



Sue's News

Dear Families,

I had a magnificent trip to China as a member of the 2012 Chinese Bridge Delegation! As a member of this select group of 400 administrators, teachers, and board members, I was proud to represent the United States, Minnesota, and Yinghua Academy. I am grateful for this adventure for a number of important reasons.

First of all, the opportunity to visit China to soak up the language and culture firsthand was priceless! As we work to create an environment at Yinghua that combines the essence of a true Chinese experience in America, I benefited hugely from the visits to schools specifically. Although I have visited China on two other occasions, the lens through which I viewed my experiences this time was that of an immersion school director. From the Wusilu Primary School of Xigang District to Dalian No. 15 Middle School, the lasting images will be those of dedicated, passionate, hard-working, focused students who were filled with pride for their schools. They were eloquent guides as they explained in great detail the purpose of each lesson or activity. Each school that we visited had earned high distinction for their commitment to "encouraging beauty, and advocating morality" with a focus on the arts in addition to rigorous academics. The influence of western culture seemed apparent. The power of education as a bridge between us was real. Needless to say, the children were as irresistible as Yinghua students!

Secondly, the rare chance to "live" and learn with other educators from across the United States for eight days was invaluable. Not only did I gain ideas for improvement and solutions to challenges but I was reminded how exceptional our school is! Amidst the outstanding programs, we are truly unusual as an early immersion program. Most participants were looking to *start* a program, aiming optimistically for 30 minutes per day. We are truly envied and admired as a pioneer in these circles. We take that role seriously as we work toward continuous improvement.

While I always find it invigorating to travel and see the world, I love returning home. I know how hard the students and teachers worked while I was away; the preparation for exams at school and at home was worthwhile as the children had the chance to show what they've learned in Term I. I assume that you were as impressed as me to see the summary of concepts and content mastered in just three short months! We are TEAM and look forward to utilizing this feedback as we plan for Term II. You can look forward to report cards in mid-December.

We had such fun today as we celebrated the amazing accomplishments of our 2nd Annual Read-a-Thon! There was plenty of silliness, crazy hair, and wild colors to help us end Term I with a splash!

I wish you rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation with family and friends.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sue

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Yinghua Families,

Last week Mrs. Berg and I were in Philadelphia attending the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) Annual Convention and World Language Expo. The four-day Convention brought together thousands of teachers, administrators, method instructors and students of foreign languages at all levels from all over the world, and featured over 600 educational sessions on various topics, such as assessment, culture, curriculum, literature, methods/techniques, advocacy and policy issues, professional development, research, specific purpose, standards and technology.

For this conference, Mrs. Berg and I had intended: first, to learn the most current research and knowledge on language education; second, to look for available resources for our program; third, to network with professional educators and filed experts for future partnerships; and fourth, to advance Yinghua's reputation. With these goals in mind, Mrs. Berg and I busily dashed in and out of sessions from 8:00am to 8:00pm every day, hoping to take in all the presentations which may be beneficial to our program. We learned how to implement the project-based module with technologies to enhance student learning; gained knowledge on how to best introduce and teach new vocabulary in the context of academic instruction; reaffirmed our belief in the importance of assessment and students achievement; and learned the newest classroom-friendly technical tools. Most importantly, Mrs. Berg and I discovered an online Chinese reading program for our students, where they can choose their appropriate level and enjoy different types of literature. More information about this program will be available soon.

On the final day of the conference, I had the honor of being the co-presenter in a session entitled "Collaborating for Success: Delivering Meaningful and Purposeful Chinese Immersion Programs". In the presentation, I was able to introduce our program to a broader audience, and also shared strategies and insights on how to collaborate with other programs to ensure our students succeed in learning both languages academically and socially. While Mrs. Berg and I were busy learning at the conference, the students were diligently showing us how well they have learned by taking the Term I finals. Knowing how hard our students have worked, we would like them to be able to relax, enjoy themselves and come back energized and ready for Term II. Therefore during the Thanksgiving break, there will be no homework! We wish you a very happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D
Academy Director

Hello Parents!

I have a few quick, yet important announcements.

Cold Weather Dress – Now that the weather is colder we ask that you please make sure to send your children to school properly dressed for recess. We have been seeing far too many students underdressed for the weather. Please understand that all students are expected to go outside during recess, even if it's cold out. Of course, we will have indoor recess when we have rainy or severely cold days. However, we will be making those decisions on a last minute "as needed" basis. So, please assume that we will be going outside every day and send your children properly dressed. **Starting Monday, November 26 all students in grades KG-5 will be required to have a jacket, warm hat that covers the ears, and warm gloves in order to go outside during recess. When snow begins sticking to the ground, the students will also need snow pants and winter boots.** Students who are not properly dressed will have to stay in a classroom during the recess period.

