



Sue's News

Dear parents,

As I contemplated today's newsletter, I reflected on the rare opportunities for learning that have taken place at Yinghua recently. Grandparents' Day was one of those out-of-the-ordinary occasions for our students; they were spellbound as they heard tales of one room schoolhouses in the rural Midwest with classes as small as 2, a WWII pilot who had to eject out of his plane, the effects of polio on children and families, the excitement of working for NASA, and growing up in faraway places like the Philippines and China. Naturally, the children were in awe but likewise the grandparents were amazed by the students' Chinese language abilities and the marvelous opportunity to attend school in such a rich, diverse environment.

Because of Parent Teacher Conferences, we were able to share with those parents that attended what we have learned about your children thus far. We also place great value in the opportunity to learn from you. Naturally, this was just a checkup, if you will. Never hesitate to contact your children's teachers via e-mail or phone; if your questions or concerns are broader, reach out to Dr. Lien or me. As we move toward the end of Term I, you will learn more about the cumulative final exams that are scheduled for November 13-16. Watch for study guides!

Last evening at the YACA General Membership meeting Joan Brzezinski, Executive Director, and Yongling Zhang-Gorke, Assistant Director, of the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota, shared a cross cultural perspective with us in their presentation entitled, "Differences that Make a Difference". Participants learned valuable information regarding values and assumptions about American and Chinese cultures. Henry Ford once said, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young." I'm positive I'll be forever young as long as I'm lucky enough to be at Yinghua Academy.

Warm regards,
Sue

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Yinghua Families:

Generally speaking, the teacher's role in Chinese culture is well respected. In ancient literature, the teacher's role was defined as "those who wanted to learn would seek out a teacher, one who could propagate the doctrine, impart professional knowledge, and resolve doubts." Most Chinese teachers follow this rule and prepare themselves to be a great model to students and carefully demonstrate good behavior in all aspects. At Yinghua, there is also a general atmosphere that most teachers see themselves having huge responsibilities of educating their students, and dedicate themselves to become even better teachers by participating in different professional activities.

This year, we have set up different topics for professional development for our teachers. Mrs. Berg and I have scheduled time to go to each classroom bi-weekly and observe teachers in action. Then, we meet individual teachers and give them feedback, and set up tangible professional development goals or specific instructional goals for our next observation session. The most important part of this observation and goal-setting is to clearly articulate the objective: both the teacher and the administrator follow up with the goals. This activity gives teachers clear, measurable, and bite-size objectives to work on for each of their lessons and helps set up teachers for success. The other activity we have for teachers is asking teachers to observe another teacher's class, learn from their observations, and apply their learning to their own classroom. The core concept for peer observation is to reflect on various aspects of your own and your peers' teaching practice; recognizing and identifying good, and thus enhancing teaching quality and improving student learning experiences.

Great teachers help create great students. We are working toward helping every teacher to become a high-quality teacher. I welcome any suggestions you might have in this effort. I respect all our teachers' dedication in devoting themselves to good teaching, and preparing themselves to become excellent teachers.

Sincerely,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director

Another opportunity for learning! See attached flyer about an upcoming visit from author **Cathy Bao Bean** on **November 1st from 8:45—9:45 AM.**

