

YINGHUA ACADEMY

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Issue n. 28 | May 2015

不努力,别人想拉你找不到你的手在哪里。人的力量其实很小:

一、你不赖床,他在运动,所以健康。

二、你不写功课,他在用心学习,所以他的考试成绩比你更好。

三、你在完成今天的计划,他在计划明天的事情,所以你有更多机会。

四、他在解决问题,你在解决问题,所以他的朋友多。

五、他在解决困难,你在解决困难,所以他的朋友多。

School Tool Box Ordering Info.
See Page 3

Art News
See Page 6

www.yinghuaacademy.org

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Sue's News

Sue Berg | Executive Director

HELP WANTED!

Please help us help your children, our students! We benefit from the individual feedback that we receive throughout the year via phone calls, e-mail messages, through Parent Teacher conferences, or information gathered from simply bumping into one another and having the chance to chat.

The annual Yinghua Parent Survey serves as a more formal tool for input from our school community. The 2015 survey, initially sent to you on April 23, will only be available through Saturday, May 2, at 11:45 pm: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N9ZQ68D>. Rumor has it that it can be completed in as little time as ten minutes. We appreciate all the responses that we have received thus far; I understand from board member Scott Jax that they have included compliments as well as constructive suggestions. We would love to hear from all parents! In so many ways, this has been an outstanding year for Yinghua, and yet we know that there is always room for growth and improvement. Please make your voices heard! We use the feedback for future planning as we strive to make your family's experience even better!

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Curriculum Corner

Luyi Lien, Ph. D. | Academic Director

Dear Yinghua Families,

Our next all-school event is the Academic Performances which are scheduled for May 20 and 21: Grades K-4 will perform on May 20 and Grades 5-8 on May 21. As the school grows, we are no longer able to accommodate all the performances and parents in one day. By splitting this event into two days, we allow students and teachers enough time to show off their accomplishments, and also minimize the potential traffic congestions in the neighborhood. Please refer to the classroom Web-page for the exact performance time for your student's grade level.

The Academic Performances are designed based on the idea of using "alternative assessment" to measure how well our students can do with the language and content. As an immersion school, we pay very close attention to monitoring students' learning in a variety of forms. While we focus on measuring students' content knowledge, we also would like to see how well they learn the Chinese language. We constantly ask ourselves these questions: What can our students do with the language they've acquired? How well can they apply the language to real-life situations? What level of proficiency do

our students have in terms of the national language standards? One of such alternative assessment tools we use is the "performance-based assessment." Distinguished from the traditional assessments which rely heavily on standardized testing methods, performance-based assessment is an alternative that is designed to encompass a better overall representation of student progress, including the effectiveness of students' learning and their study skills. The purpose of performance-based assessment is to gather a demonstration of the scope of knowledge a student has on a sub-

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Upcoming Events and Announcements

05

02

15

Yinghua Gala: 7:00-11:00PM, Grain Belt Bottling House

05

04

15

Yinghua Annual Meeting: 6:00 PM in Cafeteria

Brewer's Blog

Jeremy Brewer | Dean of Students

Hello Parents!

Now that spring is finally here to stay we are seeing a change in uniforms around the school. Some of the things that we are seeing do not actually fall within Yinghua's Uniform Policy. Just like the spring weeds, there are always a few uniform concerns that begin to creep into school this time of year. So, we thought we'd send out a quick reminder of some key uniform points to help avoid "the creep".

Included in the list below are brief reminders, as well as a few recent additions to YA's uniform policy.

Shoes

- Shoes may be any style or color, but must be close-toed and have closed heels for safety.
- This means that sandals and flip-flops may not be worn.
- NEW - Shoes for all grades may not have heels that are more than ½ inch high (i.e. – fashion boots & fashion shoes).

Pants/Shorts/Skirts

- Jeans may not be worn. "Jeans" are considered any color or any fabric pant having metal rivets and/or pockets sewn on the outside of the pant.
- Black skin tight leggings, tights, bike shorts and compression style bottoms may be worn under skirts, dresses, and shorts, but may not be worn alone.
- Loose fitting Yoga-style pants are allowed.
- Sweatpants and mesh/athletic/gym shorts may not be worn, except by grades 6-8 in gym class only.
- Note - Kindergarten students only may wear sweats and athletic shorts.
- Shorts must be black chino-type for both boys and girls. (Also known as "walking", flat front, and cargo shorts.)
- NEW – Shorts and skirts may not be more than 2", or 3 finger widths above the knee.

Hair

- Hair may only be dyed natural colors. This includes colored feathers, ties, and extensions that are attached to hair.

