



YINGHUA ACADEMY

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Chinese Team Update

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Picture Retake Payment Info.

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Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

Last week we started learning about Cyber Safety in the 5-8 Grade Discovery classes. The sessions have been incredibly informative and the students have been very engaged, asking lots of really good questions. Many have come to me saying how fascinating they are finding the information. Of course, technology is a huge part of their lives today, so it makes sense that they are all ears when it comes to this topic. The sessions are 2-3 parts in length so they will last throughout December. The last session will be mostly Q & A which we find very valuable after the information has been able to percolate amongst the students for a couple of weeks. As we go through the sessions, be sure to ask your children about what they are learning. I'm sure they would love telling you interesting tidbits!

In addition to the Discovery sessions, we have also put all grade 5-8 student email accounts on hold so we can do a routine spot-check for safety and adherence to school policies. These routine spot checks are a normal part of managing technology and keeping our students safe. This particular spot check coincides perfectly with our Cyber Safety discussions. We wanted

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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Yinghua Families,

As I am writing this week's Curriculum Corner, Mrs. Berg should have arrived in Xiamen, China to attend the 9th Global Confucius Institute Conference and represent Yinghua to receive the 2014 Confucius Classroom of the Year Award.

Last week, we were notified by Hanban of this great news. Hanban is the Confucius Institute Headquarters and a public institution affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education. Hanban/Confucius Institute is committed to providing Chinese language and cultural teaching resources and services worldwide, meeting the demands of foreign Chinese learners, and contributing to the development of multiculturalism and the building of a harmonious world.

Each year, only 5 schools/institutions around the world will receive the Confucius Classroom of the Year

award. Currently under the 471 Confucius Institutes established in 125 countries and regions, there are a total of 730 Confucius Classrooms. It is a great honor to be selected and receive this award.

The criteria used to select the Classroom of the Year are rigid. Yinghua was given this honor based on our performance in these areas: (1) Number of students enrolled who are learning Chinese; (2) Academic performance and excellent Chinese proficiency of the entire school; (3) Unique curriculum design joining Chinese and western Cultures; (4)

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Upcoming Events and Announcements



Informational Open House for Prospective Kindergarten Families



SLO Activity Night (Grades 4-5)

Brewer's Blog (continued)

you to know in case your children mention that their school email isn't working. The spot checks should be done in about a week, so this will cause minimal disruption.

In addition, I wanted to send out a very informative parent handout about Cyber Safety. It is from the Center for Safe & Responsible Internet Use and is one of the best summaries about being safe online that I have ever found. Much of what we are talking about in our sessions is also in this handout. I would highly recommend that every parent read through this information. In today's world, it is more important than ever to be well informed about such things. Even if your child is not yet in possession of a cell phone, iPad, or computer, it is only a matter of time before they will be. We want to help all of our parents stay ahead of the curve, which is no small task nowadays! You may not think this information applies to your 3rd grader for example, but in a few short years it will. So, take a look! You will find it worthwhile!

Lastly, we would like to remind parents that all dismissal changes must be submitted by 10:30am on the day of the dismissal. We are getting far too many walk-in and last minute requests after 10:30 for children to be dismissed a few minutes early, be sent to aftercare when they weren't supposed to go that day, be pulled from aftercare when they were originally scheduled for it, ride the bus, not ride the bus, etc., etc. Please understand that we have 660+ students to manage and each one has a custom dismissal plan. For reasons of safety, efficiency, and sanity, we simply cannot accommodate these last minute requests. They must be made by 10:30am. We will no longer adjust your dismissal plans for requests made after 10:30; there are simply too many moving parts. If you arrive towards the end of the day and ask to pull your children last minute, we will have to ask you to wait. The only exceptions are serious emergencies. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

With that, I will wish you all a wonderful weekend!

Jeremy Brewer
Dean of Students



Curriculum Corner (continued)

Financial health, including our active status of government funding and support; (5) Collaboration with the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota; (6) Cultural programs in the community and their impact; (7) Global outreach and impact on our students and Chinese students, such as language and cultural exchange with Students at our sister school, Hohhot Middle School Number Eight, in Inner Mongolia and hosting worldwide visitors and delegations; (8) Contributions to professional conferences and papers; and (9) Outstanding media reports around the world.

