

# YINGHUA ACADEMY

英 華 学 校

CNY Wrap-up

See Page 5

Yinghua Gala Information

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

(612) 788-9095

[newsletter@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:newsletter@yinghuaacademy.org)

## Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

Dear Parents,

We are all still flying high from our Chinese New Year performances last Saturday. We were so pleased and consider the day a success in every way.

I have the highest admiration for Dr. Lien, who is the chief architect of this celebration of language and culture in honor of this most important holiday! First, she inspires our teachers to reach for the stars relative to the content, creativity, and authenticity of the program. Then, together they motivate the students to take ownership and to showcase their talents and their love for Chinese. YACA Cultural Coordinator, Wynee Igel, deserves accolades for her incredible attention to every detail in regards to venue, tickets, props, costumes, and logistics. According to her hours of service, she earned fulltime status with us, and we are so grateful! Last but not least, thank you to every single one of the nearly 300 parent volunteers who contributed for the sake of our kids! Don't forget to order your DVD so that you can relive the memories over and over.

Looking Ahead: Important Dates

What's the Scoop?

Tuesday, March 31, from 5:00-7:00PM

Join us to learn everything you wanted to  
continued on page 3

## Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Families,

With the generous gift from our parent association, YACA, tonight (March 6) all staff members are treated to a family-style dinner at Peking Garden as the finale to our series of Chinese New Year celebrations. We really appreciate the parents' thoughtfulness and support!

So many of our New Year activities center around the family theme. I love how we all converged at Yinghua and created this strong and beautiful family, having the same goals and heading in the same direction. Together we educate our students to become bi-lingual, bi-literate, and open-minded with global perspectives. I hope in the New Year, we continue to remember what motivates us, acknowledge what we've accomplished thus far, and recommit to our goals.

At the beginning of a new year, it is a good time for us all to review our school's mission to remind ourselves of the purpose of Yinghua's existence: The mission of Yinghua Academy is to prepare our students to be engaged and productive global citizens by

providing a research-based educational program that includes a rigorous academic program, immersion in Chinese language and culture, and a nurturing and supportive school environment.

I also ask myself repeatedly the following questions to examine my commitment to the school's mission:

- Did we notice the needs of the whole child? Did we address them and advocate for others to join me?
- Did we provide a rigorous academic program, immersion in Chinese language and culture to our students?
- Did I act as a global citizen by learning from best practices around the world, and did I work to ensure our students have the

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## Upcoming Events and Announcements

03

9-13

15

End of Term Week

03

16-20

15

Spring Break: NO SCHOOL



## Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

It seems like a lot of time has gone by since Pajama & Crazy Hair Day, especially with the Chinese New Year performance between us. But, I did want to share some of the great pictures I got so you can get a sampling of the fun day. The students and staff looked amazing and had a great time with it. Some were downright cute, while a few of the middle school students were a bit... scary might be the best word. I don't know about you, but seeing a bunch of 12-13 year olds looking like they just got out of bed can be quite the fright! Enjoy the pictures!

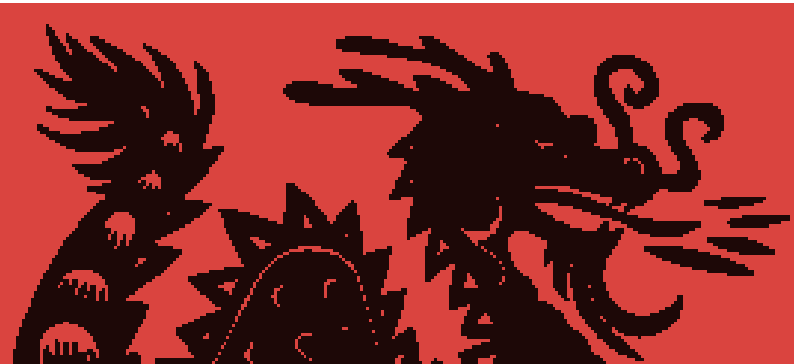
The next immediate item on the Student Life horizon is a new Student Life Period Club schedule for grades 5-8. We plan on rotating out many of the clubs we have had so far this year and replacing them with things like Dodge Ball Club, Calligraphy Club, Floor Hockey Club, Flag Football Club, Acting Improv Club, Big Base Club, and more! We will also be keeping some of the main stay clubs like Computer Lab, Library, Recess Club, Homework Lab, etc.

The new schedule will be published the first day after Spring Break, followed by a quick sign-up fair allowing students to pick a new club for each day of the week. Their new schedule will start Monday, March 30th and will run through the end of the school year. The students are very excited to explore new activities and mix things up a bit.

We do remind parents to have a conversation with your child(ren) if you have any strong feelings about how you would like them to spend their recess period each day. We do understand that some parents wish their children to pursue more academic activities during this time, while others want more physical activity, with many others desiring a mix of the two. Whatever the case may be, we leave it up to parents to give those preferences to their children before they sign up.

