

# YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 学 校

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## Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,  
The snow on the ground and the cold temperatures remind us that the school year is well underway; in fact, the close of Term I and Thanksgiving are just around the corner.

We have so much to be proud of and grateful for at this time of year as we reflect on our first 14 weeks of school.

First and foremost, our students are thriving! Of course, this is not to say that there are never bumps or challenges; thankfully, we tackle them together with students, parents, teachers, and administration pooling our problem solving skills. On that note, be sure to share your thoughts with us; we think we know our kids, and we work hard to have a pulse on the school, but we're not mind-readers. Talk to us; better yet encourage your kids to talk to us if they do not already do so! TOGETHER we're better!

Secondly, we are loving our newly renovated, expanded school home! Every day we are amazed by the ample space, the

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## Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Yinghua Families,  
One of the reasons I love Yinghua so much is the supportive atmosphere everywhere. Staff and teachers provide support for our students and families: from reading stories during morning arrival, sending winter gear reminders, patrolling recesses to help-

ing in the homework lab, all is done with care and nurture. Our families also form a caring community to provide generous support to the school. One of the many different ways they do so is making sure the staff lounge is always well-stocked with energy-boosting snacks and the staff and teachers are well-nourished during conferences, on professional development days and holidays. Just this Thursday, we were served a sumptuous Thanksgiving feast for lunch by the YACA Nourishment Team. It was

such a treat for us. Xiexie!

The teachers form supportive teams amongst themselves based on their grade-levels and the subject areas they specialize in. Given that we are such a unique school in so many ways, we encourage the teachers to be resources for each other. Each team meets weekly to discuss issues and ideas. Team leaders also meet bi-weekly to allow for cross grade-level and cross subject area exchanges. This year we will launch our book club

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## Upcoming Events and Announcements

11

25

14

### Parkway Pizza Day

5% of all Take-Out, Delivery and Dine in orders will be donated to Yinghua Academy from Parkway Pizza, 2851 Johnson St NE, Minneapolis

11

26-28

14

### Thanksgiving Break:

**NO SCHOOL**

Enjoy three well-deserved days off for Thanksgiving. School will resume as usual on December 1st.



## Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

### Hello Parents!

This past Wednesday, November 9 was World Diabetes Day! In honor of our students with diabetes, the 8th graders put up a sign in the cafeteria to highlight the special occasion. Something new I learned is that the symbol used around the world in the battle against diabetes is a royal blue circle. To help promote awareness, the 8th graders hung out in the cafeteria during the lunch hour and used blue washable markers to draw a circle on the back of every student's hand and then wrote the word "Hope" inside the circle. It was hard to tell who had more fun with it; the 8th graders or the students receiving their circles!

Looking ahead I have an important announcement for all of our 4th & 5th grade parents. Be sure to mark your calendars! The first 4th & 5th grade activity night of the year is coming up fast on Friday, December 12th. The evening will run from 6:00-9:30pm. This time we will be going to Zero Gravity in Mounds View. For those who are not familiar, it's a huge indoor trampoline park complete with a freestyle trampoline floor, basketball trampoline court, trampoline dodge ball court, and a huge foam block pit. If you are curious, please check out the link below to a YouTube video of Zero Gravity. Before heading there to jump, we will have pizza here at the school. Please find the registration form attached to this week's newsletter. Registration is due by 6:00pm on Thursday, December 4th. Please note that we only have room for 90 students at this event so it's first come, first served. Once we are full we will not be able to accept any more students.

Zero Gravity Video - <http://youtu.be/VMtn45z72gU>

Also looking ahead, I will be covering the MS Discovery classes for the month of December. The focus will be Cyber Safety, which is something that every student needs to be aware of! In our sessions we will be covering things like:

- What is Cyber Safety?
- What are steps we can take to keep ourselves safe?
- What is Cyber Bullying and what forms can it take?
- What do you do if you are ever cyber bullied?

It's a lot of fun because technology and cyberspace are kind of a big deal for kids these days, and these sessions are pretty eye-opening for many students. Please feel free to ask your children about what they have learned throughout the month. I would imagine that you will find some of what they learn as interesting as they do!

With that, I will wish you all a wonderful weekend and a restful Thanksgiving Break with your loved ones!

Jeremy Brewer  
Dean of Students



## Sue's News (continued)

rooms dedicated to specialties, the natural sunlight that flows into our building, and the quality of our new digs. Every visitor to the school shares our wonder, with just a twinge of envy I can tell!

