

Sue's News

Dear Parents,

Our third through eighth graders were so impressive this week as they tackled the **Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) in English!** Each day to kick off the day and set the tone for the grade level that was testing we held a "Breakfast of Champions". As we munched on cereal, fruit, and nutri-grain bars, we walked the students through the day's schedule and shared test-taking strategies. I actually had the pleasure of proctoring the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday respectively and they amazed me. They were focused and so thorough as they went back over the test to confirm their answers, they read quietly as they allowed fellow classmates all the time they needed to complete their exams, and they were appropriately confident in their abilities. As you



may have heard from your children, each student got a morning and afternoon ration of mints! As we shared with the kids, "experts" strongly tout the benefits and so we carry on this tradition at Yinghua. Mid-day on Thursday, I received this photo and caption from Mr. Scheid, MS science teacher, and it made my day! I just had to share it with you in hopes that it will help all of us adults keep a more lighthearted approach to these high stakes tests!

Next week, these same students will sit for the MCA math exams. We will offer **Math Power Study Sessions** in the computer lab for any 3rd-8th grader from 3:30-4:30 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; since the math exams are electronic, we feel this will

be a useful refresher for those who are interested. No reservations and no fees are required.

On a completely different note, I want to let you know about a change we have made in the daily **lunch routine at the Kinder Campus**. Due to construction in the building which potentially results in more dust and dirt, more noise and more traffic, the teachers, Mrs. Pribbenow, and I have determined that it is best for our children to eat lunch in the classrooms rather than in the Multi-Purpose Room of Grace Center. Our plan is to continue this arrangement through the end of the school year. We began this new pattern yesterday, and I'm happy to report that, even with the excitement of today's pizza option for school lunch eaters, everything went very smoothly. The children are very respectful of their classroom spaces and are able to keep things tidy as they eat and visit with classmates. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this new procedure.

As winter lingers on and on and on, I am reminded that "patience is a virtue"!

Warm regards,

Sue



Board News

We had a great turnout at the Board Primer event this morning, despite the snowy weather! Thank you to all the parents who came to the Kinder Campus to learn more about the upcoming elections. Attached to this email is the two-page handout that was distributed, which summarizes responsibilities and election processes of both the School Board and the YACA Board. Please review this so you are an informed voter, and also consider whether you or someone you know may be a good fit for either board. If you are interested in having a conversation to learn more, information is available at any time by contacting any member of either board. YACA elections are in May (candidate deadline May 10), School Board elections are in June (candidate deadline April 30).

Mr. Brewer's Blog

Greetings Parents!

Just two quick reminders this week!

4th & 5th Grade Activity Night, Friday, May 10th – Don't forget to turn in your registration forms! They've already started to trickle in and are due on Monday, April 29th. I've attached another copy of the flyer to this newsletter in case you missed it last time.

Student Life Leader Applications and Interviews for 2013-2014 – The interviews will start on Monday, April 29 and end on Friday, May 10. All students in grades 5-8 who are interested in being a part of our Student Life Cabinet for next year are encouraged to apply. We plan on announcing the 2013-2014 Head Prefect and Deputy Head Prefects at this year's Honors Convocation in June. Talk to your child(ren) and encourage them to think about it. Being involved in Student Life is a great opportunity to make a difference, develop leadership and organizational skills, and it's FUN! Applications can be found on the SLO bulletin board adjacent to my office on 2nd floor.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, and Community

A video conference with our 6-8th graders and our China sister school is set for next Thursday, April 25, from 5:40PM to 6:30PM.

UPCOMING DATES

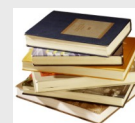
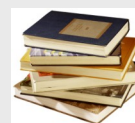
April 20 1:00PM—5:00PM	Board Retreat at Charter School Partners (2800 University Avenue SE, Suite 201)
April 22-26	MCA Exams Grades 3-8
April 26-April 27 6:00PM—9:00AM	YA Sleepover (3rd-5th graders)
April 30	Spring Group Photos (in uniform)
May 3 8:30AM-10AM	First Friday Coffee (SiP Coffeebar)
May 10 6:30PM-9:30PM	SLO 4th & 5th Grade Activity Night
May 13	School Board Meeting
May 16	YACA General Membership Meeting Used Uniform Sale
May 17 8:30AM-3:30PM	All School Academic Performances

Yinghua Overnights

Several spots still remain in the Yinghua overnights hosted by Mrs. Berg. The sleepover for 3rd-5th grade will be on Friday, April 26th, and the sleepover for 6th - 8th grades is on Friday, May 3rd. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. See attached fliers for more registration information.

Help Yinghua library books find their way home!

When you visit your local public library (Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota County, etc.), please occasionally ask at the circulation desk if any books from Yinghua Academy have been returned there. Public libraries often will hang onto books that are mistakenly returned at branch locations until they are claimed. Thank you!



Parking/Traffic courtesy and Dismissal Reminders

DO NOT BLOCK ALLEYS. Residents have the right to enter or exit their alley at any time, even during our crowded arrival and dismissal periods.

DO NOT USE ALLEYS TO EXIT THE SCHOOL AREA. Neighbors have complained of cars speeding down alleys in an attempt to beat the slow exiting traffic.

SLOW DOWN. Do not speed into the residential/school area or speed out of it. This is not only for the safety and courtesy for our neighbors, it also is important for the safety of all the children. If you accidentally hit a parked car, leave a note with your contact information and email the school so the office has a record if there is an inquiry.

DURING ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL: ENTER THE SCHOOL AREA ON PIERCE, THEN EXIT BY TURNING RIGHT ON BUCHANAN, CURVING AROUND TO A LEFT TURN ON LINCOLN, which allows you to exit back onto 18th Avenue NE. *Why not just turn left on Buchanan?* Turning right provides clear access for the buses, which are arriving at the same time. Buses that have to wait on 18th, or get trapped in the Buchanan traffic delay our dismissal process. This situation is further complicated with snow.

Please remember these important guidelines in your daily drop off/pick up routine. Together, we all represent Yinghua. Your daily decisions make a huge difference!

