

Sue's News & Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for all your warm wishes and sweet treats! We will certainly enjoy them over the break!

This week we had our first Middle School Chinese Speech Contest. Speaking in front of a group takes courage, particularly when the speech is delivered in a second language; it is even more nerve-racking knowing the judges are listening. We always knew our students had beautiful pronunciation and a rich vocabulary to express their thoughts in Chinese; but we were stunned by their public speaking ability. Witnessing them deliver their speeches confidently and eloquently, we were truly touched. Officiating as one of the judges, Dr. Lien concluded the contest by praising the students for their participation and their language proficiency, and encouraging them to find ways to improve their speaking skills. We will announce the top winners for each grade level after the break.

The students have brought home winter break assignments this week. With respect to precious family time, the teachers have carefully designed the assignments to prepare students for new learning and upcoming state-wide testing. It is important that there is time set aside daily for homework during break to avoid last-minute panic. Students in grades K to 3 all have been sent home with a CD which contains Chinese songs, texts, and stories. Please remind your student to listen to the CD every day for 10 minutes to keep in touch with the Chinese language; daily reading in English and in Chinese is also strongly encouraged.

We appreciate all the support our parent community has shown us in 2013. Looking forward to 2014, we will continue to bear the serious responsibility of educating and shaping the young minds, and partnering with parents to foster truly bi-lingual and bi-culture students who are creative thinkers and collaborators with problem solving skills, open-mindedness and world perspective. We will also strive to be the national leader in the field of Chinese language immersion education by seeking improvements in all academic areas, fine-tuning our Chinese curriculum and honing our students' Chinese language skills.

We look forward to a great 2014 and celebrating the Chinese New Year with you.

Happy Holidays!

Sue Berg & Dr. Luyi Lien



Brewer's Blog

Hello Parents!

The Bake Sale was a huge success!! We were overwhelmed by the response and support we received in baked goodies for the sale. The cool thing is that we got items from families from across all grade levels. In fact, we had so many treats come in that we were a little worried we wouldn't be able to sell it all! But, again, the generosity of the Yinghua Community was amazing. As you see in the pictures below, the sale was jam packed after the concert. We almost sold out! What little we had left was gone by 4:30 on Thursday afternoon. Amazing! The best part is that according to the Student Life leaders, we raised \$455! Not too shabby!

I would like to thank all of the students and parents who generated time to bake, organize, and support the fundraiser. I would like to specifically thank Isabel Metzdorf for coming up with the idea in the first place. You can see her right there in the thick of it selling treats with the big kids. Thank you Isabel! This is what Student Life is all about!

Next, the Student Life leaders will be putting together a used book sale in January. We will combine those proceeds with the money raised by the bake sale and then donate it all to the Philippines. I know it will be put to good use and will help many people.

Wow! I never cease to be amazed by our community.

Everyone, please have a wonderful, joyful, and restful holiday break with your family, friends, and loved ones.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Brewer
Director of Students, Families, & Community



Art Classroom Pages

Check out the Art Classroom pages for lots of updates including a **4th grade art contest** and **extra credit for 5th and 8th graders!**

The Lantern Festival Gala

The Lantern Festival Gala team is collecting items for the silent auction in the offices of both campuses, and you can help! If you would consider asking for donations from your favorite shops while you're out and about this holiday break, it would be fabulous. OR if you are a maker (potter, woodworker, sewer, etc) we would LOVE to have one of your works in the fundraiser. More info and tickets on sale now at yinghuaacademy.org/gala.

Notes from Aftercare, Enrichment, and YA Conservatory of Music

Anyone registered for Enrichment or music lessons should have received a confirmation email this week. If you didn't, please contact libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org. Enrichment and music lessons begin right after winter break, the week of January 6.

If you plan to use Aftercare in January, please fill out and return the attached Aftercare scheduling form, now required each month, much like lunch order forms. Drop-in days (days not scheduled on the form) are always available, but charged at a higher rate.



Construction Update

Be sure to check out the construction updates at <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/about/expansion/>. There are new pictures posted of the construction progress.

UPCOMING DATES

December 23— **NO SCHOOL**
January 3 *Winter Break*

January 6 Term II Enrichment Classes & Music Conservatory Begin
Open Enrollment Begins

6:30PM YACA Board Meeting

January 9
9:30AM-10:30AM School Tour

January 10
8:30AM-10:00AM First Friday Coffee (at Sip Coffeebar)

January 11
10:00AM-11:30AM Informational Kindergarten Open House (New Families)

January 13
6:00PM School Board Meeting

January 16
9:30AM-10:30AM School Tour



Spelling Bee Winners

The winners of the classroom spelling bees are as follows:

- 4A** Alayna Tan and Jaeden Vang
- 4B** Kai Thieszen and Andrew Leong
- 4C** Ethan Fabiano and Eleanor Chen
- 5A** Noah Qiu and Maya Preimesberger
- 5B** Lily Eggen-Lim and Arjuna Herbst
- 6A** Jade Bing Zalaznik and Mary McDonald
- 6B** Carly St. Martin-Norburg and Margaret Bender
- 7** Cormac Calcaterra was a winner, but he will be enjoying the warmer Mediterranean weather in Italy in January, so he will not be in the school spelling bee. The other winners are Timothy Yang and Jasmine Quinlan.
- 8** Zoe Lindberg and Elizabeth Bender

Great job students!

