



Issue n. 26 | Apr. 2015

# YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 學 校

PE Update  
See Page 3

[www.yinghuaacademy.org](http://www.yinghuaacademy.org)

Yinghua Summer Care Info.  
See Page 3

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## Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear Parents,

I'm buried in preparation for our annual site visit by representatives from Friends of Education. Naturally, many reports and documents are requested prior to their visit so that they are adequately prepared to understand our school. Needless to say, we are excited to have the opportunity to share "Yinghua Live" with them on Monday, April 13, from 8:30AM-12:30PM.

We've had several recent opportunities for parent education. In fact, last night I heard several very seasoned Yinghua parents who attended "Raising IT Citizens" comment that it was one of the most informative, eye-opening sessions they've experienced. I would agree and as you can imagine, I've attended too many to count!

On Monday, May 11, from 6:30-8:00PM we will have another such opportunity for parents. Professor Joe Allen from the Chinese Flagship program at the University of Minnesota will speak about this innovative, exciting program.

What is Flagship?

The Language Flagship is a project supported by the University of Minnesota.  
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## Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Yinghua Families:

Starting next week, students in grades 3 through 8 will take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). MCAs, mandated by the Minnesota Department of Education, are administered every spring to students to measure their performance on the Minnesota Academic Standards in Math and Reading.

Students in grades 5 and 8 will also be assessed in Science. These standards define what students should know and do in a particular grade. The big change this year is that students will take all the tests online, instead of the traditional paper-and-pencil method.

Here is the testing schedule:

### Reading

Time	Monday 4/13	Tuesday 4/14	Wednesday 4/15	Thursday 4/16	Friday 4/17
9:00 - 11:00	Grade 6	3D & Grade 7	3C	3B & Grade 8	3A
1:00 - 3:00	Grade 6	3D & Grade 7	3C	3B & Grade 8	3A
Time	Monday 4/20	Tuesday 4/21	Wednesday 4/22	Thursday 4/23	Friday 4/24
9:00 - 11:00	4B & 4C	4A	Grade 5		
1:00 - 3:00	4B & 4C	4A	Grade 5		

### Math

Time	Monday 4/27	Tuesday 4/28	Wednesday 4/29	Thursday 4/30	Friday 5/1
9:00 - 11:00		3A & Grade 8	3C & 3D	4A & 4B	4C
1:00 - 3:00		3B & Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	

### Science

Time	Monday 5/4	Tuesday 5/5	Wednesday 5/6	Thursday 5/7	Friday 5/8
9:00 - 11:00				Grade 8	
1:00 - 3:00				Grade 5	

We've been helping the students prepare for the MCAs in the classrooms, reviewing and reinforcing the concepts, and doing practice exercises. We've also provided extra review sessions for students who would benefit from such support. We want every student to be able to demonstrate their knowledge.

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## Upcoming Events and Announcements

