

YINGHUA ACADEMY

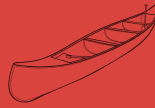
英 華 学 院

Grandparents' Day Information
重九節

See Page 3 for details

Widjiwagan Photos

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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,

My day begin in the most wonderful way! As children and parents streamed into the school, many came bearing cards, hand-drawn pictures, pretty flowers, and best of all, hugs and kind words of appreciation for our teachers. We celebrate Confucius Day at Yinghua Academy; in Chinese culture, Confucius, whose birthday is September 28, is remembered as China's first teacher and so today we honor our teachers in his memory. Thank you for joining us in recognizing the tremendous impact of our children's teachers.

The influence of a great teacher is one we can all appreciate, no matter our age, our status in life, or our culture. Personally,

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Fill out your Oct. Dismissal Plan Now!

By Libby Pomroy

Fill out the online form . It's required. Every student. Every month. Even bus riders. Find a link to the October Dismissal Plan at www.yinghuaacademy.org on the main page under News and Events. Keep your child safe by telling us where he or she goes after each school day. Print the form before you press SUBMIT. Make changes to your Dismissal Plan by calling or emailing the school office no later than 10:30 a.m. on the day of your change. Riding the bus? A bus registration allows your child to ride the bus, but the Dismissal Plan SCHEDULES tell

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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

The Effect of Story Reading on Language Acquisition

For our teacher training program this summer, we focused on literacy. I invited an English literacy professor and a Chinese literacy professor to show us ways to "integrate/transfer literacy teaching practice from one language to another" and to "integrate literacy into immersion daily practices." The two professors also discussed the importance of reading aloud to students in order to expand their vocabularies.

Studies continue to confirm that the development of vocabulary and syntactic complexity in language are more advanced in children who are frequently exposed to a variety of sto-

ries. Psycholinguists define reading as an active process based upon this interaction that is creative and predictive. Story reading is also an effective bridge to emergent literacy. Research shows that: "reading stories aloud to children is a significant source of vocabulary acquisition." (Elley, 1989, p. 185)

As our ultimate goal is to cultivate true bi-literacy in Yinghua students, we want to make the best use of the school day to maximize their learning. One important opportunity is our story reading time during morning arrival. Starting around 8:00am selec-

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Upcoming Events & Announcements

10

02

14

Grandparents' Day

The purpose of the day is for students to learn from and celebrate the wisdom and experience of their elders. See Yinghua's front page on our website for more information and volunteer opportunities.

10

03

14

NO SCHOOL:

Staff Professional Development Day

As part of Yinghua's continued commitment toward building a team of connected educators and staff members, the regular school day on Friday, October 3rd will be canceled for a professional development day.



Hello Yinghua Parents!

Well, the retreat has come and gone! PHEW! In all honesty, it was a huge success! The students had an absolute blast. Other than one sprained ankle, one fever, a few minor scrapes and cuts, and one late bus, everything went wonderfully. The weather was beautifully crisp and cool and the leaves were just beginning to change while we were there. It was gorgeous!

I have heard from many parents about how much their children enjoyed the trip, and how they won't stop talking about the fun they had and the things they learned. Many of you have told me about the new friends your children made on the retreat and the new level of confidence they returned with. I couldn't be more thrilled! These are among the core reasons we do these retreats. The benefits cannot be under-valued and the memories will last a lifetime!

Thank you all for allowing us the privilege of bringing your children to Widjiwagan. We received many compliments from the Widji staff about how mature, kind, thoughtful, respectful, and well behaved your kids are. It made us proud!



I'm sure many of you are wondering what it looked like so we have attached a few pictures to the newsletter so you can see how much fun and how beautiful it was. Please enjoy them and have a wonderful weekend!

