 20-30 minutes of the meeting will be spent electing the new YACA Board and passing the 2014-15 budget; the remaining time (90 minutes) will be dedicated to Allison's presentation. Allison will present, "**What's So Great about Singapore Math?**"

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 DATES

April 3

9:30AM-10:30AM School Tour

April 4

Term II Report Cards Mailed

9:00AM-10:00AM

First Friday Coffee @Kinder Campus

April 7

6:30PM

YACA Board Meeting

April 10

9:30AM-10:30AM

School Tour

April 11

9:30AM-11:00AM

Kindergarten Round-Up

@Kinder Campus

6:00PM-9:30PM

SLO MS Spring Dance (gr. 6-8)

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

Parent/Teacher Conference Sign-Up

Parent/Teacher Conference Sign-Ups have begun. We are using a new scheduling system this time. Don't forget to sign up by April 9 at http://ptcfast.com/schools/Yinghua_Academy.

4B Field Trip to the State Capitol



PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

"Kids Play Day" was another big success. Thank you to all who participated. We were able to get an iPod (from the fall event) and we will be purchasing about 10 scooters, one bike and a few helmets for our "Wheels Week" unit in May. We will also be able to purchase a target for archery. Thanks, Yinghua parents.

Physical Education Wish List: gently used razor scooters and helmets.

Spring Sports: A few spots left.

Ms. Thune doesn't have any more openings in "Sports Sampler" for grade 1-3 on Thursdays starting April 3. However, Ms. Totall has 2-5 openings in "Sports Fitness" for grades 4-8 on Tuesdays starting April 8. Cost \$85 for 8 sessions. Each session is 3:55-5:30pm. No after care fee unless you need it. See athletic webpage or attachment for registration forms.

To the right, there are pictures from the PE Fundraiser Play Day. Below are a few pictures playing in the snow and from the medallion hunt.



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Middle School Science Fair

As part of the Middle School Academic Performance Day, **5th through 8th grade** will take part in a Science Fair. The **5th grade** topic is an open topic, while **6th grade** should focus on Physical Science topics and **8th grade** should focus on an Earth Science topic. Mr. Scheid will provide a project guide and topic suggestion list to the students next week. Students will need to conduct an experiment and report the results along with some topic research on a cardboard display board. Speak with your child about a possible topic and plan for their project.

Theater

Theater productions which middle schoolers might enjoy:

[The Diary of Anne Frank](#)

[Abe Lincoln and Uncle Tom in the White House](#)

Field Trips

Field trips coming up:

Tuesday, April 1

Grade 7 goes to Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Thursday, April 10

Grades 6 & 8 go to Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Friday, April 11

Grade 6 goes to Fort Snelling

CHINA TRIP PICTURES

