



### ***Sue's News***

Dear parents,

A huge thank you to you for engaging with us in those all too rare face-to-face opportunities to meet over the past couple of weeks! Attendance at Parent-Teacher Conferences was impressive, as usual, and I received mutually positive feedback from parents and teachers. Specifically, parents noted appreciation of the detailed conference guides, the self rating that students in grades 3-8 did regarding character development, and the obvious dedication of our hard-working teachers who have already grown to know our kids. Teachers, on the other hand, really enjoyed getting a chance to meet parents who often share such helpful insights about their children; after all, you have been their first "teachers" and remain critical to their success in school and life. Although the second set of official conferences will not occur until April, please know that teachers and administration are always available for discussion, whether that exchange is by phone, by e-mail, or in person.

Last night the YACA General Membership Meeting was held and those parents who attended were welcomed by Dina Nash, YACA Chair. Ms. Nash emphasized the special projects that are hallmarks of the important work that YACA does. From the wildly successful Grandparents' Day to the current Read-a-thon, the school year is packed full of opportunities for parents to get involved in specific events like the Lantern Festival Gala Fundraiser or in the day-to-day volunteer needs like lunchroom, playground, or library support. Next, Board of Education Chair Jen Shadowens presented the "State of the School", highlighting Yinghua's growth. From the new addition to our facility, which is rising up out of the ground, to our academic accomplishments recently recognized by MDE and the Confucius Institute, we are on the move. While we recognize our successes, the Board and administration also want to acknowledge the areas that need continued attention: a nurturing, yet rigorous classroom environment; retention of excellent teachers; and open communication with an emphasis on listening, to name a few. Lastly, Ms. Shadowens touched on Yinghua's financial status from the standpoint of our recent clean audit for 2012-2013 and our biggest financial challenge, which continues to be the gap between what we get in state aid and the high cost of our program. Needless to say, we look forward to full day kindergarten funding, which the MN Legislature passed; unfortunately, it does not take effect until next fall, so until then we must "mind this gap". Look forward to more conversations about all of these topics and more!

Oscar Wilde once said, "The only thing to do with good advice is to pass it on. It is never of use to oneself." To better facilitate all forms of feedback, we have posted a SUGGESTION BOX in the foyer. Please let us know your thoughts through a phone call, an e-mail, a request for a meeting, or via the suggestion box. YACA, the Board, and we care and want to hear from you.

See you at the Storybook Character Parade on Thursday at 3:00PM, although you may not recognize me!

Warm regards,  
Sue Berg  
Executive Director

### ***Luyi's Curriculum Corner***

Dear Parents,

Last week, while attending the STARTALK conference in Portland, Oregon, Mrs. Berg and I had the privilege of visiting two local Chinese immersion schools, Woodstock Elementary School and Hosford Middle School. These two public schools are part of the Oregon Chinese Flagship, a K-16 program (<http://chineseflagship.uoregon.edu/>). Woodstock offers a 50/50 instructional model from kindergarten through 5th grade; Hosford Middle School currently offers Mandarin Chinese language classes and content classes taught in Mandarin Chinese. Both programs have been in existence for over 10 years.

Yinghua has had professional ties with these two schools for several years: we have been exchanging curriculum ideas, sharing teaching strategies, discussing issues and concerns relating to immersion education, and working together to find resources. It was wonderful to finally be able to visit these two schools to observe their classrooms and to see the interaction between the teachers and the students. I was amazed to see the quality of their students' work samples and the richness of their classroom conversations. Naturally, I was comparing their students, teachers, and overall program goals with ours, and I am happy to report that we, too, are on the right track to nurture and support our students to reach their full potential in language learning.

At the STARTALK Conference, we had a great opportunity to learn the latest research and development in language learning, the most up-to-date resources, and some of the best practice teaching and learning strategies. One of the important points I learned confirmed our practices at Yinghua: program goals for language and culture should be measured by students' progress toward proficiency. Over the years, we have collected lots of raw data to make sure students are progressing: we use Youth Chinese Test (YCT) to assess students' listening, reading, and writing proficiency; we conduct Student Oral Proficiency Assessment (SOPA) to monitor their listening and speaking proficiency; we also develop internal academic projects to check students' academic language levels. All these tools help us measure students' proficiency to make sure we are achieving our program goals.

In addition, Mrs. Berg and I were invited to present our STARTALK programs at the conference. We proudly represented our Yinghua team and explained to a packed room how to create a target-language only classroom. We shared our experience and answered many inquiries from the audience. Many conference attendees expressed interest in visiting Yinghua, which is regarded as one of the most successful Chinese immersion schools in the nation.

