



The Weekly Window

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A Message from Vice Principal Ting Laoshi

Hello, Everyone,

I want to express my appreciation to our students, their parents, our teachers, and members of school board. I would like to thank all the parents for giving me a warm welcome party and offering me support! I want to thank our teachers for sharing their thoughts and experiences on teaching and learning! I would like to thank all the members of school board for the encouragement and for empowering me on this job as I take on the role of vice principal, overseeing Chinese Teaching at Northwest Chinese Academy (NWCA).

Now I want to formally introduce myself to everyone. My name is Ting Yi and I moved from Minnesota with my family last year. Students call me Ting Laoshi. I am married and have two daughters, Amy (five years old) and Ela (two years old). They speak Chinese at home. My husband is an Engineering manager in Hillsboro.



Before my husband and I came to American in 2000, I spent three years teaching in China. After we moved to Minnesota in 2000, I was lucky to quickly find a full time job working in the Twin City Chinese Learning Center as a Chinese immersion teacher. I was teaching a class of 16 students. I also taught a class for children at Minnesota Chinese Academy, including Chinese, Math and Science.

(Continue on page 6)

NWCA Mission & Goals

The Northwest Chinese Academy provides an outstanding educational foundation in the true immersion of Mandarin language, fostering the total development and highest potential in the individual child.

- To immerse children in Chinese language and culture as well as providing bi-lingual and bi-literate education so they are comfortable as responsible global citizens.
- To provide a school environment that supports co-operation, creativity, resourcefulness and the love of learning.
- To develop children who are creative, critical thinkers and self-confident in who they are.
- To encourage mutual respect, honesty and multi-cultural understanding..

The 3rd Annual NWCA Read-a-Thon seeks enthusiastic book lovers to help out!

Do you love books? Love to read? Do you love to bring joy to children and others through reading out loud? Do you like people and enjoy creating fun events happen? Then you're the person, or people, to help Ellen run NWCA's 3rd Annual Read-a-Thon fundraiser which begins **Tuesday, March 29th**. The event is fun and easy to coordinate. Our structure is in place with the kickoff. **Will Hornyak**, a talented storyteller, will come perform for our children on Tuesday, March 29th and our event will end with a live event at **Powell's at Cedar Hills Crossing**.

We need you to brainstorm about authors, ideas for engaging everyone from 3 to 100 years old! Everyone can participate in this reading, reading to Read-a-Thon. This fundraiser raises funds to enrich all programs connected to literacy and language arts and solely benefits our children.

Please contact **Ellen** at ellengoldsmith@mac.com to join the fun and raise the funds!



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
- Dr. Seuss



NWCA Library Open for Business

After months of preparation, organization, and installing a computer check out system, the Northwest Chinese Academy Chinese and English Library celebrated its grand opening with treats and a ribbon cutting!

The library is open to NWCA community members every **Thursday** from **4:00-4:30pm**. Students and their parents are able to check out up to 2 books, videos and other materials. Once the materials are returned, they are able to check out more items.

Thanks to **Shari M.**, **Julia L.**, and **Theresa K.** for all their work in getting the library up and running.

If you haven't had a chance to check it out, plan on stopping by next **Thursday!**



Premium Parking Space at NWCA

Northwest Chinese Academy's premium parking space went on the auction block at the 2011 Hong Bao Gala. After a bit of a bidding war, the space was purchased by the Arcot Family. This space is marked by a reserved parking sign and is theirs to use until February 1, 2012.

Recently it has been brought to our attention that cars belonging to NWCA families other than the Arcots have been parking in this space. The parking space is left of the handicap parking spot. Our parking patrol has been alerted and will begin issuing parking tickets to illegally parked cars. (The fine for parking in the Arcot space is **\$25**.) **All fees collected will go to support activities at Northwest Chinese Academy.** Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter!



Chinese New Year Celebration

After weeks of practice, the Northwest Chinese Academy students donned their costumes and took the stage to help celebrate Chinese New Year!

This year's performance took place on Friday, February 4, 2011 at the Beaverton City Library. Eager friends and family members took their seats, excited to see what our students had prepared for them.

