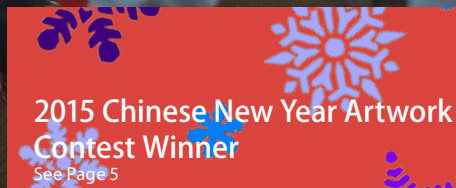


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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear parents,

Bon jour from Montpellier, France! I am attending the *3rd seminaire des sections internationales de chinois*. In summary, this conference is a gathering of French schools who offer Chinese, and they have been joined by representatives of Hanban, the Ministry of Education in China. You might be wondering why I am attending this gathering, since I am neither Chinese nor French and furthermore, I don't speak either language. Believe me, I've had some helpless moments of wondering the same! I put my trust in Madame Xu Lin, Director General of Hanban, who invited me.

Day one was exhausting! Unlike YA teachers, conference speakers used no animation, no visual cues or songs, and lacked obvious passion! Total Physical Response (TPR), the method well regarded for effective language teaching that our teachers utilize, was not employed, much to my disappointment. With their serious professorial approach and my jet lag, I was challenged but determined to maximize this opportunity!

Being immersed in French and Chinese is probably the closest thing to what Yinghua kids experience in those first days and weeks of school. You parents have shared many tales of complete exhaustion. I get it now!

Thankfully the next days here I was rescued by col-
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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Yinghua Families,

Season's greetings! Thank you so much for all your warm wishes and delicious treats! I will for sure enjoy them over the break!

Each week, I meet with the teachers in small teams, listening to them and supporting them. I am always touched by how organized and thorough each team is at the meetings and how much time they spend talking about the students. Very often, the teachers will ask amongst themselves questions such as: "How should we work together to make sure the students are learning?", "What else can we do to help the students?", and "What other strat-

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Upcoming Events and Announcements



Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)

The following two weeks are set aside as vacation days for the students and staff of Yinghua Academy. The Yinghua administration would like to thank you for a great first term and express our sincerest hopes that you and yours enjoy a warm and happy holiday season. If you have any questions over the break, email the office at info@yinghuaacademy.org



Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

Last Friday was the 4th & 5th Grade Activity Night. As you may know, we went to the Zero Gravity trampoline park in Mounds View. All told, we had 77 students attend. In addition, Jill Griffiths (mother of 5th grader Jia Griffiths) was able to invited 5 Chinese students from the U of M to join us for the evening. Three of them were Olympic Champions (speed skating, trampoline, and wrestling) and two were grad students from the Dept of Kinesiology. They joined the students in jumping around and playing and from what the students told me, it was a ton of fun! I would like to send a special thanks to Jill for connecting us with these special guests! I'd also like to thank the 4th & 5th grade teachers Wenyun Dong, Wenjuan Wang, Ai Ai Lin, Lu Yang, Yupeng Deng, and Jing Wang, as well as the Student Life Prefects Mia Erickson (8), Zoe Parish (8), Madison Kuba (7), Jo Li Lacy (7), Nick Lozinski (7), Clare Murphy (6), and Mae Harmsen (6) for helping to plan and chaperone the event. It wouldn't have been a success without them!

On another note, the next YACA General Membership Meeting is coming up in January. It has been requested that we do a presentation on Child Cyber Safety for parents as part of the January 15th meeting. A couple of weeks ago, I sent out a copy of the Parent Guide from the Center for Safe & Responsible Internet Use. In case you missed it, we have attached it again to this week's newsletter. Much of what I will be talking about will come from this guide. I will also be presenting additional things that I have learned from conversations and presentations with police and school counselors over the years, as well

as my own experiences working with young people in this very important area. We are also hoping to be able to bring in a special guest speaker for part of the evening. It will be a very informative meeting and I recommend all parents of students in grades 3 on up consider coming. You won't want to miss it!

Thanks and have a wonderful Winter Break!

Jeremy Brewer
Dean of Students



Sue's News (continued)

leagues who offered to translate for me. Of course, this benefitted me but also allowed me to share our Yinghua story. Whereas the opening day was filled with large group speeches, the remaining agenda was small group seminars. Once folks learned that I was the only American, I even had the chance to speak about Yinghua because people were so intrigued. The model in France is one period per day of Chinese or less so you can imagine how envious they are. I predict we will have many more visitors to Yinghua to study our immersion model as the French Ministry was here. Of course, we will be proud to share and always eager to learn.

As I will not have the chance to share season greetings with you in person, I wish you all happy holidays from afar. We look forward to a fabulous 2015!