Sweaters/Sweatshirts/Fleece

- Sweaters/sweatshirts/fleece must be black, white, or light blue. Grades 5-8 may also wear red sweaters/sweatshirts/

fleece.

- New : Black, white, and light blue vests (i.e. – knit or fleece) may be worn by any student. Grades 5-8 may also wear red vests.
- We will be adding vest options to our approved lists at Lands' End and French Toast for next year!
- Note - We understand that some rooms can be chilly, but students still need to be in proper uniform. The above items are allowed so students can layer.

At Yinghua, we want the students to be appreciated and admired for who they are, not what they are wearing. Moreover, some clothes are simply not appropriate for a school setting. With that understanding, we are constantly working hard to make sure the uniform policy is up to date, accurate, fair, and can be reasonably enforced on a consistent basis.

As I'm sure you can understand, it is not possible to outline or anticipate everything that may come up with uniforms each year, so mid-year revisions and additions are sometimes needed. In some cases, administration has to make a decision regarding individual items of clothing "on the fly". When this happens, we will always make every attempt to judge in a way that is fair and consistent with the current Uniform Policy. In addition, the school is always considerate and sensitive to concerns regarding the affordability of uniform clothing. Even though the school has partnered with Lands' End and French Toast to provide approved lists of uniform clothing, families are not "required" to purchase from either. Families are encouraged to shop around to find the best options that work for them. Any store is acceptable. The only concern is that the clothes fall within the over-all uniform policy.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly if you have a specific uniform question before allowing your child to wear it to school. I recommend using a life hack; take a quick pic of the item with your phone and email it to me. This works great! It allows us to make sure your children are in proper uniform and avoid any misunderstandings.

For a full outline of the uniform policy, please review the Student & Family Handbook posted on the school website under the "Current Families" tab.

Thanks and have a wonderful sunny weekend!

Jeremy Brewer



Sue's News (continued)

Another opportunity for active engagement is the Annual Meeting. Yinghua parents and staff members are encouraged to attend this event hosted by the Board of Education on Monday, May 4th, at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria. During this meeting, Board Chair, Karen Lu, will give a brief "state of the school" status report and attendees will have the chance to meet and hear from the eight candidates for the 2015-2016 board membership election. Paper ballots and envelopes will be available, so eligible voters can cast their ballots at the meeting. What a great opportunity to be "in the know" at Yinghua!

Thanks, in advance, for joining forces with us.

Warm regards,
Sue Berg

ACH Deduction Info.

By Jennifer Vanyo

ACH Deductions for the following fees will be made on Wednesday, May 6th, 2015:

- Term III Field Trip fees to date (MIA art adventure, Grade 1 United Noodles, and Grade 3 MN History Center)
- MS Spring Formal fees
- Track & Field - Athletics fees

Road Construction Season!

By Libby Pomroy

Be sure to give yourself extra time to get to school for Aftercare pick-ups. We've had a lot of late pick-ups this week due to construction. Remember that Aftercare closes at 6:00 PM, and you are charged \$1 per minute per student after 6:00 PM.

Order your School Tool Box now!

By Larina DeWalt

Orders are now being accepted for School Tool Box! School Tool Box provides you with all of the supplies your student(s) needs for their grade level next year, according to Yinghua's school supply list. They use name brand products and have them packaged in a box and sent to the school for pick up on Meet Your Teacher/Back to School Night (August 31st). Sales are accepted online now through June 10th. Order yours today online at www.schooltoolbox.com

Curriculum Corner (continued)

ject rather than simply testing the accuracy of their responses on a selection of questions.

Based on these concepts, we adopted this alternative assessment tool to gather an even more complete picture on how students' learning progresses. At the end of each school year, we invite all of our parents to come into the classrooms and view what students have learned throughout the year. During their performances, students will showcase the content knowledge and the language skills they have acquired in Chinese (for all grade levels) and in English (for Grades 2-8). The performance formats can be science project displays, PowerPoint presentations, plays, recitations, interactive games, and so forth. Student work examples will also be exhibited. What students showcase will reflect their daily learning in the classrooms.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. We look forward to seeing all the parents at this event!

Have a nice weekend!
Dr. Luyi Lien, Ph.D.

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Middle School CLA Update

By Jasmine Lu

Middle School Dictionary Contest

Teachers had a packet for students to practice before the contest day. Do you know how to use a Chinese dictionary? You can look up a word under its radical or use the pinyin. Then, students had to write down the radical and pinyin on the paper. Next, they made a phrase using the word. Finally, they wrote down the page number of the word in the dictionary. Many of our students used radicals to look up characters and they made their own phrases instead of the ones from the dictionary.