Jeremy Brewer
Dean of Students

Scholastic Book Orders!

by Kimberly Gill

This is a great time to stock up on books for the school year! Scholastic books are available for purchase at scholastic.com/readingclub (online code H7DQZ) and from paper flyers that can be found in take-home folders in grades K-5 or the main office. Your

purchase helps provide classroom books for Yinghua students. Orders are due **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2nd**. Please contact Kimberly Gill (kimberly.gill@yinghuaacademy.org) if you have any questions.

BOOK IT! (Middle School ELA)

by Bradly Byykkonen

Starting next week (Wednesday, October 1st), students will be taking part in the Book It! program. This program aims to help students develop a love for reading. Starting in October, each student can earn a certificate for a FREE single-topping personal pan pizza at Pizza Hut! For sixth grade, students will have to read at least six days a week for at least thirty min-

utes each day AND turn in a completed weekly reading log (comics, graphic novels, homework reading, and magazines don't count for this). Any student who manages to do this for an entire month will receive a free pizza certificate. The Book It! program is not open to 7th and 8th graders, unfortunately.



New Recreation Building in NE Park

By The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Minneapolis Park Board plans to construct a new recreation building in Northeast Athletic Field Park. The building will be located on the northeast side of the park with access off of Johnson Street. Potential building components identified during the recent master planning process include: a gymnasium with a potential walking/running track, meeting rooms, fitness rooms, classroom and program rooms/space, and a gymnastics space/wrestling room. The Park Board will work with a Community Advisory Committee and hold at least three meetings and two open houses, where the public is invited to participate in the planning process. Questions may be directed to Project Manager Dana Murdoch at 612-230-6446, dmurdoch@minneapolisparke.org.

Project information can be found on the project webpage (www.minneapolisparke.org, find Current Projects on the left and then Northeast Athletic Field Park Improvements) or by using the link below. Sign up for updates using the red envelope at the top of the page: <http://www.minneapolisparke.org/default.asp?PageID=1482>

Community meeting dates have been set; some locations are still being determined. Because meetings may need to be rescheduled, please check the website or call for current information. All meetings are planned for 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

- Open House - Monday Oct 20th
- CAC #1 - Thursday November 6th
- CAC #2 - Monday November 24th
- Open House - Thursday December 11th
- CAC #3 - Monday January 12th
- Public Hearing - Wed Feb 4th

All are welcome to attend! Please call 612 230 6472 at least two days prior to the meetings if you would like us to arrange for language translation or other services.

Come to Grandparents' Day!

By Abigail Pribbenow and Wynnee Igel

Every year since our founding, Yinghua has hosted a fall Grandparents' Day celebration. The date is selected to coincide with the Chinese Elders' Day, which occurs on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month. This date is auspicious because in Chinese the word "nine" is a homonym for longevity. In Chinese speaking regions, components of the day typically include drinking chrysanthemum tea and flying kites.

This year's Grandparents' Day at Yinghua falls on Thursday, October 2, and more than 430 grandparents have registered to visit classrooms on this special day. In each of the kindergarten through 4th grade classrooms, one or more parent will offer a presentation. In the past our students have heard presentations about careers, hobbies, travel, pets, and what things were like when our visitors were in elementary school. The day is designed to offer Yinghua students a glimpse of the talents and good work of their elders, and to remind them to show respect for the older generations in our families and in our community.

New this year is an opportunity for middle school students to create a voice recording with a grandparent. We're modeling this on "StoryCorps," an organization that records oral histories and archives them in the Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. You may have heard occasional excerpts from these recordings on National Public Radio's

Morning Edition. While our recordings won't be preserved in the Folklife Center, this opportunity may prompt Yinghua families to make home recordings and preserve inter-generational conversations. We'll let you know how it goes, and if it works well, we may offer this again next year.

We extend our thanks to the many parents who have signed up to make Grandparents' Day a success. We still have a few volunteer roles to fill, so if you've got an hour or two to spare on October 2, please follow the Grandparents' Day volunteer link on the Yinghua website to sign up.