Warm regards,
Sue Berg
Executive Director



Curriculum Corner (continued)

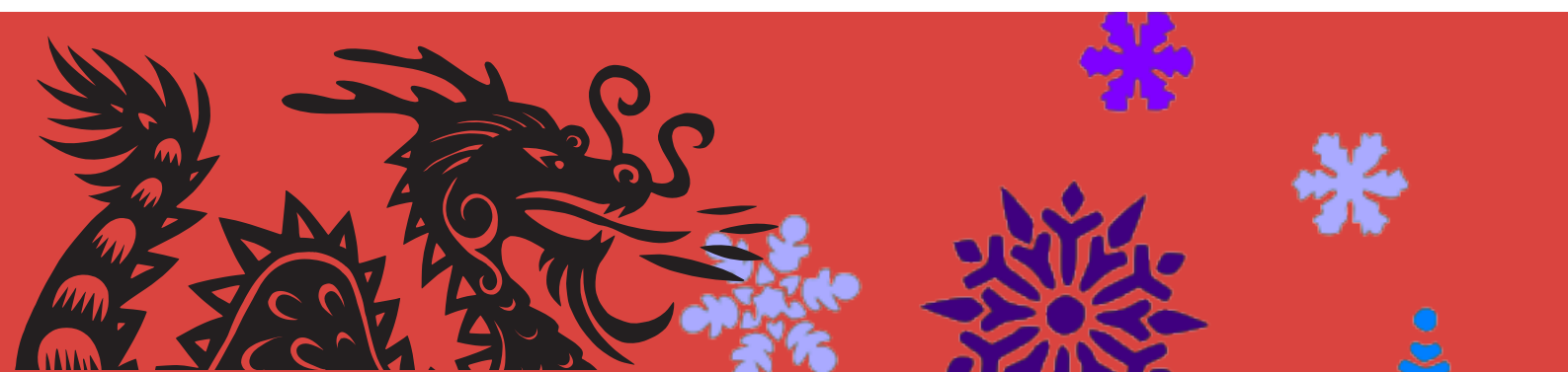
egies can we use to enhance students' learning?" Their focus is clearly on the students and learning.

Great teachers often have very high expectations for their students. They know how to cultivate good learning habits and teach the students the importance of perseverance and how it contributes to their future success. The teachers understand how tough love can play an important role and sometimes, the right decision may not be the most popular one. A Chinese saying provides the ideal mindset for educators: great teachers nurture their students to surpass them (青出于蓝更胜于蓝).

The teachers have been preparing winter break homework for the past couple weeks. With respect to precious family time, the teachers have carefully designed the assignments to prepare students for new learning and upcoming statewide testing. It is important that there is time set aside daily for homework during break to avoid last-minute panic. Students in grade K to 4 all have been sent home with a CD which contains Chinese stories, texts, and songs. Please remind your student to listen to the CD every day for 10 to 15 minutes to keep in touch with the Chinese language; daily reading in English and in Chinese is also strongly encouraged. Right after winter break, we will have another round of NWEA assessment and dive into the state testing season.

We appreciate all the support our parent community has shown us in 2014. Looking forward to 2015, we will continue to bear the serious responsibility of educating and shaping the young minds, and partnering with parents to foster truly bi-lingual and bi-culture students who are creative thinkers and collaborators with problem solving skills, open-mindedness and world perspective. We will also strive to be the national leader in the field of Chinese language immersion education. We look forward to a great 2015 and celebrating Chinese New Year with you!

Happy Winter!
Luyi Lien, Ph.D
Academic Director



After-School News

By Libby Pomroy

Enrichment class invoices went out this week, confirming classes for Term II. Payment is due no later than December 30. If you did not receive an invoice, contact libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org asap.

Yinghua Academy Conservatory of Music has finalized the Term II lesson schedule. If you did not receive an invoice for your Term II lessons, please contact libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org asap.

The January Dismissal Plan is open for entries now through December 30. This is a mandatory online form that all Yinghua families need to fill out for the safety of our students. THANKS to all who have filled out the form each month; it is making a huge difference at dismissal time. PLEASE submit only one form each month for each student. If you need to make a change, call or email the office. (Submitting two forms for the same student creates a duplicate that makes processing difficult.)

And finally, Aftercare and Enrichment Coordinator Libby Pomroy will be out after winter break following foot surgery. Please channel all questions and requests about Aftercare, Enrichment and music lesson scheduling to Laura Geisen -- laura.geisen@yinghuaacademy.org.



Physical Education Update

By Sarah Tall

Roller Skating

We have had so much fun the last 3 weeks. We enjoyed watching the students improve their skating skills. Looking forward to skating again next year. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped the first and second graders with skating.

Kids Play Day

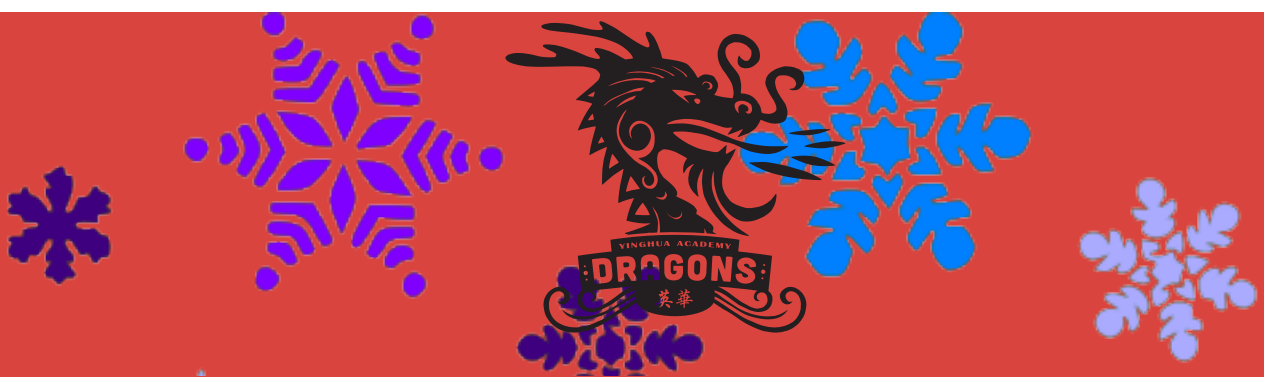
It was another fun event. We are off to a good start on our climbing wall fund raising. Thanks to all who helped in the event by being a participant or a middle school helper.