If you have any questions regarding the new SLO Period Clubs, please let me know.

Otherwise, have a wonderful weekend everyone!  
Jeremy Brewer



### Sue's News (continued)

know about Middle School at Yinghua! This year's session will be for our *current 4th graders and their parents* and will focus on orientation to 5th grade. After a welcome and orientation, we'll divide into small groups; each group of students and parents will travel from one 10-minute presentation to another in the new building. The different sessions, each led by MS teachers, specialists, or administrators, will focus on Math, Chinese, English, Science, SS, Student Life, study abroad, athletics, and Discovery Class. Learn about leveled classes, prefects, activity period, the 1-on-1 iPad program, and sister school phone conferences. We'll end the evening with pizza and Q & A in the cafeteria. Please RSVP to Dave Madsen at 612-788-9095 ext. 126 or at [dave.madsen@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:dave.madsen@yinghuaacademy.org) by Friday, March 27. Look for the *What's the Scoop?* postcard in the mail next week.

The students have an opportunity to demonstrate their academic prowess next week as we wrap up Term II. I know we'll all enjoy a well-deserved spring break the following week.

Don't forget to "spring ahead" this weekend!

Warm regards,  
Sue Berg

### Curriculum Corner (continued)

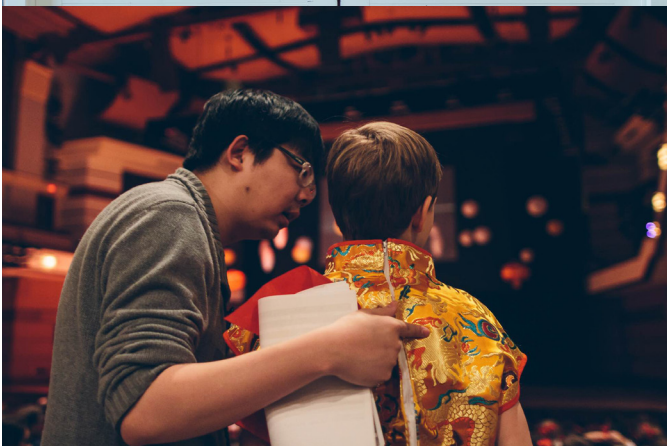
21 st century skills necessary to thrive?

- Did we provide a nurturing and supportive school environment for our students?

Through constant reflection and by living the mission, we stay true to our purpose. I echo Dr. Pekel's sentiments when he spoke for the Red Envelope Campaign at the performance on Saturday: we are educating our children to face a fast-paced, changing world; we are giving our children the ability to take charge, unfazed and with confidence to face all the possibilities. We are with you!

As the New Year celebration concludes tonight, we will resume our normal schedule next week. Students will be sitting for the Term II final exams before Spring Break. Have a prosperous Year of the Sheep!

Sincerely,  
Luyi Lien, Ph.D



## PE Update

By Sarah Totall

We are finishing up the term with some fitness testing. We will also be doing some fitness testing when we get back from Spring Break. The weather is getting warmer, so get out and exercise!

### KIDS PLAY DAY

Kids Play Day will be held on March 28, 2015 for grades KG-4 from 1:00-5:00 PM. There is a good chance that the climbing wall will be ready by that time. Activities include an obstacle course, a scavenger hunt, gym games and more. Proceeds go toward our May Wheels Week unit. For more details see the registration form on the Yinghua Physical Education page.

### ATHLETICS

Registration is still open for spring Badminton and Track & Field for Grades 4-8. Details can be found on the registration form, which can be accessed from the athletic webpage.

### INDOOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT MARCH 7 AT YINGHUA

Soccer reminder: Grades 1-2 play from 10:00 AM - Noon. Grades 3-5 play from 1:00 - 3:30 PM. Wear gym shoes (NO CLEATS), shin guards, and athletic clothing.

### YINGHUA SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP JUNE 15-19

An all day camp at Yinghua with wonderful outdoor adventures each day. Go to the PE webpage to find out more or to register.

Grades 4-6: Biking, swimming, geocaching, visiting a skate park, learning camp fire skills, exploring nature and more. We had so much fun last year traveling around the city by bike!

Grades 1-3: ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT! Games, swimming, scooters, yoga, camp fire sessions and more.

## Social Studies News

By Jan Kleinman

Grade 6 students are conducting interviews with an immigrant--someone who has moved from another country to Minnesota (or from Minnesota to another country to live). Thank you to all family (and staff!) members who have participated in this project! After the interview, students are thinking and writing about how each immigrant changed and how Minnesota (or the new country) changed, thanks to immigration.

