



**YINGHUA
ACADEMY**

WEEKLY PARENT NEWSLETTER

Friday November 30, 2012

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Sue's News

Dear parents,

It is that time of year when we begin to plan for the upcoming 2013-2014 school year, believe it or not! As per the Yinghua Academy master calendar, this coming Tuesday evening, December 4, from 6:30-8:00, we will hold an informational Open House for prospective kindergarten parents. We look forward to this opportunity to share our story, mission, and vision with interested families. Although this event is the first step in the process and for adults only, we look forward to a second opportunity on Saturday, January 12, from 10:00-11:30AM, which will be hands-on, interactive and give parents an opportunity to observe their children live with our KG Chinese immersion teachers in a demonstration. No doubt, you share your enthusiasm about YA with family, friends, and colleagues routinely. We'd love it if you would extend a personal invitation to any who might have current 4-5 year olds!

School tours are another facet of our outreach. Many Thursday mornings in December and January from 8:45-10:00 we conduct a walk-talk opportunity for interested participants, which allows for a real sneak preview of Yinghua's students and teachers in action. Although led by me, Dr. Lien, or other school staff, we are excited to involve our students as ambassadors. What left such a lasting impression from my recent trip to China were the children in the schools that we visited. From KG through university, the Chinese knew how to showcase their students! They spoke and acted with such passion, ownership, and pride. We were immersed in morning calisthenics on the field, still-life sketching in the art room, orchestra rehearsal in the music room, and English lessons in the lab; the brochures and literature could not duplicate these rich, firsthand experiences narrated by young boys and girls. We left fully able to imagine "a day in the life" of these students. I'm confident we can capture that same vibrancy here by allowing our students to help tell Yinghua Academy's story! After all, they can communicate our culture in two languages!

Warm regards,
Sue

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Yinghua Families,

This has been another learning week for our teachers. On Tuesday seven teachers (one from each grade level) and I attended an all-day professional development workshop "Teach Like a Champion" organized by our sponsor, Friends of Education.

At the workshop, we studied six techniques champion teachers use to build strong and vibrant classrooms; we also had a chance to practice and reflect on the techniques to teachers' own classrooms, and realized the gap between "gaining the knowledge" and "implementing the knowledge." This workshop offers effective teaching techniques to help teachers, especially those in their first few years, become champions in the classroom. The techniques are concrete, specific, and easy to adopt. Our teachers absorbed all the techniques and were able to ask specific questions to help them improve their teaching. At the end of the workshop, the teachers and I worked collectively and put together an action plan applying two techniques in all classrooms.

As we pondered which two techniques to select, our amazing teachers were reflective and really had our students' best interest in mind. The next step is for the teachers to share their learning with their grade-level peers and focusing on these specific techniques during peer observations.

In addition to this great workshop, all the Chinese-speaking teachers will have the opportunity for professional development this Saturday. Ms. Yin Shen, a veteran immersion teacher from Portland, Oregon, will visit us and conduct a five-hour workshop entitled "Structure an Effective Lesson from a Classroom Management Perspective." Ms. Shen will share her experience and provide concrete and applicable examples for our teachers. The workshop will also allow dialogs amongst our teachers to exchange their thoughts and insights.

We believe great teachers make great students. With the school's mission in mind, we are supporting our teachers to become great educators for our students.

Sincerely,

Luyi Lien, Ph.D
Academy Director

Greetings Parents,

Below are my important announcements for this week.

IMPORTANT! Spirit Week – The December 10-14 Spirit Week has been **RESCHEDULED** due to the MIA field trips that week. We have also decided to restructure the spirit celebrations so they are more appropriate for younger children in grades 1 & 2. Rather than celebrate for 5 days in a row, we are going to spread the celebrations out over the course of a month of Fridays. The new Spirit celebrations will be January 11, 18, 25, and February 1st – culminating with a Pepfest the afternoon of February 1st. We will send out more details about each day's theme before Winter Break.

Cold Weather Clothes – We are still seeing many, many students arriving to school without hats, gloves, and even jackets. I have also stopped many children from going outside for recess because they were not wearing proper clothing. Parents, please be sure to send your children to school every day with a hat, gloves, and winter jacket. If you could please remind your children that it is winter out and they need to dress properly when going outside, that would also help.

4th & 5th Grade Activity Night – We have 76 students registered for the activity night next Friday, December 7th! Thanks to all of you who turned in your permission slips on time. A number of parents have asked about uniform requirements during the evening. I am happy to clarify that students may wear regular, non-uniform clothes while attending the activity night. Most students will be going home to change before returning to school at 6:00. Those students who are staying on campus from 3:30-6:00 will need to bring clothes in the morning to change into at 5:30. Students may of course wear uniform clothing if they prefer. Remember to dress comfortably for gym games and bring your hat, gloves, and a warm jacket. We plan to go outside to the soccer field for one of the activities – weather permitting. Come ready for fun cuz it's sure to be a blast!

Have a nice weekend!

