



# The Weekly Window

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## What makes us unique?

We were at dinner a few days ago with several Academy families and as always the topic wandered over to our very special school. Several of the moms and dads pointed out their favorite thing about the Academy and we discovered that there is much more to love than meets the eye.

Here are some great things about our school that you have made possible by your hard work, trust and contributions:

1. **We are the only Pre-school thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school in the USA that focuses only on Chinese and teaches everything in Chinese.** A true immersion program unlike any other.
2. **We offer more academic hours than any other local public or private school.** Besides smaller classrooms, children need more days/time at school. Everywhere around us schools are cutting days and hours, but we at the Academy have preserved our longer day as well as our total number of school days. We do not intend to cut any of this back. We offer 23% (40+ school days) more contact time as compared to local public schools (see pg. 2). We also offer approximately 15 to 23% more contact time than any other comparable private school in the area. This translates into 25 to 37 additional school days for your child.
3. **With a current ratio of 1 teacher for every 5 kids our children enjoy their teacher's undivided attention.** They don't have to compete with 20 or 30 students for valuable teacher time. Over and over again studies show that small classrooms are the key factor in helping our children learn and reach their full potential.
4. **We emphasize English and treat it as an important part of our child's learning.** We are the only "immersion" school that offers a formal introduction to English starting in the preschool years. We believe that our English program is the "jewel in our crown". It is truly exceptional

(Continue on pg. 2)

## 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..

and unmatched anywhere. The passion and caring that our English staff brings to the classroom is a joy to behold.

**5. We are a small school that plans to stay small.**

This allows us to do the best we can for each individual student. We do not have nor do we want hundreds of students. Our fundamental model is “education based” as opposed to “business based”. Though having 300, 500 or 1000 students would be great for the “business” it would be detrimental to our fundamental goal of individualized education. Thanks to your support we plan to continue to be a small school and hope to serve a small community with a small student to teacher ratio.

**6. We put our children at the center of the circle.**

All funds go to serve our students. For years we have had a volunteer administration, a volunteer facilities manager and many other volunteer positions in order to ensure that cost was kept to a minimum. Today we have hired a professional principal and vice principal but we still have many active volunteer positions at the school that allow us to channel all available dollars to benefit the student directly.

**7. We understand that our students need to play in order to achieve.**

We enable this by providing each child with an extra homework hour at the end of the day as our gift to them. We encourage and guide our students to finish their homework at school so that their time at home with you can be true “quality time” dedicated to having fun and exploring other interests.

**8. We are raising the compassionate, caring, thoughtful leaders of tomorrow.**

Our boys club and girls club is dedicated to teaching our students the skills to navigate the “real world”. Team building and engaging to find win-win solutions while still competing and doing your best are skills that need to be taught to every student, yet there is no course that teaches you how to be a leader in any school. Come see the boys and girls club in action and you too will get a peek into the future and see our future president, secretary of state, surgeon general, Supreme Court justice or Nobel Prize winner.

**9. We make school FUN!**

We offer weekend gatherings (such as the reptile man, pancake feed etc.) that bring children to school and help them to see school as a fun place to be. This maximizes their learning at school. During the school day we make an effort to create fun activities that encourage learning such as the 100<sup>th</sup> day

	Beaverton School District	Best Private Schools	NWCA
<b>Total Number of School Days</b>	175	175	175
<b>Number of hours in school day</b>	6.5	7	8
<b>Total hours in year</b>	1137.5	1225	1400

- Number of additional academic hours at NWCA compared to public school = 262.5 hrs
- Number of additional school days at NWCA compared to public school = 40.38 days
- Number of additional academic hours at NWCA compared to local private schools = 175 hrs
- Number of additional school days at NWCA compared to local private schools = 25 days

celebration, Dr. Seuss Celebration, Pizza party for community service, Reading rewards and last year’s Fridays with Binny that are scheduled to reappear soon. When our children enjoy spending time at school they learn more. Many of you have told us that your child likes to be at school even on the weekends. Thank you that tells us that our efforts are paying off.

**10. We have the best community.**

It does take a village to raise a child and you have all created a wonderful, warm, loving and nurturing village in which our students can thrive and excel. Thank you!