Mark your calendars for these important dates in Term II:

**Tuesday, December 9 from 6:30-8:00PM**  
**Saturday, January 10 from 10:00-11:30AM**

Kindergarten Open House Sessions for Prospective Families

We welcome new families or those of you who have incoming kindergarten children to join us for one of these information sessions. Our goal is to give an overview of our philosophy, mission, curriculum, and immersion education. In addition, we insist that parents come back on a school day to see our teachers and students in action. School tour dates are listed on the school calendar, typically on Thursdays from 9:30-10:30AM.

## Saturday, February 28, Chinese New Year Celebration

Those of you who have experienced Yinghua's Chinese New Year Celebration know what a special time of year and event this is for our school community! With growth, we have had to make some changes in order to keep "show times" reasonable and to allow everyone who would like to attend, the opportunity to do so. Thus we will have two performances this year. Wynee Igel, YACA Cultural Chair, has shared extensive details of the day with us in this newsletter. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me, Dr. Lien, or Wynee. We look forward to outstanding performances again this year, the Year of the Sheep!

Happy Thanksgiving,  
 Sue Berg  
 Executive Director

## Aftercare Update

By Libby Pomroy

### Welcoming New Music Lesson Students

Register now for after-school music lessons. Private music lessons are available for piano, violin, guitar, cello and more. Term II (winter term) begins the week of January 5. Find the registration form on the Yinghua website under Current Families/Forms. All students grades K-8 are welcome to sign up for lessons. The deadline for registration is Monday, November 24. Students already participating in lessons do not need to register for winter term. Questions? Contact [libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org).



A sign that our administration is truly in sync: Jeremy, Sue, and Bill showed up on Friday wearing matching outfits.

## Curriculum Corner (continued)

for the teachers to read books with teaching and/or cultural related topics together and share their viewpoints. With so many teachers coming from overseas and bringing with them different perspectives, the book discussions will be very rich and diverse. I am looking forward to these conversations!

Through Tuesday next week the students are taking the finals for Term I. Our teachers not only pay attention to how students learn, they also care about how much rest, exercise and relaxation the students are able to enjoy, particularly during the finals. They teach the students ways to cope with stress, and strategies to prepare for the exams so they don't overwork. We try to help students realize that exams should be taken seriously and they should do their best answering all the questions. After the finals, we will not assign any homework for the break so we all can celebrate our hard work and efforts, and have a relaxing Thanksgiving. Hurray!

Next week, we will not send out a Newsletter because it's a short week (only two days of school). I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving in advance.

Sincerely,  
 Luyi Lien, PH. D.  
 Academic Director



## Transferring Information and Communicating with Friends

By Ying Li

We are far from China, but we always pay attention to it—people in China do the same. Therefore, when people in America and China communicate with each other, they build a brighter future together.

The middle school students in Yinghua Academy communicate online with the students of the No. 8 Middle School, Inner Mongolia, China during morning meetings on Thursdays every other week. Chinese middle school students talk about their school life and Yinghua students ask them all kinds of questions. The transferring of information communication broadens students' eyes and provokes critical thinking.

In order that students can understand Chinese culture better, Yinghua Academy will provide students chances to communicate online with Chinese students once a month. In this way, students can not only improve their Chinese and learn about Chinese students, but also understand Chinese culture. Middle school teachers have chosen some topics as the main contents of communication online.

This is a wonderful chance for every student to improve Chinese and understand Chinese culture outside of class. Don't miss it!

## Physical Education Update

By Sarah Totall

THE ROLLER SKATES ARE COMING DECEMBER 1. If you haven't registered your child or paid for roller skating please take care of that today. If you are ACH your account has not been charged yet.

### Roller Skating Information

- All skaters must have a signed waiver
- All skaters will wear a helmet and wrist guards
- "Skatetime" provides the skates and wrist guards, you supply your own helmet. We have a few PE helmets that students can borrow.
- Bring your helmet in on December 1. Write name on helmet.
- This is a very fun unit but can be challenging for some. Challenges are good and they help stimulate the brain.
- Check out the Physical Education webpage to learn more about the benefits of roller skating.

## Patchenik Children's World Map Competition 2015

By Jan Kleinman

Calling all students age 16 or younger. Love to draw? Love maps?