The Storybook Parade is quickly approaching. I enjoyed wearing a blond wig and dressing up as a principal last year. Many parents have asked me what I will be this year. I plan to use this weekend to come up with a cool character. So please wait and see! Have a nice weekend.

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.  
Academic Director

## Brewer's Blog

Greetings Parents!

With conferences just behind us and not much going on in Student Life right now, I really don't have much to say this week. The Character Parade is covered (including costume guidelines) in the attached letter. The one thing I was going to write about is our *We Scare Hunger* Food Drive starting Monday and going on through to Friday.

Unfortunately, or fortunately (as the case may be), I have nothing to say because our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are working with Mrs. Berg to promote the event and two of our young ladies have written an announcement for us. Thank you Ann Patten and Catherine Vorwald! I must say they nailed it and left me with nothing to add! Please see their announcement to the right. I know you will be as impressed and excited as I am. For my part, I plan to bring in some of my favorites – Green Giant Sweet Peas!!!

## We Scare Hunger

written by 8th graders Ann Patten and Catherine Vorwald

What is **We Scare Hunger**? It's a campaign to end hunger around the world. Around the world, 870 million people go hungry, even in your own backyard. Is this right? No, maybe not for each of us lucky Yinghua kids, but it's a big problem. Imagine hunger is a huge, shadowy monster, and millions of people are trapped by it. If you want to help these people escape the hunger monster, donate a non-perishable food item, like canned goods, boxed items, or rice. It doesn't have to be a lot, even one contribution will make a huge difference. Help Yinghua make the world a better place, so the week of Halloween, donate some food, and stop hunger before it strikes! You've read about heroes in fairytales, so how about this Halloween, you be a real hero? A hunger hero! Saving people from the shadowy monster we call hunger. You don't need a cape or super strength to be a hero.



## Online Book Fair

If you missed the book fair during conferences, or want to shop for more books for your family, to give as gifts, or to fulfill teacher wishlists, there's still time to place your order! Our online book fair with Scholastic will run through Tuesday, October 29th. The link is on the Yinghua homepage, or you can [find it here](#).

Books ordered from our online book fair ship free to the school, and will be sent home with your child in early November.

Thank you to all the parent and middle school volunteers who helped organize and staff the fair, which greatly benefits our school and classroom libraries!

## Outside P.E.

Reminder to families to dress students in WARM winter clothing (heavy jackets, winter hats and gloves/mittens). We have OUTSIDE physical education classes for grades 1-8 until after Winter Break. Please help the students be prepared for class.

Thank you! Ms. Thune and Ms. Totall

## UPCOMING DATES

<b>October 28</b>	Yinghua Read-A-Thon Ends
	YA Internal Chinese Essay Contest Week (3-8) Begins
<b>October 31</b>	Halloween
	Storybook Character Parade (K-8, Main Campus)
<b>November 1</b> 8:30AM-10:00AM	First Friday Coffee at Sip Coffeabar
<b>November 4</b> 6:30PM	YACA Board Meeting
<b>November 7</b> 9:30AM-10:30AM	School Tour

## Online Picture Orders

If you haven't already ordered pictures from Picture Day today, it's not too late. You can order them online for the **next 48 hours**. Just go to **mylifetouch.com**, enter Yinghua's **Picture Day ID: MI213353Y0** and your student's name, and place your order online.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



## Media Studies

**Grade 7 and 8** have finished their second project -- a presentation on their Camp Friendship Experience. They did amazing presentations! Ask your child to show you the Prezi, and you will love it!

## Social Studies

**Grade 6** is learning about the 3 branches of government. For homework, they are visiting a website created with help from former Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O'Connor. ([www.icivics.org](http://www.icivics.org)) They are being asked to play an on-line game there called Branches of Power. Parents may enjoy watching the game while their son/daughter plays!

## Read-A-Thon

In **grade 7 and 8** morning meeting, we spent 20 minutes this week reading. Students can add those 20 minutes to their reading totals.



## Minneapolis Public Library Trip

On Thursday afternoon, **grades 7 and 8** toured Minneapolis Central Library. After the tour, students heard from a media specialist how to find reliable sources -- through books, databases and websites. Ask your son/daughter to show you a database! Many students enjoyed time to look for books about Pearl Harbor, Civil War battles and even free reading in the Teen Center. A few even had the chance to visit the Tech Center -- a workshop for audio, video, photo, sewing and other tech projects, open to teens!