We are able to use the Jim Lupient Water Park parking lot on October 2! All families must follow their regular dismissal plans for October 2. If you are planning to fly a kite in the park after school, please follow your dismissal plan to retrieve your child first.

Oct. Dismissal Plans (Continued)

days he or she will ride it. No dismissal plan, no bus. Using Aftercare? The Aftercare registration gets you into our system, but the Dismissal Plan SCHEDULES which days your child will be in Aftercare. No dismissal plan, no Aftercare. Using carpool, curbside, or walking up to pick up your child? You need to schedule this on the Dismissal Plan. Your child walks or bikes? Use the Dismissal Plan to schedule the days. In Soccer, Badminton or Flag Football? Select the Sports option for these days. In music lessons or an enrichment class? Select Aftercare for these days. Same option every day of the month? That's fine, but you still need to fill out a Dismissal Plan every month. (It just takes a few minutes.) Please do it now. The October Dismissal Plan online form is open for you to fill out until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30. Just ask. Any questions about the Dismissal Plan go to libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org.



Curriculum Corner (continued)

tions of English books are read aloud to kindergarten students as they arrive. As the students enter the room, they can easily follow along the story and listen to the native-speaker's inflections. This activity reinforces English vocabulary for those who have English reading practices at home and is a supplementary support for the students who come from non-native-English speaking families. By the time the morning story session ends at 8:30, both the early and late arrival students will have some exposure to English story reading.

We also ask each Chinese homeroom teacher to read aloud to their students in Chinese to help students acquire more Chinese vocabulary. The time spent on story reading at school (in the morning and during class) EVERY DAY is very precious because it (1) enhances students' familiarity with the language they are learning; and (2) adds vocabulary that is important for students' literacy development.

It is also a good idea for students to hear different voices reading aloud to enable them to develop skills to cope with different voices, as is the case in the real world. (McGrath, 2004) To help students develop English literacy skills while they learn Chinese language skills in our full immersion environment at Yinghua, we strongly encourage parents to read English story books to their student every day for one half hour. Please do not underestimate the influence of story reading - your cooperation in reading with your children everyday will make a huge impact in their literary development in both Chinese and English.

Luyi Lien, Ph.D
Academic Director

你好老师! Hello Teacher!

By Dave Madsen

Starting this week, our newsletter will feature one teacher/staff member from Yinghua Academy as a way to help introduce you to the many stories and characters in our school.



Ruan Laoshi and her students

Ruan Laoshi's first distinct memory of Yinghua Academy was when she was an Educational Assistant (EA) for Ms. Jenessa Van Schooneveld. She has fond memories of the class' guided reading time, particularly when they read *Charlotte's Web* together.

English Name:
Vickie Nelson

Chinese Name:
阮老师
(Ruan Laoshi)

Class number/Subject:
K1 Homeroom

Birthplace/Hometown:
Kaohsiung City,
Taiwan

Now that Vickie Nelson (Ruan Laoshi's English name) is a full time teacher at Yinghua, she implements much of the lessons she learned as an EA into her classroom. She said that the most rewarding thing about teaching at Yinghua is seeing the students demonstrate their mastery of Chinese at the end of the year—it's something she would never want to give up!

Since Ruan Laoshi started teaching at Yinghua, she reported the biggest change to be that of size. "There were only three kindergarten classes when I started," she said. "But now we have five!"



Flu Vaccine is Coming!

by Ginger Hao

Attention all parents, teachers and staff:
Flu Vaccine is coming to Yinghua on Wednesday Oct 15th 5:30-7:00pm during Parent/Teacher conferences. It is open to everyone. Just bring your insurance card, picture ID, cash or check, and your arm!

Look for more information in the next few weeks!

Social Studies News

by Jan Kleinman

Grade 6 is practicing the first 13 states this week. They will take 2 quizzes: one on Thursday 9/25 and another on Wednesday 10/1. On Friday 9/26 they will see their first score. Parents can help their children study--especially the ones that they have trouble remembering! The goal is to be able to identify each state on a map (using a list of the 13 states--spelling can be copied from the list).

