

YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 学 校

MCA Information

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Health Office Updates

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www.yinghuaacademy.org

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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear Parents,

As you enjoy the beautiful warm weather in Minnesota, I, too, am basking in the sun and taking in fresh air in Mexico over spring break. My husband and I travel to Mexico every year for vacation but what makes this trip special is that we will have my four brothers and their wives with us! Knowing how important it is that families get together during Chinese New Year makes it all the more meaningful to have this wonderful opportunity to be with my siblings.

I hope you all will have a magnificent spring break and come back refreshed and ready for Term III!

Warm regards,
Sue

Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Parents,

Once again, I will be leading a group of Middle School students to visit China. This will be our fourth year organizing such a trip. This year the trip is planned for the summer, tentatively in June. We will be holding an information session at 5:00PM on Wednesday, March 25 in the school library. Please join us and learn more about this opportunity for your Middle School students.

In the mean time, if you are interested in our past travel experiences, we've worked with the Asia Society to develop this information page on their website: <http://asiasociety.org/china-learning-initiatives/yinghua-academy-minneapolis-minnesota>. By visiting this page, you will be able to find Yinghua-specific information, such as the overview of our China trip program, and testimonials from our parents and students.

From our past travels, I've learned that in order for our students to have a great experience, the most important thing we need to do before setting foot in China is prepare students with a mindset to learn. This trip has been designed with clear objectives - we are creating an environment and opportunity where students are guided to explore and

experiment with their knowledge and skills, and form new understandings about what they see. That being said, students are the ones who need to make up their minds to fully make use of this opportunity and apply their learned Chinese. I am totally convinced that our Middle School students are very capable of using Chinese to communicate with native Chinese speakers.

In order for students to understand this learning experience and how they can maximize their learning from this trip, we ask students to write a short essay to apply for this trip; all participants will also be required to be members in the China Trip Club which will take place at Noon on Mondays. We will discuss the objectives for the trip, help students set up their personal goals, preview the places

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Upcoming Events and Announcements

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16-20

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Spring Break: NO SCHOOL

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March Music Madness

Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

Spring Break is here! Woo-hoo! We have certainly had a wonderful week of spring weather to get us ready for the break! Knowing that many of you are probably anxious to get out of town or enjoy your family-time away from school, I am going to keep this as brief as I can.

Local Community Service Project - Now that spring is here it's time for our school wide "local" community service project. Did you know that many food shelves also collect pet food?! For this year's local community service project, we will be doing a pet food drive and donating all of the pet food to our friends, The Little Kitchen, located in our old Kinder Campus building in NE Minneapolis. We will collect the food April 1st-30th. Items must be store bought; cat food is preferred, though dog food is also accepted. Bring your items to the large grey cart parked under the main stairs in the cafeteria starting Wednesday, April 1.

"What's the Scoop?" - Tuesday evening, March 31, is our yearly "What's The Scoop" 5th grade orientation. All current 4th graders and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend this event which will cover many of the things you can expect as you prepare to enter the 5th grade. There will also be an ice cream treat for all those who attend. Be sure to join us and bring lots of questions!

Middle School Spring Dance - April 10th is the MS Spring Dance for present and past students who are currently in Grades 6-8. The theme for this dance is "Spring Formal". The cost for admission will be \$10 per student and we'll be handing out registration forms on Monday, March 23rd. Registrations are due by Friday, April 2nd. You can turn them in with payment to the Main Office.

I think that's everything for now.

Please have a wonderful break and we'll see you on the 23rd!

Jeremy Brewer

Office Hours Over Spring Break

By Dave Madsen

Even though your children are on vacation, our office staff will still be at Yinghua to assist anyone who needs to drop off forms or speak with someone at our main desk. Our modified Spring Break hours are Monday-Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM & Thursday-Friday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Curriculum Corner (continued)

we will visit, and have an etiquette course about appropriate manners and conducts when traveling in China and staying with host families.

To help families lessen the financial obligations of this trip, there is a good possibility that we may receive a Hanban grant to support a portion of the domestic travel expense. I will keep you posted.

I am excited about this opportunity for our students to explore China and hope to see many parents at the information session. Please feel free to contact me at luyi.lien@yinghuaacademy.org with questions about the China trip. Enjoy this beautiful weather and have a relaxing Spring Break!

Sincerely,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D.

Social Studies News

By Jan Kleinman

Learn more history over Spring Break!

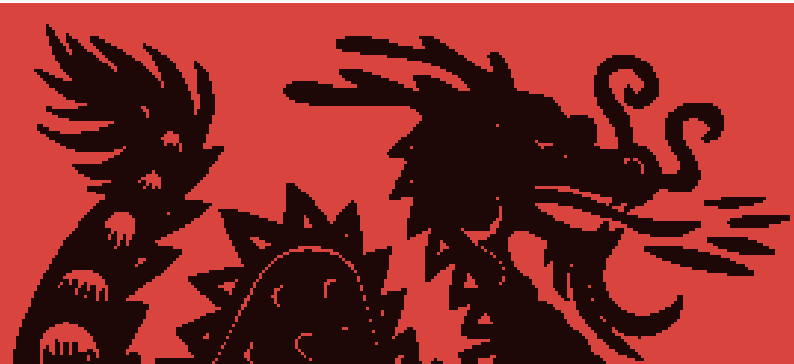
Grade 6 and other students may find this exhibit of interest. The Star-Tribune notes: The traveling exhibit, "Commemorating Controversy: The U.S.-Dakota War of 1862," will be on display at the Lawshe Memorial Museum, 130 3rd Av. N. in South St. Paul through March 28.