This award means a lot to all of us working at Yinghua. This award recognizes our hard work and inspires us to continue our efforts. This award also acknowledges the students' hard work, and the parents' generous and continuous support. I can proudly say that we, parents, students, teachers, staff, the administration, and the Board, all have been bestowed this great honor. Congratulations, everyone, and keep up the excellent work!

Have a great long weekend!

Luyi Lien, Ph.D
Academic Director

Science Update

By Andrew Scheid

5th grade students will be studying the Water Cycle, Water on Earth, and Weather during the next few weeks. Earth Science is our focus for Term 2, with units such as "Earth, Moon, and Sun", "Geology and Landforms", and "Natural Resources".

6th grade students are studying the forms of energy and energy transformations. Students will design and construct a marble rollercoaster in order to observe potential and kinetic energy in action.

7th and 8th grade students have been discussing Disease, with a focus on Ebola and other viruses. Students have some great questions about this topic with interest in our current events. We will be studying cells with microscopes on loan from the Science Museum for the next two weeks.

A special thank you goes out to Jerry Wenzel, a Yinghua grandparent. Mr. Wenzel donned his lab coat and brought in great demonstration materials for a presentation to our Middle School students. Students were highly engaged and excited by Mr. Wenzel's excellent Science Show.



Chinese Team Update

By Jasmine Lu

Here are two photos of 6 graders playing the interactive on-line eChinese learning games. They have to understand the questions and choose the correct answers. If they choose the correct answer, they can play a little interactive game and win points. This can get intense in class.

eChinese has online text, phrases, interactive games, writing projects, Chinese idiom stories, jokes, reading articles and reading comprehension tests. They are all related to our learning materials, so that students can review what they have already learned and preview what they might learn in the near future.

eChinese is a very useful tool for our students. Not only is it interactive but it also targets the learning material we use at school. Yinghua Academy has purchased the accounts for all 5th and 6th graders. They have the user ID and password to use this fun learning tool at home. Please try this with your child and explore more interesting ways to learn Chinese.

www.eChineseworld.com



Physical Education News

By Sarah Totall

ROLLER SKATES: We are having a lot of fun with the roller skates. We have the skates for 2 more weeks. The kids learn so much within one day of skating.

KIDS PLAY DAY: Saturday December 13 from 1:00-5:00pm. PE fundraiser for \$25. Drop off your KG-5th grader for a day of fun at Yinghua (roller skating, sledding, marshmallow roasting and gym games). Proceeds go toward a traverse climbing wall for the gym. To register or for more details go to the Physical Education page under the Current Families tab.

ATHLETIC UPDATE

The Dragons had two victories Wednesday night for the first ever basketball games in the gym. The 5-6th grade A & B teams each played one game. Stop by the gym next Wednesday or Friday to watch the Dragons play. We have pom-poms and concessions. Grades 5-6 play on December 10 at 4:30 and 5:30. Grades 7-8 play on December 12 at 5:30.



Family Clay Opportunity

By Meghan Byram

In the spirit of clay, and the season, I will be offering a drop-in clay studio Saturday, December 6th from 10:00am -2:00pm and Monday, December 8th from 5:00pm-7:00pm. The project will be small scale relief sculpture, perfect for a wall hanging or a personalized ornament. Glazing dates are the following week.

\$10 per project (an artist can purchase multiple projects)

Your \$10 includes:

- A 4 inch by 5 inch flat slab of clay
- Access to clay tools and art classroom space
- I will take care of firing your pieces when dry in the kiln
- Glazing (glaze is the coating that is often used on ceramic pieces, it has a finished look of shiny paint or glass)
- A second firing, after glazing the sculpture is fired again.