Physical Education News

In December, **1-8th grade** went sledding & played strategic games. **Grades 3-8** learned basic orienteering skills. **KG** has stayed toasty warm in the gym playing Frosty Tag, parachutes, scarves and games.

January 6-17 we are looking forward to cross country skiing for **grades 1-8**. Please make sure your child has all the proper winter gear (Need 5: boots, hat, coat, snow pants, mittens). In case you forgot we have PE outside.

Volunteers Needed for Cross Country ski Unit: we will need parent volunteers to help tie boots, put on skis... for 1-2nd grade. First grade has PE on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Second grade has PE on Wednesdays and Fridays. Helpers give us more time to ski.

We would also like to thank all those who donated to or participated in the "Kids Play Day." It was a fun event. The kids were great and our middle school helpers were awesome.

Have a great winter break. Erin Thune and Sarah Total





MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Winter Break Homework

Subject	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Chinese	Reading Packet (5 stories)	Reading Packet (5 stories)	Reading Packet & Recite Mu Lan Ci	Reading Packet & Recite Mu Lan Ci
English	English Packet	News Story	News Story	News Story
Math	Holiday 2013 Packet (also on the classroom page)	Holiday 2013 Packet (also on the classroom page)	Holiday 2013 Packet (also on the classroom page)	Holiday 2013 Packet (also on the classroom page)
Science	Earth and The Solar System Packet	Paper Towel Testing	Earth Science Presentation	Earth Science Presentation
Social Studies		Newspaper Article (no internet access needed) or Film Reel (internet access required)	Political Cartoon	
Phys. Ed.	Homework (see attachment)	Homework (see attachment)	Homework (see attachment)	Homework (see attachment)

Specific documents and links are on each teacher's classroom page.



PE Update

We had some fun sledding and orienteering in December.

Just a reminder: Our gym is the great outdoors. Students need to dress warm for PE. Hat, mittens, coat, boots and snow pants (if they don't have snow pants then bring an extra layer).

The skis are coming in January. We will be renting a cross country ski trailer from the Minnesota Youth Ski League (mysl.org) from January 6-17. Fun, fun.

I have assigned the **7-8th graders** some PE homework for the winter break. See attachment. Have a happy and safe Holiday.

Ms. Sarah Tall

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

(Cont.)



Winter Break Activities

Try the [Minnesota History Center](#). There is an [exhibit about the one amendment to the Constitution which was subsequently cancelled: prohibition](#). Also, on Friday, December 27, learn about [Minnesota's role in the Civil War at the State Capitol](#).



Science

5th grade has a focus on Earth Science during Term 2. Students have reviewed the Water Cycle, then connected this to major reserves of Water on Earth and Weather. Students will study the Earth, Moon, and Sun relationship and then the geological processes of Uplift, Weathering, and Erosion.

6th grade has begun Term 2 with a study of Mechanical Energy and Energy Transformations on a Roller coaster. Students will continue to study Energy and Work by constructing Simple Machines and then examine Waves and Harmonic Motion with Springs and Pendulums.

7th and 8th grade completed a Physics review of Matter and Energy and are now continuing with discovering the features of Earth's Oceans. Students are researching and creating presentations about different aspects of the Theory of Plate Tectonics. These concepts will be taught by the students to their classmates upon returning from the Winter Break.

Social Studies

6th grade has now "met" all the groups of people involved in the 1862 U.S. Dakota War. Your son or daughter helped teach the class about one of these groups. Over winter break, s/he will choose a small project: either write a news story based on the experience of one eyewitness account of the war, or view 3 short video clips about the war and create 3 drawings based on what they learned.

7th grade has been studying the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War. They also learned about political cartoons. This week, many students jumped into analyzing political cartoons. One student found a perfect cartoon from 1861 about the Civil War! Another created a cartoon showing Syria's president, and U.S. president Barack Obama's slow reaction to the Syrian crisis.

Over winter break, they will show what they learned by creating a political cartoon. Each cartoon will show (at least) one aspect of African-Americans' dreams of freedom and the problems they faced to realize them. These will be fascinating academic performances!