After Ting Laoshi and Stacy welcomed the audience, Xie Laoshi's class opened the show with a dramatic presentation of the story, "Pull the Carrot Out." They took the stage again a short time later to sing the song, "Walking in the Snow Looking for a Blossom."

Ying Laoshi's class recited two poems. The first one was titled, "Little Rabbit, Likes to Jump" and the second, "The Rabbit's Tail." They were then joined on the stage by Xie Laoshi's class to dance to the song, "Be Fit."

Lu Laoshi's and Fan Laoshi's classes wrote and per-

formed a dramatic presentation of "King Fu Panda."

Both Zhangyu Laoshi's and Donna Laoshi's classes were dressed in traditional Chinese costumes. Zhangyu's class did and song and dance to "Gong Xi Fa Cai." Donna Laoshi's class sang and danced to the song, "Happy New Year."

Su Laoshi's 3rd graders recited the poem "Flower, Ducks and Rosy Clouds." Chen Laoshi's 2nd graders performed the play "Sour and Sweet."

Su Laoshi's music classes also performed. Some 2nd - 5th graders showed their martial arts skills during the "Kung Fu Dance." Others donned beautiful costumes and danced a graceful "Peacock Dance."

The elementary students used an Arcostic Poem to wish the audience a "Happy Chinese New Year." The performance concluded with the students and teachers singing the song, "Singing With A Smile."

It was a great celebration! Our students did a wonderful job. We are proud of every one of them!





Students Take Center Stage at Lan Su Chinese Garden

From Patty Lemon

On Feb 5th our Kinder through 5th grade students gathered on the corner of 4th and Everett to prepare to perform at the Lan Su Chinese Garden in Downtown Portland. The morning was damp and cool but it didn't stop our students from giving their best for the audience lining up to enter the garden's gates.

Our confident announcers **Anisha**, **You Lian**, **Simon**, **Yohann**, **Fiona** and **Phoebe**, introduced each performance both in Mandarin and in English for all guests in attendance.

In the picturesque setting, our students took center stage. Each group performed their dances (K-1: Be Fit 2-5th graders Peacock and Kung Fu) all taught by **Su Laoshi**. Su Laoshi was beaming with joy as each group bowed to great applause.

Chinese New Year Performances on Tour

On Tuesday, Feb 8th NWCA's 2-5th graders and their teachers packed up and took their performances on the road. First Stop, **Bright Horizon's Preschool in Beaverton**. The preschoolers had been learning about Chinese New Year. Our NWCA student's performance was the finale of the week for these bright-eyed preschoolers. The Bright Horizon's teachers and preschoolers were so impressed with the introductions (in Mandarin and English) and the professionalism displayed by our student's performances.



Then off to Forest Grove, where upon arrival we were to perform for seniors living at the **Wynwood Assisted Living Center**. About 10 minutes before our scheduled performance time, residents of the center started to trickle into the community room. Before we knew it the room was packed with seniors eager to see our students in action. The Wynwood Manager said, "This is amazing! This is the best attendance we have had!" The students brighten the hearts of the residents with their dances and chants. After the celebration, the center provided cookies and punch for our ravenous performers. Our students were thrilled with their performance and the yummy treats.

Warm Welcome to Tracy!

Hello NWCA!

Only one week in and I am truly enjoying my position as Administrative Assistant here at NWCA. I am impressed with every student's amazing knowledge and preschool conversations and playground fun are pure entertainment. I am learning so much about Chinese culture, families, teachers and administrative tasks to assist in increasing NWCA's future enrollment and overall academy success.

I am a native Oregonian, enjoy spending time with friends and family, reading, camping, attending Portland area events and concerts, working out and volunteering. Once a week, I volunteer as a "Big Sister" in a mentoring relationship with my 11 year old "Little Sister." We have been matched for over one year. My education, career and volunteer experience focus on positive extracurricular youth and family development programming and administration. I have a Bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in Human Development and Family Sciences with options in Human Services and Early Childhood Education.