Sculpting studios:

- December 6th 10:00am-2:00pm
- December 8th 5:00pm-7:00pm

Glazing days:

- December 13th 3:00pm-5:00pm (glazing takes less time)
- December 15th 5:00pm-7:00pm

Why to sculpt this season:

Clay is fun, it's cold outside, you can give personalized gifts or make a memento of 2014, you can honor a tradition (bring a favorite family cookie cutter as your template and make keepsakes for everyone), you can drop in for 15 minutes or 2 hours, you can bring all the kids, you can bring no kids, you can bring a friend, you can try something new (or old), you can immortalize your 5 year old's printed name by bringing your 5 year old or a big enough template of their 'signature' to work from, you can purchase one slab per letter in your last name (or address numbers) and make a sign for your house, and you can be creative.

All projects will be glaze-fired and ready for pick up or sent home Thursday December 18th. Please enter school on the Saturday dates at the art room door (Door 16) on the playground side of the school. All children must have an adult present.

Please contact me (Ms. Byram) with any questions at Meghan.byram@yinghuaacademy.org



The finished pieces have been glazed

Conservatory of Music Term II Update

By Libby Pomroy

Yinghua Academy Conservatory of Music Term II is just weeks away, starting up right after winter break. If you have a returning student, or if you are new in Term II, you should have received your lesson schedule information and an invoice for Term II. If you did NOT receive an invoice via email, contact libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org. Lessons begin the week of January 5 and run through February 27, with a make-up week beginning March 9. Contact yinghua.music.conservatory@gmail.com for questions about teachers, what you need to begin, and lesson books.

Winter Enrichment is Here!

By Libby Pomroy

Whether you like to stay inside or get outside in the winter, Yinghua Enrichment has classes to make the most of the season, from the legendary Winter Adventure classes to great gym offerings like martial arts and floor hockey. The arts shine with new classes in clay (with Ms. Byram), theater and Chinese arts. Get active with Zumba. Build a working creation with Legos. Get creative with writing. Calm down with yoga. LOTS more learning and fun -- scroll through the class catalog and register online. Classes fill fast; register now! Registration is online only, and it closes at 3 p.m. on Friday, December 12; no late registrations accepted.

Find the catalog and registration information on the Yinghua website under Current Families/Enrichment-program.



It is the most wonderful time of the year...to start running!

By Meghan Byram

It's true! Running in the winter is the best time of the year for beginners--far less pressure to run fast. With every homeowner's different shoveling habits a runner is forced to slow down and improve his/her balance and footing. I find that this makes every run easier. I have no worries or awareness of my pace and in some ways concentrating on my footing makes my runs pass quickly. Besides the good health benefits, there is the added bonus of feeling like you are participating in an extreme sport! At a time when many people hibernate, runners get to experience winter and enjoy the outdoors when there are less people outside to share it with.

Running Club will now meet in the Art Room Thursdays at 4:00pm. You can enter through the main door, Door 2, and walk straight through the commons to the art room. It's getting dark earlier!

If you're looking to build to a distance, there will be a winter route that will allow runners to participate to a 1, 2, or 3 mile distance of their choice.

Kim Gill will be back to running club this spring; until then I really hope to have some new company!

Please contact me at Meghan.byram@yinghuaacademy.org for any questions about schedule, clothing, etc.

Payment Information for Picture Day Retakes

By Dave Madsen

If your child took Picture Day retakes on Wednesday, December 3rd, and you paid for the same order as your previous Picture Day packet, you are entitled to a refund from Lifetouch. If your child did not take pictures on Picture Day (October 24th) and took pictures during the Retake Day, you are to pay in full for the package you requested. If, however, you ordered a different package on Retake Day than the original packet you selected on October, you will pay/be refunded for the difference between the two packages.

All questions and refund requests can be directed to Dave Madsen in the front office: dave.madsen@yinghuaacademy.org; 612-788-9095

Social Studies News

By Jan Kleinman

Grade 8 just completed their New Nation-States unit. These photos show them busy researching data for these countries. This week, they are beginning a unit about mapping Latin America.

Grade 6 is moving from the U.S. Constitution to a new unit about the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. This little-discussed episode in Minnesota history still aches in the memories of victims' descendants. What does your family know about it?