Lost & Found – The Lost & Found is over-flowing! Please go through the lost and found and look for your child's belongings. We will be donating any unclaimed items to a local charity in Mid-December.

4th & 5th Grade Parents – Mark your calendars! Our first 4th & 5th *Grade Activity Night* is coming up fast. It will be Friday, December 7th from 6:00-9:30. The calendar says it will start at 6:30, but we decided to start at 6:00 so students can transition straight from YA Aftercare to the Activity Night. Hopefully, this will be more convenient for parents. I don't think the students will object since it means more time for fun! The activity night is an evening when we reserve the whole school for a night of fun, games, pizza, and pop just for the 4th & 5th graders! If you would like your child(ren) to attend, **please fill out the attached permission slip and return it to the Main Office with payment no later than Friday, November 30th.**

Spirit Week! – We will be celebrating our first annual *Spirit Week* during the week of December 10-14. The Deputy Head Prefects Ellie Nestingen (Sports) and Jane Andreas (Activities) have been working together with their departments to plan the week. Throughout the week all students and staff will be invited to dress according to a different theme each day. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Students wishing to opt out will be required to come to school in regular uniform dress. We will culminate the week with a Spirit Fest assembly in the gym for the whole school at the end of the day on Friday.

This year's Spirit Fest themes will be:

Monday, December 10 – *Pajamas/Sweats Day*

Students may wear their pajamas or sweats, but they must be appropriate.

Don't forget to bring athletic shoes if you have gym class today.

Tuesday, December 11 – *Miss-Match/Crazy Hair Day*

Wear goofy clothes or clothes that clash, and do your hair up goofy!

Wednesday, December 12 – *Grade Level Day*

Each grade will be assigned a color – TBD. If you wear that color on top, you can wear jeans!

Thursday, December 13 – *Backwards Day*

Wear your clothes backwards! It's a riot!

Friday, December 14 – *Spirit Wear and Spirit Fest*

Wear school colors, school Spirit Wear, paint your face school colors, etc. If you wear a spirit wear top, you may wear jeans!

Let's all look forward to showing some school spirit!!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

Jeremy Brewer (Mr. Brewer)

Middle School parents, attached is a flyer about the upcoming information session on **November 26th, from 6-7PM for the 2013 China trip.**



Lexia Successes

Thank you to all the parents who have given Lexia a try. We have received great feedback. Here are some tips to consider when implementing or working with your child:

- sit with your student, be involved.
- yellow dots means your student is struggling with a particular skill. It is OK for them to work through a concept a couple of times.
- have students take their time while working.
- if you do not have a computer or internet at home, work with a local library. They can download the program for use and your individual password will allow just your student to access your account.

Please contact Ruth Hansen with questions or concerns, ruth.hansen@yinghuaacademy.org

Happy Reading!

Enrichment News

Thanks to all who registered for our 4-week enrichment program. We have a full schedule to take us from Thanksgiving break to winter break.

I will be sending emails to all families who registered for the 4-week session to confirm which classes their students are in. Some classes were filled to capacity; a few didn't have enough registrations to move forward. If you haven't received a confirmation email by the end of the day on Saturday, November 24, send an email to libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org.

The catalog of classes for the next 8-week session of enrichment will be posted online on Friday, December 7, with registration forms and payment due on Friday, December 14. That session begins January 7.

Remember that we provide free aftercare for the period between the end of the school day and the start of an enrichment class. Students need to be signed out within 10 minutes of the end of the class (or sport or music lesson or activity), to avoid a charge for aftercare.

Libby

***Spelling Bee Date Change ***

Unfortunately, we need to change the date of our All-School Spelling Bee. We have decided to change the Bee to **January 16th, 2012** starting at 1:30pm.

We will have classroom bees the week before on the 10th and 11th. This will actually be good timing since kids can practice the words over winter break!

Thanks everyone for your flexibility!
Sincerely,
Ms. Rademacher

UPCOMING DATES

Nov 21-25	Thanksgiving Break—No School
Nov 26	Term II begins
6:00pm-7:00pm	Winter Sampler Enrichment Begins
	China Trip meeting (6-8 grades)
Dec 4 6:30pm-8:00pm	Informational Kindergarten Open House
Dec 6	Term II New Year's Enrichment Catalog Online

Happy Thanksgiving!!!!