Grade 8 is just starting their India unit. This week they are learning about comparative advantage. Ask your student what that is! They will also get access to their textbook online! Ask your student to show this textbook to you.

PE Update

by Sarah Totall

Please have your child wear/bring gym shoes on Physical Education days. Cowboy boots, Crocs, slip ons, and shoes with heels make it hard for your child to run and can be unsafe.

Sue's News (continued)

my earliest fond memories are of my first grade teacher who read books to us from the yellow painted chair on the carpet in the front of the room; she took us places far beyond Redwood Falls, Minnesota, and planted seeds of wonder. My MS English teacher was a grammar "queen", which I didn't fully appreciate until I took my 8th grade English notebook with me to college! My launch into teaching was expedited by my incredibly creative host student-teaching mentor who went on to be "Art Teacher of the Year" in MN and my talented teaching partner in my first real job as first grade teacher in Hawley, MN. Fortunately, there are so many more that have left their mark on me; needless to say, my parents rank #1 in this long list. Much like you parents do for your children, they invested great time, effort and resources for the benefit of my four brothers and me.

Yinghua loves its teachers and we realize their value to our mission; Dr. Lien and I work hard to simultaneously support them, teach them, protect them, and celebrate their work. As we train with them, we strive to enliven possibility in them; when they experience the energy of possibility, their eyes light up. In turn, our goal is for this enthusiasm and love of learning to transfer from our teachers to our students. When eyes are lit up, potential is enhanced, confidence is high, and results are outstanding. Our 2014 Annual Report, soon to be official, is filled with evidence of our accomplishments as outlined in our mission and our core values. Although we are delivering on all levels, we will never become complacent as we strive to prepare our students for the future.

You can get to know all Yinghua's teachers! Be sure to check out a new feature in the newsletter called Hello Teacher! Created by Dave Madsen, Office/Communications Manager, this weekly story will "help introduce you to the many stories and characters in our school". Enjoy today's profile of K1 teacher, Ruan Laoshi!

We look forward to Grandparents' Day, an opportunity to learn from some wise folks!

Warm regards,
Sue Berg



Non School Day Camps

By Coach John Richardson

Pla-IT: Revolutionary Sports is excited to offer Non School Day Camps for Yinghua families during this 2014-2015 school year, on 24 non-school days and two half-days. All camps will be held at our NEW Indoor Sports Training Facility located at 900 6th Ave SE, Suite 190, 10 blocks directly south of Yinghua.

Each day will include multiple sport and non-sport options, art projects, occasional field trips and more. Every day has half-day and full-day options. Drop-off starts at 7:30 and pick-up before 5:30. Drop-off and pick-up for half-day is between 12-1:00 PM (over lunch). Every day includes three or more structured activities from 9-12 and 1-4. The camp day formally starts at 9AM with an active warm-up for all. The remainder of the day will have multiple activities and individuals will be placed in age-appropriate groups.

Your first day-off is October 3rd! Cost is \$35 half-day, \$60 full-day. When you register two weeks or more in advance, the cost is \$30 and \$50 respectively. All individual day registration will be available online by Friday, September 26th. For one week only, you can pay by check to take

advantage of our one-time discounts.

Package offers must be used by May 31st, 2015.

40 half-days for \$800 (\$600 savings)

20 half-days for \$450 (\$250 savings)

10 half-days for \$250 (\$100 savings)

*All Half-days may be combined to make full days and may be shared within a family. To use a half-day from a package you must register three days in advance of the camp day. To purchase a package, please send checks made out to Pla-IT, and mail to 900 6th Ave SE, Suite 190, Minneapolis 55414. Please mail all checks by Monday, October 13th.

For more information visit www.Pla-IT.com, contact John@Pla-IT.com, or call (612)234-7782.

Widjiwagan at a Glance