Grade 7 students have just completed reading 2 sources about the battle of Fort Sumter, and writing about that event. Now they are comparing the North and the South during the Civil War, and learning which states fought on which side. Grade 5 has been learning about ancient Greece and ancient Rome. Grade 8 is learning about the Ming Dynasty and the Opium Wars

## CNY DVD and Photography Update

By Annie Sparrows

Volunteers were hard at work last Saturday during the Chinese New Year performances taking portraits and candid shots of every child in costume! Those photos will be sorted and uploaded to the school's Shutterfly account over the next week. We will send out viewing instructions when the files are up.

Also, don't forget it's your LAST CHANCE to order Chinese New Year performance DVDs! The order deadline has been extended through Sunday. Don't miss out! Order yours today at <http://yinghua.corecommerce.com/>

## After School Notes

By Libby Pomroy

**Conservatory of Music:** Make-up lessons for Winter Term are the week of March 9. If you are expecting a lesson, and you haven't heard from your teacher, please contact the teacher or [yinghua.music.conservatory@gmail.com](mailto:yinghua.music.conservatory@gmail.com). Spring term lessons begin the week of March 23. If you did not receive an invoice for Spring term, please contact [libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org). Payments are due now!

**Enrichment:** Registration for spring term ends at 5:00 on Friday, March 6. Registrations will be processed during the week of March 9. Expect your class confirmation and invoice for classes during that week. Once you receive your invoice, please submit your payment by March 23. Two classes from Winter term have make-up lessons: Mad Science on March 11, and Get Ready for Reading on March 11. Contact [libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org) if you have questions.

## Family Outing Opportunity

By Jan Kleinman

Related to Grade 6's Social Studies unit, a new Minnesota History Center exhibit focuses on Hmong immigrants and community in Minnesota. The exhibit opens on Saturday, March 7. Please see this link for more information: <http://www.minnesotahistorycenter.org/exhibits/we-are-hmong-minnesota>



## CNY Performance Wrap-up

By Wynee Igel

What wonderful performances by the students and teachers! I heard many comments about how much people enjoyed the entire performance. Extra programs are available in the Main Office. Some miscellaneous items (hats, gloves, water bottles) were found at Bethel and are in our school lost and found. Send any suggestions regarding the performance to Mrs. Berg, Dr. Lien, or myself. Although we won't be able to please everybody, the feedback is seriously considered in the planning of future events.

On behalf of myself, the students, and the staff, a big, big, THANK YOU to the many, many volunteers before, during, and now after all of the Chinese New Year activities, such as costume cleaning, inventory organization, photo uploads, and DVDs. With all of the activities, we had about 300 volunteers. I know not everybody is listed on our sign-up and some people pitched in because they were in the area and available, so I won't attempt to list all of the names. However, a special thank you goes to the organizing team: Media Lead Annie Sparrows, Food Lead and YACA Cultural Chair Hannah Easton, the Costume and Props Team (Carrie North, Laura Pang, Hannah Easton, and Wendi Harmsen), and Sewing Team Lead Beth Irish. If anyone is interested in helping take down decorations or sorting costumes and props, please contact Wynee.

## Art Updates

By Meghan Byram

### Free Famous Art

This Sunday March 8th is the Minneapolis Institute of Arts Free Family Day. The theme is royalty in honor of the Habsburg Dynasty special exhibit. The special exhibit will be visiting the MIA through May 10th only and this Sunday is the only chance to see it for FREE. In addition, there will be many royalty themed activities through out the museum including studio art projects.

### Clay Clay Clay!

Announcing and reminding of two clay opportunities coming up for our students.

1st: I will be teaching clay classes open to all grades through our Yinghua enrichment program during term three. Deadline is fast approaching, so look into the enrichment catalog for more information.

2nd: Summer Clay! Clay whistles, wild things, piggy banks, boxes, masks, bowls, castles, wind chimes and more. There are two sessions of clay classes offered at Yinghua this summer. Documents can also be found on the art classroom pages.

## Yinghua Gala and Auction Tickets On Sale Now!

By Sara Pierce

Tickets for the 2015 Yinghua Gala and Auction are on sale now! The Gala is on Saturday, May 2, at 7:00 pm and is once again at the Grainbelt Bottling House. Carnival themed games, adult beverages, and live and silent auctions are some of the festivities of the evening. We just booked H \$ B featuring Adam Levy and his All Star Band to rock the Gala!