Jeremy

***Note from the Main Office ***

Parents,
We understand our students sometimes need to leave early or have their schedules changed due to unforeseen circumstances. We try to be accommodating to these changes but feel non-emergency interruptions have increased at our school. Please remember that we have over 500 students and every change to busing, pick up, daily schedules etc. interrupts the normal schedule and increases the chance of human error. Our students' safety and a stable learning environment are and always will be our #1 priorities so we ask for your help in limiting changes to schedules, transportation, and early releases unless absolutely necessary. Attached, please find a copy of our Policy & Procedural Reminders for more information. If you request an early dismissal, children wait in the Main Office. The office is a work space with little waiting space. Now that winter has arrived, children are dressed in outdoor clothing prior to arriving to the office. Please be timely in your early pick-up.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Toys For Tots!

Yinghua Academy is in the middle of its 2nd annual Toys for Tots Drive, brought to you by YA's Student Life Community Service Department! We are currently accepting donations of new, unwrapped, & unopened toys suitable for ages 3-14 which will be given to families and children in need this holiday season. The drive is through November 26th to December 14th. If you have a toy, book, markers, crayons, etc. that you wish to donate please place them in the big collection box in front of the Main Office. If you have a student at the Kinder Campus there is also a box there to collect toy donations!

This year we are also able to accept monetary donations for those who wish to contribute financially! We have placed a red box in the main office to collect those donations. Sorry, you can only donate money at the main campus. Please consider contributing. We are hoping to beat last year's goal of 10 garbage bags full of toys! Thanks for the donations so far! Have a great weekend!

–Sarah Lind-MacMillan, Grade 8, SLO Community Service Department

Spirit Wear!

Here's your chance to order discounted spirit wear and get them before winter break. See attached flyer for clothing and click below link for details. Must submit your order by December 7th.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dG9kcKFDUnQtX3QxVEJCS2hyNXE1S2c6MQ>

***New* Middle School Page**

For MS Students and Parents from MS Teachers

Middle School News Social Studies by Jan Kleinman

In the 6th grade, a discerning question modeled keen thinking. We began our U.S.-Dakota War unit by placing several early American history events into chronological order. By the end of the lesson, we established the following order: American Revolution, then the writing of the U.S. Constitution, later the Civil War followed by the abolition of slavery. One student pensively raised her hand and asked, “But did the writers of the Constitution not believe that “all men are created equal?” How could the abolition of slavery happen so long after the Constitution was written?” This student illuminated a contradiction that historians, philosophers and politicians have been wrestling with for the past 237+ years. Many believe we are still working to achieve equality today. This is precisely the kind of thinking I hope our young citizens will engage in not only in every subject, but for the rest of their lives!

7th graders have just begun their adventure with on-line textbooks. This week students logged in to their individual accounts. They cruised through useful features like maps that enlarge with a click, one click to highlight the main ideas in the text, and audio of all the readings. We are eager to hear what students like and dislike about this new delivery system. Of course, the bottom line is whether students learn well. So far, students eagerly explored the on line book. I wonder how they are liking doing their homework?

Another memorable moment occurred in the 8th grade this past week. We began an economics lesson about comparative advantage. The lesson’s title caught the students’ attention and elicited smiles and cries of “Yummy;” it is called “Lemonade and Cookies.” Later that first day, one 8th grader mentioned about our class, “I like this!” “Oh, you like to eat cookies and drink lemonade?” I asked. “No, I like the lesson,” clarified the student. A moment a Social Studies teacher will remember forever!

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!

***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

Yo-Yo Fun!

On December 10 and December 11 we will have a National Yo-Yo Master coming to our school! He will provide an assembly on Monday for Middle School students at 8:30 and on Tuesday for Grades 1-4 at the same time.

Dazzling Dave will present many fun tricks and elaborate on the safety of Yo-Yo's He will also incorporate the science behind the Yo-Yo. This will be a great way for our students to engage in a PE activity while also incorporating other academic disciplines into our program.

Please see attached flyer for more information.

We look forward to having him and look forward to your added enthusiasm!



Nifty-Gifty

Yinghua parent and designer, Mel Chaput will donate 50% of her sales made by a Yinghua parent or staff member to our school during "Gettin Gifty in the Hood", an event sponsored by Johnson Street merchants to encourage shopping local small businesses and artists this season. Mel's textile goods will be for sale at the Northeast Coffee Shop on Thur. Dec. 6th from 6-8:00 p.m. The Coffee Shop Northeast can be found near the intersection of Johnson and 29th Ave., a short distance from the school.

UPCOMING DATES

Dec 4 6:30-8:00PM	Informational Kindergarten Open House
Dec 6	Term II New Year's Enrichment Catalog Online
Dec 7 8:30-10:00AM	Term II New Year's Enrichment Registration forms sent in Friday folders First Friday Coffee (SiP Coffeebar)
6:00-9:30PM	SLO 4th & 5th Grade Activity Night
Dec 10 6:00PM	School Board Meeting
Dec 13 6:30PM	Winter Orchestra Concert