



Sue's News

Dear Parents,

Even as we launch the new school year, we are contemplating the opportunities for our students after they graduate from Yinghua Academy; while for some students/families this event may be years away, for our 8th graders June 2014 may feel like it is just around the corner! With the goal of determining possibilities for a range of students to maintain their Chinese language skills, as well as to embark on new adventures with a full range of opportunities in high school, we are forming a task force to collectively explore future options for our Yinghua students. All parents are welcome!

The **YA Futures Task Force** is a growing work group of school personnel and parents that is embarking on 3 specific, yet linked, tasks.

Work Group 1 (immediate priority) - High School Options

This working group will have a tighter timeline and a clear set of directions as we explore options for our first graduating class of full immersion students in the spring of 2014. The workload will be condensed over the fall and early winter, will include actual visits to various high schools, and will culminate in a High School Planning event for all interested families.

Work Group 2 – College Prep and College Credit

This working group will identify options for receiving college credit for Chinese language, course options for credit, and testing opportunities to certify language skills. In addition, the group will explore how to best communicate this skill set to high schools, colleges, and workplaces.

Work Group 3 - Language Learning Opportunities Beyond Yinghua Academy

This working group will explore opportunities to maintain the Chinese language skills of graduates in other learning formats. This could include language camps, social gatherings, travel, on-line options, book clubs, and more.

Over the last two weeks, I've had the privilege of working with our students in advising, and they've begun to research high school options to help define the YA Futures' road map. Our 7th and 8th graders, who were Yinghua's first KG and 1st grade students, are an impressive group. They have ideas about who they are and where they want to go in life.

Join us on **Thursday, September 19, at 7:00PM in the school cafeteria for the kick-off event** to discover how you can contribute to this exciting next step for our immersion students from this very special school! It is never too early to plan for your child's future!

We are grateful for cool weather! Enjoy!
Sue

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Yinghua Families,

I was pleased to see so many parents taking the time to come to the Back-to-School Curriculum Night this week to learn the academic components of your child's new grade level. I really appreciate your enthusiasm and support. I am also grateful for the opportunity to talk to so many of you and listen to your comments and suggestions. Some parents who were not able to attend this event have emailed me and asked about what was shared with the audience so here is a quick recap:

At the Main Campus, we first gathered in the cafeteria for an overview of our school-wide educational philosophy (mission and core values) and the curriculum and assessment; followed by the specialist teachers presenting their specific areas in Art, Music, and Physical Education. Parents of grades 1-4 students then attended grade-level specific presentations in the classrooms while the Middle School parents remained in the cafeteria to learn the structure and content of each subject area.

For the Kinder Campus, we followed the same format by welcoming all the parents in the Media Center for the first 40 minutes and providing them with the overview information on the school, the curriculum and assessment, as well as the specialist classes (Art, Music, and Physical Education). Parents then went to separate classrooms for kindergarten-specific information. The main difference for this evening is that everything was conducted in an air-conditioned environment!

On Yinghua's website, you will find the PowerPoint presentations for all the specialist classes and the Middle School subject areas. Classroom teachers in grades K-4 will also be posting their grade-level and class-specific information on their classroom pages.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Have a great weekend!

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
Academic Director

Brewer's Blog

Greetings Parents!

Wow! It's hard to believe that we are already 3 weeks into the school year with the MS Retreat behind us. There was so much excitement and anticipation building up to the retreat that it's hard to believe it's over. The saying is so true! Time flies when you're having fun!

As you've probably heard from your children, the retreat was a blast! Every student I've asked has said it was "Sooo fun" and they can't wait to go again next year! The food was amazing and the Team Quest facilitators were phenomenal. We had wonderful weather, no rain, and a nice cool, clear night for our 45 minute Night Hike. In addition to the Night Hike, the students enjoyed canoeing, large group games, silly games (ask them about "Birdy On A Perch" or "One Fish-Two Fish"), team/group challenges, low rope obstacle courses, and the high climbing wall and ropes courses. The benefit of going for three days was that each student had the opportunity to climb the high courses at least 2 times. Interestingly, I think the most popular activity during free time was Gaga Ball (see pic of the Gaga Pit). The students were playing that any chance they could get. Many of them are now begging me to build them a Gaga Pit on campus. I told them we will see. I'm not sure we could take the added dust and dirt! J

All-in-all, the retreat was a huge success. I was so impressed by your children and the way they gelled together and got along across the grade levels. It was such a joy to see the 7th and 8th graders mingling and playing with the 5th & 6th graders like they were old friends. Everybody really began to see themselves as all being a part of the same family, which is one of the major goals of these retreats. I'd also like to pass on the many compliments I received from the Camp Friendship kitchen, office, and facility staff as well as the Team Quest Facilitators. I lost track of how many times I was told how wonderful, respectful, and kind your children are (and how much they eat!). I hope you are now beaming with as much pride as I am.

Thank you so much for allowing us the privilege of taking your children on such a fun adventure. It was an honor. It took the chaperones and I two days to recover, but it was worth it. We're already looking forward to next year!

Have a great weekend and enjoy the pics!

Jeremy Brewer
Director of Students, Families, and Community



UPCOMING DATES

September 16	Term I Enrichment Classes and Music Conservatory Begin
6:00PM	School Board Meeting
September 19	Mid-Autumn Festival
September 27	Teacher Appreciation Day Celebration of Confucius Day
6:00PM-9:30PM	SLO 4th & 5th Grade Activity
October 4	
8:30AM-10:00AM	First Friday Coffee @Sip Coffeebar
6:00PM-9:00PM	SLO MS Fall Dance (Grades 6-8)

Construction Highlights

We are happy to report that the parking lot is re-opened as of late this week. Cutting in the second drive-in lane and striping will occur later this fall. It's been a noisy week with pilings being drilled daily—but it is scheduled to be completed next week. Check out www.yinghuaacademy.com/about/expansion for detailed weekly updates on the construction project, including what has happened, what is forthcoming, and lots of photos!

Yinghua Families,
Please welcome Mary Howard as the new YA receptionist. I have enjoyed my time working here and I will miss the students, staff, and families. I'll still see you around as a Yinghua parent. Good luck in this new school year!
Best Wishes,
Erin Spector

ATTENTION PARENTS :

This year's classroom page password is 2013yinghuarocks. Thanks!
<http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/current-families/classroom-pages/>



IT'S "BACK TO SCHOOL MODE" FOR PARENTS TOO!

Friday First Coffee at Sip CoffeeBar:

New Yinghua families get to know each other as Pro 8th grade parent, Mark Lindberg, shares wisdom with rookie Kindergarten parent (and Board Member) Seth Werner.

Happy to help!

Volunteer parents Danielle Bogucki and Rachel Maves are all smiles during dismissal duty.

Chinook Book Sales Team in action

YACA kicked off it's popular Chinook Book Fundraiser this week. Big thanks to Kindergarten parent Erica Drake for volunteering her time with YACA Board members Annie Sparrows, Dina Nash and Rachel Collins. Sales run through Oct.

Looking for ways to get to know your school and it's community better? Contact yaca-volunteer@yinghuaacademy.org