Ting and I are both proud to be at the Academy and we are honored by your trust, your involvement and your investment in your child’s future. There is no time like “now” to invest in your child. As you all know the window of opportunity is small when trying to teach a child a language as difficult as Chinese. The sooner they start, the longer they stay with it, the more likely they are to reap the benefits. True bilingualism takes time and effort. Let’s work together to educate our children and through this unique educational program lets us join hands to make the world a more peaceful place. We look forward to the day that we can say that the “President of the USA was our student at the Academy”. That day is coming and soon. This we know for sure!

Sincerely,  
Stacy and Ting

# Pre-School Update

From Matt Davey, Classroom Rep.

In the Preschool classroom (Xi'an), learning often comes via songs, stories, games and arts and crafts. Their ever growing imagination and vocabulary are a great source of fun.

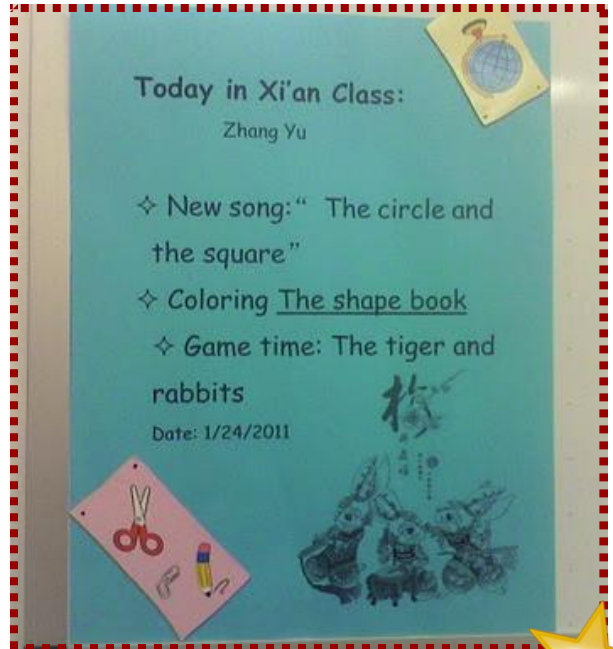
The children have been learning about emotions lately. Like a walking/talking product manual, a smile or frown can be accompanied by a brief statement of just what they're feeling. Their cuteness can inspire laughter, but warning--they will tell you if something is not funny.

In math, the children have mastered counting numbers 11 through 20.

In science, the children have been learning about melting ice's transformation to water during story time and some basic lessons in aerodynamics while building paper air-planes.

Of course music is popular in the Preschool classroom, from "If You're Happy and You Know It" to "Gong Xi Fa Cai." If you catch one of the 3-year-olds at the right time, you're likely to hear humming or singing, often in Chinese.

To keep up with the latest activities in the Xi'an classroom, check out the daily updates from Zhangyu Laoshi posted on the whiteboard next to the mailboxes.



# 100th Day of School Celebration

February 16<sup>th</sup> marked the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, only 75 more to go! To celebrate this fun occasion, Stacy planned awesome activities for students and staff. Families were welcome to prepare for our 100<sup>th</sup> school day by gathering 100 collection and snack items and wearing NWCA t-shirts. There were over 30 shirts worn and it looked like everyone brought 100 item collections and snacks.



To kick off the day, all students and teachers gathered for an exciting assembly. First, students were led in an active assembly introduction of 10 different exercises repeated 10 times. Once everyone had all their wiggles out, there was a little lesson in math. Students practiced addition skills by choosing a variety of student

ages to add together and estimated how many students it would take to reach the age 100. The preschoolers surely lengthened the addition process with their young ages! Some students received a chance to present their 100 item collection to the group and compare differences in item weight and size. Did 10 tablespoons of water weigh more than 10 Legos? Students were able to present their collections in class throughout the day.



In addition, teachers submitted nominees for Respect Awards to honor students that have been practicing showing respect to their teachers, classmates, and school. Each class chose one to two students to earn an award for their effort and accomplishment in treating others with respect. Award earners were:

**Phoebe T., Laya, Maira, Simon, Nikhil, Matias, Sophia T., Kyra, Naomi and Brandon.**

Finally, with any celebration comes food - pretzels, raisins, marshmallows, and Goldfish, oh my. Everyone combined their 100 snack items together to make the largest, most diverse and tasty trail mix we have ever seen. We are still munching on the trail mix!