Traverse Climbing Wall

Round one of fund raising is done, next comes round two. We will be selling "hand holds" to individual families. This fundraiser will start January 5, 2015. Check out the Physical Education webpage for more details.

Cross Country Skis

We will be cross country skiing January 5-16 for Grades 1-8. We borrow skis, boots and poles from the Minnesota Youth Ski League mysl. We could use some volunteers for Grades 1-2.





And the Winner of the 2015 Chinese New Year Artwork Contest is...

By Wynnee Igel

And the winner of the 2015 Chinese New Year Artwork Contest is first grader Annelise Carlson! Annelise's mom helped her to research Chinese customs, flower symbolism, and traditions before deciding on the Chinese paper cutting design and various symbols. Annelise incorporated the Yinghua flowers as well as the 2015 themes. Both Annelise and her parents are extremely proud of her accomplishment. Some of the places we'll use the artwork are the program, DVD label, and school decorations. We are officially off to "Magnificent beginnings to an auspicious and prosperous year!" Just a reminder, we will have two Chinese New Year Performances at Bethel University on Saturday, February 28, 2015.

We received 45 entries for the Chinese New Year Artwork Contest by students in first through eighth grade. Clearly the students put forth a lot of thought and time into their artwork. As a parent, I am glad to see that our students are developing non-academic skills as well as their academic skills. The judges enjoyed seeing the wide variety of styles, media, and interpretations of sheep. We received hand-drawn, painted, computer-generated, and mixed media entries. Styles ranged from realistic to cartoon, humorous to serious, tough to cute and cuddly, and life-like to contemporary. We can only show some examples in the newsletter, but they'll all be on display in our pre-performance slideshow. Don't forget to upload those pictures to our Yinghua Shutterfly site at <https://yinghuaacademy.shutterfly.com/> by January 15!

Congratulations to all of our participants:

Penuel Lin, Mira Kucera, Amelia Schulz, Addica Sharbono, Mingmay Thomsen, Jason Kwon, Anjali Felicetta, Berkeley Lin, Evelyn Fontaine, Isabella Kunc, Karin Hoyt, Grazina Troup, Cecilia Shatto, Kathryn Piersma, Margaret Dorow, Jamie Kwon, Milena Beitz, Miriam Corpstein, Charlotte Rinta, Eleanor Alexander, Emmy Susanka, Lukas Hoyt, Naila Hall, Noah Tietjen, Rosalie Dobrovolsky, Alexandra Rimbu, Carrie Galligan, Jean Xie, Lynn Wilcox, Mary - Katherine Seabloom, Hannah Addink, Mikayla Franke, Nadia Wang, Peter Clementson, Rowan Bickett, Mary Jane Owens, Ursula Beitz, Kaelyn Chen, Alayna Tan, Samuel Hoyt, Claire Wilcox, Emma Quie, Summer Skelly, Raina Meyer



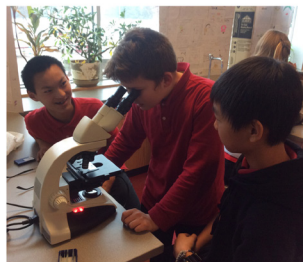


Middle School Science Update

By Andrew Scheid

5th grade has finished a unit on the Water Cycle and Weather. Students learned the processes of the water cycle, the importance of freshwater as a limited natural resource, the factors that affect weather and how to measure them, and the difference between climate and weather. Winter Break homework is a packet on the Solar System, which will be our subject upon return.

6th grade had an excellent time learning about kinetic and potential energy with roller coasters. Students learned about six types of energy and how energy can change forms. They made their own marble roller coasters with a "cup jump" and a "vertical loop" and then did combinations. Infrared gates were used to calculate the speed of a marble on a track to determine where it had the most kinetic energy. Winter Break homework involves testing paper towels for strength and durability.



7th and 8th grade students have been studying cells, the basic units of life. Students learned the parts of a cell and their functions that support life processes such as using energy or reproduction. We then observed animal cheek cells, plant cells from onions and aquatic leaves, and living protists from pond water. Students did a great job using microscopes and had many "Wow!" moments. Winter Break homework will continue our study of cells with the textbook.

Middle School ELA Update

By Bradly Byykkonen

Congratulations to Mary McDonald for winning the Yinghua Academy spelling bee with the word OFFICIOUS. She goes on to the next round, which is a computer test. If she scores high enough on the computer test, she will go on to the district finals.

Good job to all the students that made it to the spelling bee!