Basic rules: Make a "map illustration on the theme "My Place in Today's World." Pictures, drawings, objects, graphic elements, words can all be included. It must have "all or a large portion of the world, with recognizable continents" included. View past winning entries at [http://children.library.carleton.ca/cgi-bin/childmap/wn\\_result.php?Winners=2013+Competition](http://children.library.carleton.ca/cgi-bin/childmap/wn_result.php?Winners=2013+Competition)

Fun fact: Yinghua has a perfect track record with this contest. The single submission our school has ever made was chosen as a national winner, and was displayed at the International Cartographic Conference. This year's winners will be displayed at that same conference, to take place in Brazil in August, 2015.

For specific rules and how to submit, contact Middle School Social Studies teacher [jan.kleinman@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:jan.kleinman@yinghuaacademy.org)



# Chinese New Year Update

Wynee Igel | CNY Coordinator

Gōng xǐ fā cái! Our Year of the Sheep theme of “Magnificent beginnings to an auspicious and prosperous year” is quite fitting for the school and our upcoming Chinese New Year festivities.

We are off to a great start. The teachers are already working hard preparing for performances and many volunteers have stepped up to commit their time and energy. Thank you!

As we head into the holiday season, many families are thinking about our upcoming Chinese New Year performance on Saturday, February 28. Here is a summary of the activities and plans thus far. As always, check the school website for any changes. We will provide additional information as plans progress.

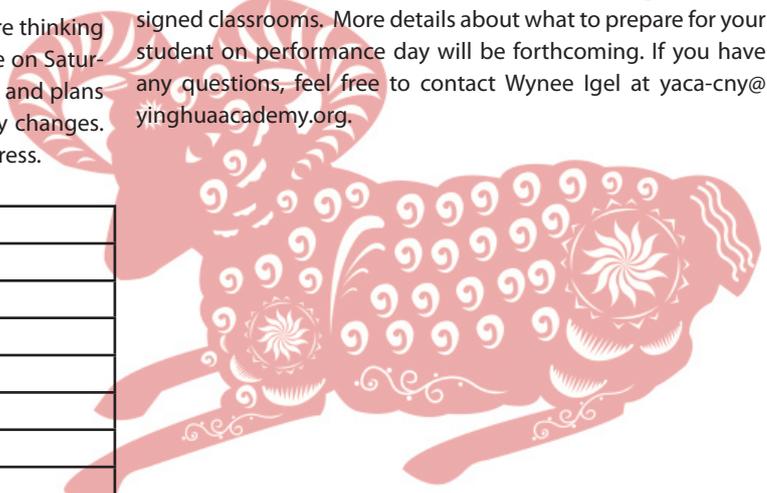
Date	Activity
Feb. 18	Clean the school
Feb. 20	Distribute red envelopes
Feb. 23	Distribute apples and oranges
Feb. 25	Dumplings for all
Feb. 27	Full dress rehearsals and Lion Dance
Feb. 28	Performances
Mar. 6	Encore Kindergarten performance
Mar. 6	DVD orders due
Week of Mar. 23	Label and distribute DVDs

We are pleased to hold our performance at Bethel University. After researching possible venues, corroborated from 3 separate searches over the past few years, Bethel University offers us the best value in terms of space, performance, and cost. We will hold two performances each about 1 ½ hours long. Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 will perform at both times. Grades 1, 2A, 2B, 3A, and 3C will perform only in the first performance at 12 p.m. Grades K, 2C, 2D, 3B, and 3D will perform only in the second performance at 4 p.m. The schedule for the performance day is below.

Time	Activity
8:15 - 8:45 a.m.	Arrival 1 and Preparation
8:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Rehearsal 1
10:45 - 11:45	Lunch
11 - 12 p.m.	Guests arrive

12 - 1:30 p.m.	Performance 1
1:30 - 2 p.m.	Dismissal 1
2 - 2:30 p.m.	Arrival 2 and Preparation
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Rehearsal 2
3:30 - 4 p.m.	Guests arrive
4 - 5:30 p.m.	Performance 2
5:30 - 6 p.m.	Dismissal 2
6 - 7:30 p.m.	Prop truck returns to Yinghua and unloads

Families will need to transport students directly to Bethel University on Feb. 28. There will be no bus transportation from Yinghua Academy. All families will also need to provide a lunch, snack, and drink from home. Students will be eating in their assigned classrooms. More details about what to prepare for your student on performance day will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Wynee Igel at [yaca-cny@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:yaca-cny@yinghuaacademy.org).