Thanks to everyone that participated and to Stacy for organizing such an entertaining celebration.





## Snapshots of recent events:

### Blowing Bubbles in Science Class



When you look at this picture, you may think the fourth and fifth graders are playing with bubbles. Not so—they are actually studying the human body's respiratory system!



The students were wondering how much air they can breathe in or blow out. Lu laoshi designed an activity where each child was able to measure their lung capacity. They worked hard to prepare the bubble solution. Next, using straws, they had lots of

fun blowing bubbles. The larger the bubble, the more lung capacity they used. It was interesting to see the different sizes of bubbles the students blew.

The next day they tried the experiment again using a different bubble solution. The results were very similar.

Lu laoshi and her class encourage you to try this at home. You'll be amazed!



### The Reptile Man Returns!

Back by popular demand, The Reptile Man visited NWCA. On Saturday, February 19th, NWCA staff and families gathered to touch and learn about The Reptile Man's treasure trove of fascinating creatures.



## Super Girls in Flight!

In January, NWCA Girls Leadership Club was launched to the delight of girls and parents alike. Advisor Mrs. Angell and girls discuss leadership qualities and volunteer opportunities for the future.

At their first meeting in January, each girl crafted her own "Super Girl" cape and made her way around the reading room writing encouraging words and thoughtful complements on the capes of her fellow club members. All girls left the meeting wearing a cape bursting with kind words of encouragement and friendship.

Girls Leadership Club meets after school on Tuesdays. Come join us for fun, friendship, and leadership every week at NWCA!



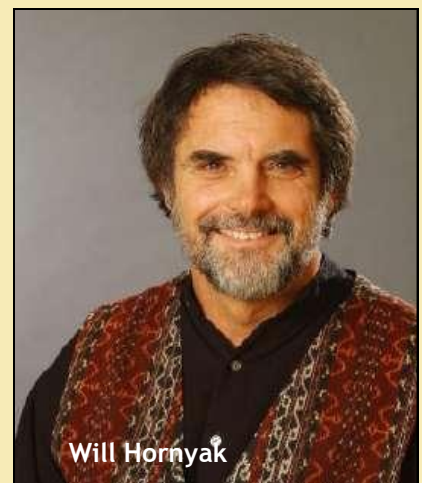
*Next issue:*  
*Learn about*  
*NWCA's Boys*  
*Leadership Club*

## Volunteers needed: Annual Read-a-thon Fundraiser!

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 reading during the 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](mailto:ellengoldsmith@mac.com) to join the fun and raise the funds!



# FOUR WEEKS AT-A-GLANCE

## MARCH 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6	7	8	9	10	11 <b>NO CLASSES</b> Parent-teacher meetings	12 NWCA Garden Party 11 am–1pm 
13	14 3rd Tri-mester begins	15 NWCA Board meeting 6 pm @ NWCA library	16	17	18	19
20	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES</b>					26
27	28	29 Read-a-thon kick-off  Storyteller Will Hornyak	30	31	1 (APRIL)	2



### Saturday, March 12th

We had so much fun last year we are doing it again! Join us this Saturday between the hours of 11am and 1pm to restore, rejuvenate and rebuild the NWCA landscape!

Plan to dig in and get dirty! We need to put in our peas, plant some spinach, put compost on the soil.

- Bring:** Gardening utensils, work gloves, shovels, trowels, weeders.
- 2 - 3 bags of compost!
- We need to compost the vegetable and herb gardens as well as the front area near the entrance. If everyone were to bring 3 bags of compost we would have enough.
- Seeds:** Peas, Lettuce, Spinach any other cold weather plants
- Starts:** of vegetables, herbs, rhubarb, strawberries, berry bushes
- A sack lunch if you think you'll be hungry! Invite your friends and family members to help out! All children welcome!



Don't forget!  
Box top\$ coupon drop-off box is located above the parents' mailboxes.

