

### **Sue's News**

Dear Parents,  
The saying goes, "A photo is worth a thousand words." Note the beaming faces of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders who posed this morning with their adopted Nobel Laureate, Tawakkol Karman. Admire the confidence and camaraderie of all of our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade presenters after their successful participation in the Nobel Peace Prize Forum today at Augsburg College. Little did we know when our students chose the 2011 winners that we would have the honor to meet one of these world famous peace-makers! Her messages were simple and sincere: 1) Carry flowers not weapons, and 2) Respond to violence with love. Similarly, Dr. Geir Lundestad, Director of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, spoke eloquently; he reminded all students and teachers that "peace is not a spectator sport". The research that our students completed in preparation for this experience and the experience itself are sure to leave a lasting impact. After all, they have already met a Nobel Laureate!



We ended Term III on a high today! The kids were giddy! We have truly worked hard, and we look forward to playing hard over spring break. Whether your family's days will be filled with luxurious, all too rare stay-at-home days with opportunities to be lazy and create your own fun or travel adventures to new or familiar places, I wish you all the best.

Warm regards,  
Sue

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

Dear Yinghua Families,  
It has been a couple weeks of professional learning for me. From February 28 through March 3, I was invited to Salt Lake City, Utah to present at the "Chinese Education Conference". On March 8, I attended the second Annual Administrators' Conference at the Confucius Institute right here in Minneapolis.

At the Chinese Education Conference I conducted a workshop entitled "Make it Work - Balancing Theory and Practice in Chinese Learning" to support and help professionals who also work in the Chinese immersion field to find ways to empower language learners and to maximize learning. I also shared ideas and practical experiences in our curriculum design and assessment strategies, and participated in a panel discussion about promoting Chinese literacy in the immersion setting. I was honored to represent Yinghua Academy, show off our teachers' and students' excellent work, and discuss critical issues with the field experts, such as Helen Curtain, Frank Tang, Ellen Knell, and Myriam Met. During the conference, I was also able to reconnect with the field practitioners and learn from many experienced expert mentors.

At the Confucius Institute this Friday, I learned from Chris Livacari, Director of Education and Chinese Language Initiatives at the Asia Society. He focused on strategies for building strong and sustainable Chinese language programs in the context of the rapid growth of Chinese language programs in US schools. I was glad to learn that Asia Society is seriously studying the phenomenon of rapid growth of Chinese Language programs. At Yinghua, we face a similar growth issue. Fortunately, we have a great team whose members are not only passionate about immersion education, but also equipped with professional knowledge and experiences. Our team members cooperate diligently to manage our growth and enable us to be a great school, and a great Chinese immersion school at that.

Have a relaxing Spring Break!

Luyi Lien, Ph.D  
Academic Director

## Middle School News—Week of 3/4/13

### Social Studies News

Grade 6 has been studying immigration. Students have been interviewing immigrants. Thank you to all family members, friends and staff who have participated in this project. On our final day of Term II, we viewed parts of a PBS documentary called *Destination America*, a DVD available at your local library. Your family may enjoy it over spring break!

Grade 7 has been studying the Civil War. An exhibit now showing at the Minnesota History Center explains “Minnesota and the Civil War.” Your family may enjoy it over spring break!

Grade 8 enjoyed a guest speaker last week. A willing volunteer parent of Latvian heritage brought musical instruments, garments, amber samples and books. She explained what “freedom” meant for Latvians and how she identifies herself as both American and Latvian. This unique opportunity helped grade 8 students understand the new nation-states (formed after the collapse of the Soviet Union).

### Chinese Language Arts

We will not have the spring break homework for Chinese. Please review the characters and textbook in Term II, and get refreshed for Term III!

## Lantern Festival After School Activities

Here are the after school activities offered as part of Lantern Festival that still have spots available:

### **After School party for First Graders #1**

Hosted by Lin Laoshi and Zhang Laoshi  
Monday, March 18th 3:45-4:40PM Room: 101  
Price \$15

### **After School party for First Graders #2**

Hosted by Shi Laoshi and Liu Laoshi  
Tuesday, March 19th 3:45-4:40PM Room: 110  
Price \$15

### **Chinese Knots**

Hosted by Shi Laoshi and Lin Laoshi  
Limited to students in grades 2-4  
Wednesday, March 20th 3:45-4:40PM Room: 102  
Price: \$20

### **After School pizza party for Second Graders**

Hosted by Wu Laoshi, Huang Laoshi, and Xie Laoshi  
Monday, March 18th 3:45-4:40PM Room: 105  
Price \$15

### **Chinese for Adults**

Hosted by Lai Laoshi  
Three Tuesdays: 3/19, 3/26, and 4/2 from 3:40-4:30  
Room: 107  
Price: \$45

### **Cookie Decorating**

Hosted by Mrs. Wenkel and Ms. Ryan  
\*\*\*open to all grades!\*\*\*  
Thursday, March 21st 3:45-4:40PM Room: 210  
Price \$20

### **Scrabble & Pizza party for grade 5-8**

Hosted by Jan Kleinman and Andy Scheid  
Limited to students in grades 5-8  
Thursday, March 21st 3:45-5PM Room: 201  
Price \$15

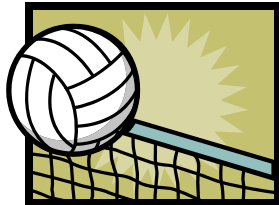


To register, email [becky.hoffmann@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:becky.hoffmann@yinghuaacademy.org) and send a check to school payable to YACA. Stay tuned for more info about the Yinghua sleepovers for 3rd-5th graders and 6th-8th graders happening later this Spring!

## THE MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS THEIR SEASON OPENER!

CONGRATS TO THE PLAYERS AND COACHES. THEY ARE EAGER TO GET BACK AT IT AFTER SPRING BREAK. GREAT WORK DRAGONS!

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### Spring Break Art Opportunity!

Some of you have big far away plans for your family this spring break, others have smaller, and maybe closer plans. If you are looking for a fun, free, local, and artful way to kick off spring break this Sunday, March 10th is Family Day at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. There are many events planned, all free, that should be fun for the whole family. The event goes from 11:00am until 5:00pm throughout the museum and this month's theme is Cityscapes. Events include, a master storyteller, hip hop dancing and instruction, gallery scavenger hunt, performance by Twin Cities String Academy, and of course city themes art projects!

You'll find me working in the hat making studio, I hope to see you there!!!

Meghan Wenkel

More on the day's schedule:

[http://www.artsmia.org/index.php?section\\_id=197](http://www.artsmia.org/index.php?section_id=197)

### News from the Regional Spelling Bee

Congratulations to fifth grader Mary McDonald, who represented Yinghua in the Regional Spelling Bee at Augsburg College over the weekend! She was one of 50 participants from elementary, middle and junior high schools around the metro area. Mary made it to round 6, and by that time, there were only 17 spellers left! Mary's words were: artichoke, chagrin, peloton, topeng, apartheid and retribution.

The winner was a 13-year old boy from Parkview Center School in Roseville. He will continue on to the National Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. which will be televised nationally on at the end of May.

Congratulation, Mary!



Parents: The Power School parent portal is now turned off while grades are being entered. It will be turned on after the break.

### Lunch Reminder:

Your child should have received April's lunch menu and order form by now. Order forms and payment are due by March 18th. If your child forgets to bring them home, they are available on our website under "Current Families".

### UPCOMING DATES

Mar 11-15	Spring Break
Mar 18	Term III Begins
Mar 25	Term III Enrichment Begins
Mar 29	Conference Prep Day No School