We will announce each class' winners next week.



Chatting with Sister School in China

Grade 6-8 chatted with our sister school on Skype. Our students were very happy to have the chance to chat with their friends in China and they talked about different student lifestyles to compare and discuss the differences. They also talked about everyday food choices at home and at school.

We will have another Skype chatting on May 14th. The time is from 5:40-6:40 PM. Students can stay here after school or come back to school at a later time.



Chinese New Year Wrap-up: DVDs & Photos

By Becky Hoffmann

First, Chinese New Year performance DVDs have all been delivered thanks to our amazing volunteer Brandi Metzger and the kind folks in the front office. If you paid for a DVD via our online store but did not receive your copy, please reach out to anniesparrows@gmail.com. Note that all DVDs are officially sold out. Second, CNY portraits and performance photos are UP ONLINE and ready to view in our secure Yinghua Academy community Shutterfly page, along side other class photos from this school year: <https://yinghuaacademy.shutterfly.com/>

There are 2 levels of access:

1. To access the page in view only mode, go to the shutterfly page and enter the UPDATED site password, Yinghuarocks2014
2. For full access, which will enable you to upload/download images you will need to create a shutterfly account, here: <https://www.shutterfly.com/signup/viewSignup.sfly?fid=ea3510d1c8f503448d3ee00937c23351e219dffbd650f64b>. Then visit our Yinghua page, and request access. Be sure to include the name of your child and their classroom so we can verify that you should be granted access.

You can also request upload/download access by emailing Julie Philips directly at yaca-photos@yinghuaacademy.org

Do you have photos from this school year to share with our community? Follow this link for upload instructions: <http://www.yinghuaacademy.org/2014/instructions-on-uploading-photos/>



Healthy Habits to Support Your Child's Learning

By Ginger Hao (adapted from "10 Healthy Habits Parents Should Teach Their Kids" at www.healthline.com)

This week I would like to share three more healthy habits to help support your child's learning. Also, spring is here and so are seasonal allergens! If your child is experiencing seasonal allergy symptoms, please remember to give your child his/her allergy medication before school so they are able to feel their best during the school day. If your child is frequently experiencing the following symptoms this spring: sneezing, itchy, watery eyes, and a runny, stuffy nose, but does not have an allergy diagnosis, you may want to consider having them evaluated by a doctor.

Habit 4: Don't Be a Couch Potato

Get kids off the sofa and out the door. The Mayo Clinic reports that kids who watch more than an hour or two of television or electronic media a day are at greater risk for a number of health problems, including:

- impaired performance at school
- behavioral difficulties, including emotional and social problems and attention disorders
- obesity or being overweight

Practice Chinese Language Skills Beyond the Classroom

By Bo Liu

The Yinghua Chinese News Channel was established last December. Every Monday, the journalists gather together during recess period to plan and write their monthly newsletter. They use Chinese to discuss which newsworthy stories should be included in the newsletter, split up the jobs, research the background of the events, interview related staff and/or students, take pictures, and then put all pieces together and hand the newsletter to each classroom. By handling so many different tasks, students have been improving their Chinese language skills in all aspects beyond the classroom. Furthermore, they have also improved their communication and leadership skills through team work. They started paying more and more attention to the community and the bigger world around them.

Through winter and spring, the enthusiastic journalists have reported all the major school events such as the Chinese New Year Performance and major national holidays. Their great work has tremendously engaged younger students and inspired more middle school students to participate.

- irregular sleep, including trouble falling asleep and resisting bedtime
- less time to play

Habit 5: Pick Enjoyable Physical Activities

Not every child loves sports, but when kids find physical activities they enjoy, staying healthy and active becomes easy. And they just might carry their love of it into adulthood. If your child hasn't found their sports niche yet, encourage them to keep trying. Expose them to a range of physical activities like swimming, archery, dance, and gymnastics. They're bound to find something they enjoy.

Habit 6: Stay Positive

It's easy for kids to get discouraged when things don't go their way, or when they do not perform up to their own expectations or the expectations of the adults in their lives. Help them learn resilience in setbacks by showing them the importance of staying positive. According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, children as well as adults can benefit from positive thinking and good relationships. Help your kids develop healthy self-esteem and a positive mindset by teaching them they are lovable, capable, and unique—no matter what challenges they encounter.

Super Summer Program is open for registrations!