04

23-24

15

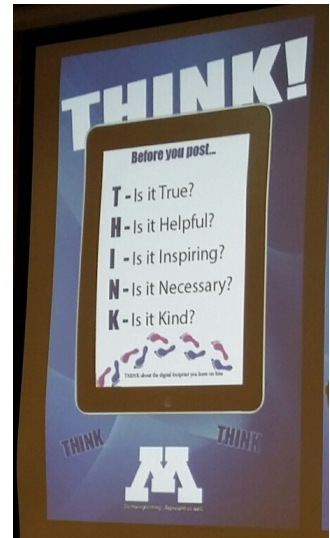
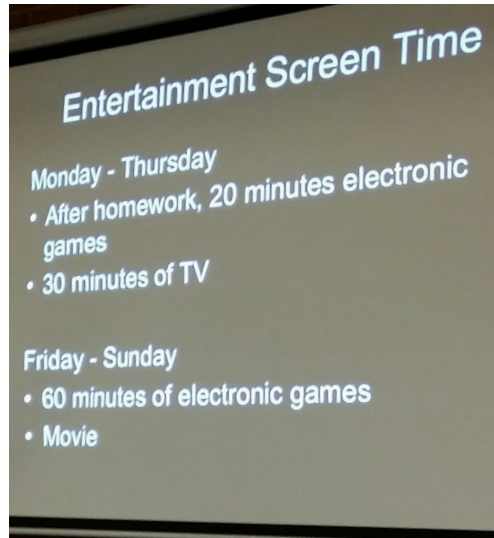
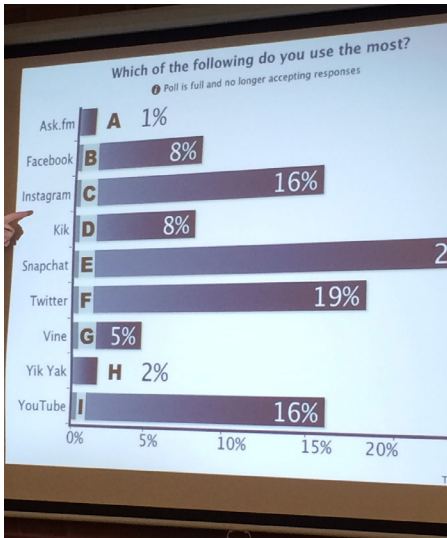
Parent-Teacher Conferences: 1/2 Day on the 23rd; NO SCHOOL on the 24th

04

17

15

Online Book Fair Begins  
(Regular Book Fair held on the 23rd and the 24th)



## Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

Last night we were honored to host our special guest Dave Eisenmann for a presentation about "Raising Good Digital Citizens". Mr. Eisenmann is the Director of Instructional Technology & Media Service in the Minnetonka School district. He has spoken to parents and students in over 70 school districts over the last 8 years. In addition, he has been an accomplished teacher, is a current high school track coach, and is the father of 4 children ranging in age from KG-9th grade. His presentation showed the combined knowledge and experience of his profession with the understanding and humor of a parent.

The presentation was outstanding! During the discussion he reviewed 8 of his "Top Tips for Parents and Teachers". Some of these topics included:

- Celebrating & Encouraging Positive Uses of Technology
- Proactively sharing your family's values, expectations, and consequences in relation to technology
- Modeling a Healthy Balance & Limiting Screen Time
- Actively engaging with your children and keeping informed of trends and pop culture
- Safety, Filters and Restrictions for Various Devices

Some of the things that I personally took away from the evening were to teach students to "be where your feet are" (not distracted and glued to a screen) and to teach students to monitor what they are posting with the "Grandma Test" (if

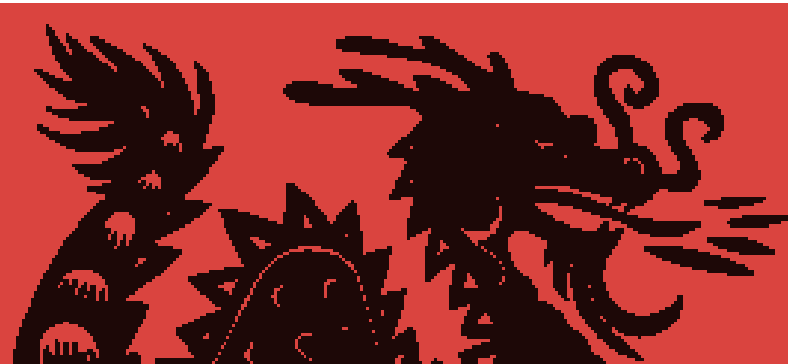
Grandma wouldn't approve, you shouldn't post it). I also really appreciated a comment he made summarizing the difference between the last two generations. When we were growing up, our parents gave us the "Big 3" talk: sex, drugs, & alcohol. Now, it's the "Big 4": sex, drugs, alcohol, AND technology. That about sums it up.