The exhibit, produced by Gustavus Adolphus College students and the Nicollet County Historical Society, explores the war's causes, voices, events and lasting consequences. For more information, call 651-552-7548.

March Music Madness Registration Update

By Dave Madsen

Lin Laoshi and all other organizers of March Music Madness would like to thank everyone who registered on time for this exciting event. Due to an overwhelming number of students who have shown their enthusiasm and registered on time, we are unable to accept any registration forms that came in past the registration deadline: Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Thank you!



PE Update

By Sarah Totall

Good news! The climbing wall installation/completion is scheduled for Monday March 16. We are so excited to teach the students how to safely use the climbing wall when they return from Spring Break.

Ms. Thune is offering a Sports Sampler class from April 30-June 4th from 3:45-5:30 PM. Sports Sampler is an introductory sport program for students in Grades 1-3. Students will learn about a variety of sports by participating in developmentally appropriate lead-up games. Sports covered will be basketball, soccer, tee-ball, tennis, mini-golf and bowling. Please visit the Yinghua Athletic page to sign up!

Kids Play Day

Saturday March 28 from 1:00-5:00 PM. Special activities: climbing, hide and seek, scavenger hunt and gym games. Registration forms can be found on the PE webpage. Proceeds go to Wheels Week equipment.

Summer Camp at Yinghua

There are only a few spots left for Adventure Camp for students going into Grades 4-6. Camp activities include biking, geocaching, swimming, visiting a skate park, learning camp fire skills, and more. Registration form can be found on the PE webpage.



Chinese New Year photos provided by Eric Ludwig



After School Notes

By Libby Pomroy

Enrichment

Confirmation emails and invoices for Term III Enrichment went out this week. Payment for classes is due by March 23. If you registered for classes and you did not receive an email, please contact libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy as soon as possible. Classes begin the week of March 23, right after spring break, except for Lacrosse and Tennis, which begin April 8. If you are interested in joining Lacrosse (K-2) or Tennis (K-3), email Libby -- there are still a few spots open.

Conservatory of Music

Term III Conservatory of Music is scheduled and invoices were sent in February. Payment for spring lessons is due now. If you need another copy of your invoice, email libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org. If you are interested in lessons next fall, watch for information in a summer mailing.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs)

By Phil Morris

As spring approaches it is time to turn our attention to the MCAs. The MCAs are state tests in mathematics, reading and science. They are given every year to measure student performance against the Minnesota Academic Standards that specify what students in a particular grade should know and be able to do. Teachers have been working with their students for the last few weeks as they prepare to take the online tests. Students in Grades 3-8 will take both the Reading and Mathematics MCA, while students in Grades 5 and 8 will also take the Science MCA.

Test	Grade	Dates
Reading	3-8	April 13-April 22
Mathematics	3-8	April 27-May 1
Science	5 & 8	May 7

Please visit the assessments page under the resources tab of our school's website for more information about the MCAs as well as helpful links to online sample tests for reading, mathematics and science. <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/resources/assessments/>

If you have any questions regarding the MCAs please contact our Assessment Coordinator, Phil Morris (phillip.morris@yinghuaacademy.org).



Health Office Policy for Pick-up of Sick Students

By Ginger Hao

Yinghua Parents,

We wanted you all to be aware of an important school policy. If the health office decides that a student is unable to remain at school, due to a possible infectious illness or an injury requiring medical attention (see Health Office webpage for examples), parents must **PICK UP THEIR CHILD WITHIN ONE HOUR**. This is for the health and safety of the individual student and the rest of the student body. The Health Office can be a very busy place and we cannot accommodate sick students for long periods of time and putting other students at risk. If you are not able to come immediately to pick up your child, emergency contacts will be notified. We ask all parents to anticipate possible delays they may experience and have a back-up plan in place in case they are not able to come within the hour. If you have any questions, please contact the Health Office. Thank you so much for your understanding.

In the News: Measles and Our School's Plan

By Ginger Hao

Yinghua Community,

Please check out the Health Office webpage for a new link called, "In the News: Measles Facts". This week we will focus on the recent Measles outbreak and YA's plan. We will periodically add new articles to this page discussing important health issues related to our students. While you are there, please check out the other helpful resources on our webpage.

Thanks!

Health Office Policy for Pick-up of Sick Students

By Ginger Hao

Yinghua Parents,

Did you know that current research shows that it is actually very rare for lice to be spread within the school classroom, even among elementary students? Even the spread of lice by sharing helmets or hats is rare since lice do not like to leave the scalp, their source of food. Since lice cannot fly or jump, and can only live off the human head for a brief time, lice is spread almost exclusively by head to head contact. Therefore, research shows that lice is spread most often at sleep-overs or close contact with other family members and friends. These types of activities often take place during breaks from school, so we highly recommend that you check your child's hair before and after any sleep-overs or playdates over Spring Break, as well as periodically throughout the year. Remember, it usually takes a few weeks before children show signs of lice. Lice eggs (nits) are most often found on the hair shaft close to the scalp behind the ears and at the neckline. For more information and helpful resources, see the Health Office link: "What parents need to know about lice."



Chinese New Year photos provided by Eric Ludwig