By Libby Pomroy

Join Yinghua's first summer enrichment program July 13-24, with a much more flexible schedule, longer classes, lots of new subjects and tons of fun! There is something for everyone! Here's a class list:

Babysitting, Beaded Jewelry, Books and Fun, Buggy for Bugs, Chess Club, Chinese Art, Clay Critters, Fabric Art, Fresh and Fun Cooking, Home Alone, JavaScript Game Coding and Web Design, Jr. Scientist, Make a Photo Book, Martial Arts, Minecraft Animation, iPhoto, Rockets, Secret Agent Science, Ballet, Yinghua Mural Painting, and Yoga!

Find registration info at www.yinghuaacademy.org/current-students/enrichment-program.

We're also offering SummerCare in full or half days during the same weeks. Sign up for SummerCare at www.yinghuaacademy.org/current-families/extended-care. Questions? Contact libby.pomroy@yinghuaacademy.org.



Yinghua Gala Information

By Annie Sparrows and Becky Hoffmann

The Yinghua Academy Gala and Auction is this Saturday May 2nd! Still need tickets? No problem: <http://yinghua.corecommerce.com/Spring-Gala-Tickets/>

Tickets must be purchased in advance but anyone can come, so feel free to invite friends or family!

If you've never been to a gala, it's a party with food, drinks, music, dancing, and a silent and live auction to help raise money for the school. It's fun! Some people dress to the nines, and others wear jeans. It's a great opportunity to meet other parents, and see teachers and staff outside of school. The food is fantastic, there's a live band, games to play for prizes, and the auction has something for everyone.

We still need help setting up on Friday and Saturday and with cleanup on Sunday. Email yaca-fundraising@yinghuaacademy.org with your availability.

Physical Education Update

By Sarah Totall

The Popsicle Run is May 12 and 13 for KG-8. All classes will run on their regular PE day & time except for: 4A/B (May 13 at 11:00am; 5A/B is TBD). Please join us in the excitement. You can run, cheer, or help. Bring a noise maker such as bells, horns, drums, kazoos, or other items. Details on the PE webpage. Countdown: 11 days.

Wheels Round-up: Sunday, May 17 from 3:00-4:00pm. Bring your bike, scooter, skate board, and helmet in on Sunday, May 17. Drop your equipment off or stay for some basic safety and maintenance. Volunteers with basic wheels maintenance are needed to help with this session. Contact Sarah Totall if you can help: sarah.totall@yinghuaacademy.org.

Wheels Week is May 18-29 for Grades 1-8. Helmets are required. Bring in your own equipment but don't forget to put your name on it. The school has scooters, skates, and skateboards that can be borrowed. First graders will be using scooters only. Equipment will be stored in the gym. See the PE webpage for what each grade will use.

Orchestra Audition Sign-up

By Hsuan-Wen Lin

2015-2016 Orchestra Audition Sign-ups are now online. Visit http://www.ptcfast.com/schools/Yinghua_Academy to sign up for an audition on June 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. Registrations will be closed by the end of the day on Thursday, May 21.

Who may sign up? 1. Any student (violin, viola, cello, bass) from beginning to advanced ability, 4th-8th grade. 2. Everyone auditions each year regardless of previous participation.

Audition: Each audition is up to 5 minutes. Students need to arrive 5 minutes early for tuning and music sight-reading. Audition requirements include scales, sight-reading, and a short solo.

Place: Middle School music room

Note: Parents doesn't need to attend the audition

Questions: Please contact Lin Laoshi (hsuanwen.lin@yinghuaacademy.org)



Bethel University Summer Sports Camps

By Wynnee Igel

Bethel University supports Yinghua Academy's Chinese New Year Performances. Bethel University offers various sports camps for different age groups that may be of interest to you. Check out the information at: bethelroyals.com

Attention: Yinghua Adoptive Parents!

By Christine Sikorski

Would you like to meet other parents of internationally- and domestically-adopted children, share resources and information, and stay updated about what the school is doing to educate staff and teachers about adoption-related issues?

Come join us on Friday, May 15, from 4:00-5:15 PM in Room 170 (Science Room) for the inaugural meeting of Yinghua Adoptive Parents' Resource and Discussion Group. If your children will be playing on the Yinghua school playground during that time, Flynn Cunningham's grandfather will keep an eye on them.

Questions? Please e-mail Christine Sikorski at casikorski@earthlink.net.

Yinghua Mural Updates

By Jenni Hoyt

Thank you to all the people who have worked on the mural so far! It is coming right along with lots of ideas and enthusiasm!

If you would still like to help, please sign up on the website for a day and time slot. Bring paint clothes and a willingness to learn something and work carefully. We want to finish strong!