I have worked for a number of youth organizations including, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire USA, KidSpirit, and YMCA, child care centers and community development corporations. Most recently, I was Youth Development Manager at Camp Fire USA Mt. Hood Council. This was an intense position in which I was fully able to develop, facilitate, and evaluate all aspects of the agency's programs of summer day camp, Community Family Club, Classic Club, candy sale, a reforestation grant, and Saturday Club. Unfortunately, the agency was not strong enough to continue programming and camp ownership with our small staff and lack of funding. The Board voted to dissolve last August. After taking time off to reflect and volunteer at the Big Brothers Big Sisters office for the past few months, I am extremely happy to be surrounded by children again!

It has been a whirlwind first few days getting to know everyone and I am excited to keep the learning and excitement going.

Thank You!
Tracy

Welcome Shelley!



Shelley recently joined the staff of Northwest Chinese Academy where she serves as the school custodian. The students and staff are so happy she's here!

Shelley is a native Oregonian and attended Madison High School in Portland. She keeps busy with her four daughters, ages 22, 20, 15 and 10.

Shelley loves to spend time outdoors. She enjoys working in her yard and gardening. She especially loves flowers. She enjoys camping, hiking and car racing. When she can't get outside, she spends her time watching movies and scrapbooking.

Thank you Shelley for all you do for Northwest Chinese Academy!

Good luck Renee

Northwest Chinese Academy was once again fortunate to have an intern from Platt working with us.

Renee, or as the students call her, Wang Laoshi, has spent the past several weeks working primarily with Xie Laoshi's Kindergarten class. She also spent some time in the early education classes.

Renee is from Beijing and is visiting the U.S. for the first time. She has enjoyed herself and has been impressed with how Oregonians help each other. She will be heading back to China in April.



Renee is a student, majoring in Accounting. She'd like a career in Marketing or Accounting. (Her mother is an accountant, so she'd be following in her footsteps.) She would like to work for a couple of years after graduation, and then attend a university in Europe or the U.S. to obtain a Master's Degree in Marketing or Business.

Renee has enjoyed working with the students at NWCA, and especially enjoyed eating lunch with them every day. She's been a valuable addition to our school and will be greatly missed. **Good luck to you Renee!**

(Ting Laoshi, continuation from pg. 1)

At that time, I experienced the differences between Chinese teaching style and American teaching styles. I deeply understand the advantage and disadvantage of both teaching styles. At the same time, I realized that I should study American education in a formal way. While in Minnesota, I started my Master of art program, majoring in teaching at Hamline University, one of the oldest universities in Minnesota where the education department is its core department. With the comprehensive education in American style of teaching, I joined Xinxing Academy in Hopkins, Minnesota. Xinxing Academy is an immersion Chinese public school where I taught full time. (Ting has also served as a lead teacher and has taught preschool students, elementary age students as well as high schoolers in the past.)

I feel blessed that I have the opportunity to continue my passion of teaching, especially in an immersion program like ours at Northwest Chinese Academy.

With the challenging role of vice principal, who is responsible for the overall performance of all Chinese teaching and learning, I have the vision of a dynamic and enjoyable learning community at Northwest Chinese Academy. I expect all learners to fully unfold their learning potential in an enjoyable way, with the guidance from both teachers and parents. I will facilitate the learning experience from both sides, both at school and after school, with your support.

Language is a communication skill. I highly value the importance of communication, between teachers and parents, and between you and me. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding this learning community, and the bright future of the NWCA and your lovely children.

Warm Regards,
Ting
Vice Principal



4th & 5th Grades Update

From Ellen Goldsmith
Classroom Rep.

Welcome to the 4th and 5th grade combined class where, in 4th grade **Miriam, Brandon, Stephen** and **Sophia** work along their 5th grade friends **Sarah, You Lian** and **Anisha** in social studies, science, art and music. **Lu Laoshi** works with both grades on science, social studies and art while **Fan Laoshi** works with our 4th graders on Chinese language as well as reading and writing workshop.

This month the 5th graders welcomed Ting Laoshi as their Chinese language and math teacher and the transition has gone very well.

So what are the 4th and 5th grade studying? In science the children have been busy studying the complexity of the human body and the food chain. They are also putting their knowledge to the test practicing for standardized tests in science.