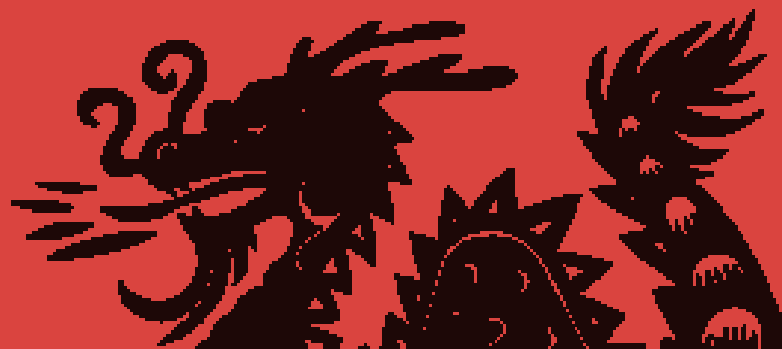
We are offering Early Bird ticket pricing this year, so buy yours soon! Do you want star treatment at the Gala! A limited number of VIP tickets are available. VIP perks include an exclusive area with upscale wine and appetizers, complimentary rings for wine bottle toss, and a ticket for an exclusive game of chance drawing featuring a fantastic prize. And just added - VIP ticket holders are invited to a special preview hour from 6-7 the night of the Gala. You will be able to leisurely browse the auction items, start the bidding, and even secure your auction winnings with a 'buy it now' option.

Early Bird regular tickets are \$40 and VIP tickets are \$75. The prices will go up by \$10 in April. You can also Sponsor a teacher's ticket for a \$40 donation. Visit our on-line school store at [www.yinghua.corecommerce.com](http://www.yinghua.corecommerce.com) to purchase your tickets. I look forward to seeing you at the 2015 Yinghua Gala!

## Parking Reminder

By Dave Madsen

For those parents who use Doors 1 and 2 for pickup and drop off, please pay special attention to the designated handicapped parking spaces in the front of the building. As some of our students and parents have mobility issues and need direct access to the front entrance on a regular basis, please ensure that unless you have a handicap sticker on your vehicle, you do not park or let your vehicle idle in that area, even if it just for a short time. Please help us create a culture of accommodation for those families who need access to these services.



## Volunteers Needed for Nano-Science Event

By Cory Brathall

Hello, Yinghua Community!

I am sending out this announcement because there is a great science event coming up in South Minneapolis and volunteers are needed! The event is Nano-Day and the goal is to help get children of all ages and backgrounds more interested in science, and to help them understand the scale and significance of NANO-science, the science of the extremely small.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of things, including directly engaging with children in informal discussions regarding nano-science, as well as performing table demonstrations regarding different aspects of nano-science. The most important thing is that everyone will be having a great time! Materials for the event are all included, and there will even be food!

The event will be on Saturday, April 4, between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM at Sabathani Community Center. see the website for some more information: <http://www.selfinternational.org/events.html>. If you have an interest in helping or are just curious for more information about this awesome public event, you can simply call me at 952-204-3639 or email me at [cory.brathall@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:cory.brathall@yinghuaacademy.org).

## Thank You from the Red Envelope Campaign Team!

By Sarah Whiting

Dear Yinghua Families,








Xie Xie! With your support, the Red Envelope Campaign is now over \$40,000! It is with the support of a community like ours that Yinghua is able to provide a superb educational experience for our children. We are honored to be a part of this school with you.

Humbly,

The Red Envelope Campaign Team

**NanoDays**  
The Biggest Event for the Smallest Science!


SELF International, Inc. and the Horizon Youth Program are joining the National celebration of NanoWeek with a day of fun and exciting nano activities and experiments, introducing YOU to the wonders of Nano Technology and how it touches YOUR life!

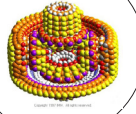
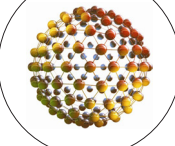
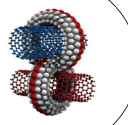

**Sabathani Community Center**  
310 38th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55409

**what is nano**


**Saturday, April 4, 2015**  
1:00—4:00 PM



- NANOSCALE SCIENCE
- So small, it's really BIG!
- Organized by N.I.S.E. Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network
- Hands-on activities
- Meet Nano Scientists and University researchers
- How Nano Science effects You and your world every Day
- FUN!
- Creative!
- Cutting-edge technology
- Learn skills for the 21st Century
- Family Event for ALL Ages. Suggested donation of \$5 per family. Lunch included. GAMES AND PRIZES.
- Save this date: April 4, 2015
- Come to Sabathani Community Center 1:00—4:00 PM

Reservations appreciated, but Not required  
Contact Bob Lay at [boblay@Sabathani.org](mailto:boblay@Sabathani.org)  
612-821-2329



## Video Conferences with Hohhot Number 8 Middle School

By Ying Li

Since last December, we have had video conferences with our sister school every month. However, we missed one video conference last month because some teachers and students from Hohhot Number 8 Middle School came to the United States and visited us. The next conference call is on March 12th. It is a great opportunity to communicate with Chinese middle school students and practice your Chinese speaking. Please join us!