After the meeting I chuckled as I overheard Mrs. Berg lightly ask a parent, "Did you learn anything?", to which the parent exclaimed, "I learned too much!" But, as Dave explained, he is only able to scratch the surface of these vast topics during a 90 minute presentation. He admonished us to share the link to the complete list of his tips with all of our families. It can be found at [tinyurl.com/CyberResources](http://tinyurl.com/CyberResources). Simply type this address into your web browser and you will be taken to the document that he handed out last night. The document is full of live links to tons of useful information for parents and teachers. There are even links to videos of two past presentations he has made to parents of 6-12th graders and KG-5th graders. If you missed the meeting last night, I highly recommend checking out these videos.

I promise, you will be thankful you did.

With that, I'll wish you all a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Brewer



## Sue's News (continued)

ported by National Security Education Program (NSEP). The program funds the study of languages that are important for U.S. national security and economic competitiveness. Their programs are intended to provide support to students of all disciplines to reach superior proficiency by the American Councils for Teaching of Foreign Language standards. The University of Minnesota was awarded a Chinese Language Flagship in 2014, which provides undergraduate students with pathways to professional-level proficiency in Chinese alongside the academic major of their choice. Students who are admitted to the program receive generous financial support.

Professor Allen will discuss admission criteria and career paths for students. He hopes to bring a current or former Flagship student to talk about his/her own career and how Chinese fits. As our immersion students progress in their learning of Chinese, it will be a good opportunity to find out more about higher education and career opportunities for your children.

Speaking of learning, Dr. Lien and I will be attending the National Chinese Language Conference next week in Atlanta, Georgia. We will partake in a panel presentation with colleagues from CELIN, the Chinese Early Language Immersion Network, entitled: "I Love Early Language and Immersion Programs but I Have Tons of Questions". We are delighted to have two of our MS Chinese Language Arts teachers, Yang Lu and Liu Bo, join us. They will be showcased in another presentation called: "Chinese Languages and Leadership Development: Motivate Deeper Learning for our Future Leaders".

I think spring has sprung at last!

Warm regards,  
Sue Berg

## Curriculum Corner (continued)

their efforts and do their personal best!

During the testing season, parents can also support us by making sure that your student is well rested at night, eats a nutritious breakfast (and lunch), and arrives at school on time. It would also be greatly appreciated, if parents can avoid scheduling appointments on the days your student is scheduled for testing.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about testing, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Luyi Lien

## PE Update

By Sarah Totall

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Pacer: Grades 2-8 will be taking the Pacer running test next week. Make sure your child is prepared by getting plenty of sleep, eating healthy, and practicing.

Popsicle Run: Tentative date set for May 12 & 13. We will be running a 1/2 mile up to 2 miles (depending on grade and personal goals).

Wheels Week: May 18-29 for Grades 1-8. Biking, scooters, skate boards, in-line skates, roller skates and ripsticks. Details will be posted in May on the PE webpage and the weekly update.

### ATHLETICS

Track and Field starts Thursday, April 16.

Sports Sampler for Grades 1-3 on Thursdays. There are still spots left for this fun class. Registration forms can be found on the athletic webpage.

Volleyball fan appreciation games on April 15 & 17. We will be pulling out the bleachers and getting out the pom-poms to cheer on the Dragons. Stop by and watch the game. Games start at 4:30 PM and end around 6:00 PM. Grades 5-6 play on Wednesday and Grades 7-8 play on Friday. Go Dragons!

## Yinghua Summer Care Info.

By Libby Pomroy

### SAVE THE DATES!

Yinghua Academy is launching its first-ever enrichment program this summer! From July 13-24, we'll run enrichment classes throughout the day. Classes can be longer and more in-depth with day-long programming.

In addition, SummerCare runs from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM those two weeks. More information is coming! Registration opens Wednesday, April 22, and information will be available at Parent-Teacher Conferences.