In social studies the children are learning about economics, a hot topic for everyone! They are learning about the influence of supply and demand on prices and consumer decisions.

The 4th graders are working with Fan Laoshi on their continued development in writing and have introduced typing in Chinese. The 5th graders are reading about the development of the Silk Road, the changing geography and customs along that route.

The 5th graders are deriving great pleasure from the reading of chapter books in Mandarin and developing their descriptive writing skills in Manda-

rin. Math skills of course speed along in both grades with more complex equations. The 5th grade is delving into the conceptual world of symmetry, rotation and translation to design pictures. Watch out for future engineers.

Of course Chinese new year was a time for our older children to shine alongside their younger friends in bringing the joy of Chinese New Year out into the community. In addition, the 5th graders

stepped out to represent NWCA through a series of presentations at the Tualatin and Beaverton Libraries, organized by **Shari** and **Binny**. It was a great success bringing the joy of Chinese New Year out to families. If you are at the Tualatin Library check out the NWCA decorations. Our upper grade students are enthusiastic and have a lot to say so next time you see them, don't be shy to find out what they love the most about NWCA!



(More about 5th grade library presentations on pg. 8)

5th Graders Volunteer at Tualatin & Beaverton Libraries

Northwest Chinese Academy 5th grade students recently spent time serving others in our community. Anisha, You Lian and Sarah, assisted by Lu Laoshi, Shari M. and Binny A., organized and prepared for 3 toddler/preschool story times at the Tualatin Library.

The activities planned had a Chinese New Year Theme. The girls assisted Binny by holding puppets while she told the story of how the Chinese Zodiac came to be. They read books from the NWCA Chinese library, sang the Chinese version of the song, "If You're Happy and You Know It," and taught crafts to those in attendance. The children who came went home with bookmarks, bracelets and lanterns.

The girls also had the opportunity to lead activities in celebration of Chinese New Year at the Beaverton City Library. Here they told stories, sang songs and helped children create a Chinese dragon. The dragons were used in a fun and colorful parade.

Thanks to Lu Laoshi and parents Shari M., Ellen G., Binny A. and Prem A. for your help in planning and transportation.

Thank you Anisha, You Lian and Sarah. We're proud of how willingly you are helping others!



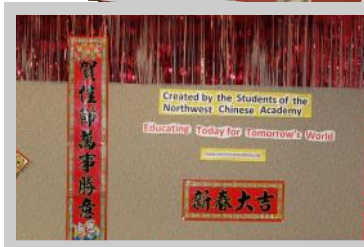
Homeroom Meetings

We'd like to extend an invitation for parents and guardians to meet briefly with their **child's homeroom teacher** and **Ting laoshi**. Ting will be leading a discussion the discussion with teachers about what is happening in the classroom and what is planned for the rest of the school year. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions. The teacher who is currently teaching the class your child will enter next school year will be available to tell you a little about what has happened in that class this year. **Binny and Stacy** will also be there to answer any questions you may have.

All meetings will take place in your child's classroom from **7:30am-8:00am**. Specific classes will meet on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, February 22**
Zhangyu laoshi's class
- **Wednesday, February 23**
Donna laoshi's class
- **Thursday, February 24**
Xie laoshi's class
- **Friday, February 25**
Ying laoshi's class
- **Monday, February 28**
Chen laoshi's class
- **Tuesday, March 1**
Lu laoshi's class


Supervision will be provided for your student during the meeting time.



FOUR WEEKS AT-A-GLANCE

FEBRUARY— MARCH 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20	21 School Closed President's day	22 Homeroom meeting (Zhanyu Laoshi)	23 Homeroom meeting (Donna Laoshi)	24 Homeroom meeting (Xie Laoshi)	25 Homeroom meeting (Ying Laoshi) OPEN HOUSE for prospective families 6–8 pm	26
27	28 Homeroom meeting (Chen Laoshi)	1 MARCH Contracts due from current families Homeroom meeting (Lu Laoshi)	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 <u>NO CLASSES</u> Teachers In-service day	12 NWCA Garden Party 
13	14 3rd Tri-mester begins	15 NWCA Board meeting 6 pm @ NWCA library	16	17	18	19