We also need to raise some money to meet the requirement of the MRAC grant. There is a box in the office to donate if you would like to help fund the project. A little bit from many people will make it work!

We will hold a dedication ceremony June 8th at 4:15 PM to celebrate the hard work and creativity of our community. Please come and be a part of the fun!

Art News

By Meghan Byram

This weekend only at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts is the annual Art in Bloom event. This is an amazing event that takes place for FREE and throughout the museum. Over 100 artists have created floral arrangements inspired by the museum's permanent collection. For 4 days only (April 30th- May 3rd) you can enjoy the permanent works paired with the floral arrangements. A MUST SEE! Visit the art classroom pages for a copy of the map we used on student field trips this year. Students can use it to lead you to see all the pieces they learned about while participating in the art adventure program.

Next weekend at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, also FREE, is the monthly Family Day event. It's sure to be a wonderful way to spend time as a family, especially if you're looking for something for mother's day.

Student Art News: If you were around for conferences you probably were able to enjoy the large collaborative paintings created by our 5th-8th graders. All the original paintings will be auctioned at this weekend's Gala. If you would like to order any postcard or poster copies for yourself, please use the form attached. Orders are due May 8th.

Summer Clay Classes: There are still a few spots open; forms can be found on the art classroom pages or found in hard copy on the art room door.

Portfolios: Student artwork will be making its way home in portfolios beginning in the next couple of weeks. Be on the lookout and ready to learn from your student(s). They work very hard on their artwork throughout the year, and I know our families are wonderful audience members for all of our artists during this exciting time!

Last Call for the Parent Survey!

By Scott Jax

Remember the 2015 Parent Survey will be available only through Saturday, May 2 at 11:45 PM: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N9ZQ68D>. I appreciate all the responses and constructive comments so far, but it would be great to hear from more parents. We use the feedback for future planning as we are always striving to make your student's experience even better!

If you have any questions, please contact me at parentsurvey@yinghuacademy.org.



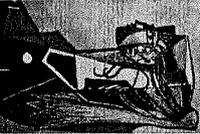
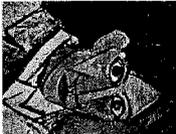
Collaborative Poster and Postcard Order Form Due May 8th

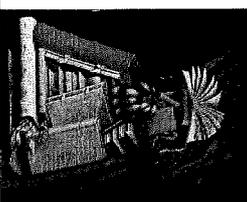
Each middle school class at Yinghua participates in a collaborative painting project. A master work portrait was chosen for each grade level, original was printed in color and cut into pieces; one puzzle piece was given to each student. Students then learn and practiced proportion by using a grid to enlarge their individual small puzzle piece onto a larger piece of paper. The students then spend time learning about color theory and mixing to match the colors from their original piece to their enlarged square. In the spring each original huge painting is auctioned off and one post card is placed in each portfolio. In an effort to make a larger reproduction available to our students and fundraise for our art department we are making the paintings available in 11" x 17" posters.

All Posters: \$5.00

All Postcards: 50 cents

All proceeds go to the Yinghua Art Department

5A	<i>Portrait of Sylvette</i> David Picasso		Poster \$5.00 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
			Postcard \$0.50 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
5B	<i>Seated Portrait of Marie-Therese</i> Walter Picasso		Poster \$5.00 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
			Postcard \$0.50 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
5C	<i>Self Portrait</i> Picasso		Poster \$5.00 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
			Postcard \$0.50 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
6A	<i>Portrait of Charlotte of France</i> Jean Clouet the Younger		Poster \$5.00 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
			Postcard \$0.50 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
6B	<i>Mona Lisa</i> Leonardo da Vinci		Poster \$5.00 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
			Postcard \$0.50 x _____ (Quantity)= _____

7	<i>Self Portrait with Monkey</i> Frida Kahlo		Poster \$5.00 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
			Postcard \$0.50 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
7	<i>The Librarian</i> Arcemboldo		Poster \$5.00 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
			Postcard \$0.50 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
8	<i>Portrait of Simonetta Vespucci</i> Botticelli		Poster \$5.00 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
			Postcard \$0.50 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
8	<i>Venus and Mars (Detail)-</i> Botticelli		Poster \$5.00 x _____ (Quantity)= _____
			Postcard \$0.50 x _____ (Quantity)= _____

Orders will be sent home with one student per family, please indicate which Yinghua student you would like your order to go

home with: _____

Orders will be sent home in student portfolios.

Total: \$ _____

If payment is in the form of a check it can be made out to Yinghua Academy