## December Dismissal Plan Form is Due!

By Dave Madsen

Please visit Yinghua's homepage to complete your child's December Dismissal Plan form which communicates your instructions to the school regarding where you wish your child dismissed to every day of the month. This form is due on Friday, November 28th at 5:00 PM, after which point it will be closed.

Please note that there are no enrichment classes in December. If your student is already confirmed for optional December music lessons, select Aftercare for music lesson days.

NOTE: THIS FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT EACH MONTH FOR EVERY STUDENT IN THE SCHOOL. THIS INFORMATION IS USED TO COORDINATE THE SAFE AND SECURE DISMISSAL OF OUR 670 STUDENTS EACH DAY.



## Arrival and Dismissal Procedure Reminders

By Dave Madsen

The year is in full-swing and most of us in the office have fallen into a routine. To ensure everything continues to run smoothly, the office staff would like to remind parents of a few matters regarding arrival and dismissal procedures. For reference, all of this information can be found in the Family and Student Handbook available on Yinghua's website under the Current Families tab.

### Morning Arrival

- Morning Care is from 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM and students should be dropped off at Door 2 by their parents.
- For those who are not in aftercare, regular morning arrival is from 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM at Door 14 in the southwest corner of the building. Please note that Door 1 is *not* an arrival door and should only be used by students/parents with mobility issues. The only reason students should use Door 1 is if they arrive late (after 8:45 AM). Mary Schultz and I are busy enough in the mornings without having to attend to both doors and shuttle students to their classrooms.
- If your student arrives before 8:30 AM, he/she should go to their respective morning care locations, not to the classrooms. Our teachers are busy during the mornings and cannot accommodate students arriving before their scheduled time
- When dropping your children off, do not park in the staff parking lot. If you need to park and escort your children into the school, please use the surrounding city streets to do so and remember to avoid parking in front of residential driveways. Ideally, all families should drop their children off on Fillmore Street.

### Afternoon Dismissal

- All dismissal changes must be reported before 10:30 AM on the day of the change. With all the activity in the office, staff cannot accommodate last-minute dismissal changes unless it is an absolute emergency. Please do not expect to be able to pick up your students whenever you want without letting us know in advance. Much like Morning Arrival, Mrs. Schultz and I are occupied with our regular office duties during this time and do not have the resources to pull individual students from their classrooms in a timely matter.

## Host Families Needed

By Melinda McCannell-Unger

InfoLink International Education Institute is looking for warm, loving, families to host some wonderful students from China. The University of Minnesota provides the academic program "Education for a Global Citizen" while InfoLink coordinates recruitment in China and housing here in Minnesota. About 15 college age students (18-24 years old) from China will be attending this full time study program for the Spring Semester (January 17-May 18).

The students are here to learn about America first hand by living with an American family and to practice their English. Beyond what they will learn in the classroom they are encouraged to spend time with you and your family to really understand what makes America works on every level.

Families can take one or possibly two students (two same gender students sharing a bedroom is OK) into their home. The simple requirements will be a separate bedroom and bathroom for the students (the bathroom may be shared with any or all other family members), an English environment, and friendship. Students will be provided with a bus pass, which is good on MTC buses as well as the U of M Campus Connector.

Beyond the pleasure of making new friends and building the bonds between our country and China, host families will be paid a monthly stipend of \$500 per student.

For more information please contact Melinda at (612) 750-5154 or e-mail at [melinda@infolinkgroup.com](mailto:melinda@infolinkgroup.com).

## Student Illness and Cold Weather

By Ginger Hao

Now that the cold weather is upon us, so are the many "cold and flu" germs. In the Health Office, we follow the general rule:

**If your child is well enough to come to school, they should be well enough to go outside for recess.**

The health office is a very busy place around recess time so we are not able to accommodate students resting there because of cold symptoms while the rest of the class is outside. It is also difficult for teachers to supervise students in their classroom when everyone else is outside. Therefore, we advise all parents to keep sick students home if recovery is still needed. Otherwise, please expect them to participate in recess and dress them in the appropriate warm, winter clothing. In almost all cases, a short time of fresh winter air will not cause additional illness and recess has many positive benefits for students. See the Health Office guidelines on Yinghua's website for information regarding keeping sick children home from school.

Thank you so much for your understanding,

Ginger Hao, LSN

