



The Weekly Window

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May 2, 2011



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Oregon School Districts Cut School Days, NWCA Does Not

By Mrs. Danielle Erickson

A question some families may be pondering is: Why should I send my kids to Northwest Chinese Academy (NWCA) instead of public schools? We know that students at NWCA have a full comprehensive immersion curriculum in Mandarin Chinese, small class sizes, high expectations, individual attention, and a nurturing environment, but did you know that on average they will attend 8 more school weeks than public school students?

Due to the state of the economy, public schools are constantly fighting against a growing budget deficit. Each week administrators, teachers, and parents meet to discuss what options they have to get back into the black, and it has now come down to cutting school days. As stated on April 21st by Wendy Owen of the Oregonian, "They juggled staff, cut back classes, turned down thermostats, stopped watering lawns, raised program fees, increased class sizes and everything in between." An average of 8 school days will be cut by the Portland Metro public schools this year to try to swallow some of the million dollar deficit. Administration looks at these cut days as \$500,000 a day, but for students each cut day means falling behind in learning and growing.

Since public schools start out the school year with a set calendar, administration

(Continue on page 4)

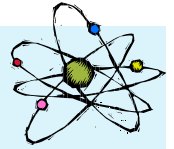
NWCA Mission & Goals

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..



Science Fair on Friday, May 6th



Northwest Chinese Academy will be the site of a science fair where dozens of scientists take center stage and thrill spectators with experiments and presentations.

The Science Fair will take place on Friday, May 6th from 2:30-4:00pm.

Our scientists have spent weeks studying their topic of choice, writing a hypothesis and conducting

experiments. Once information is gathered, displays are created and presentations written.

On May 6th, the lower level of the academy will be transformed into our own "Science Museum." Please plan to visit between 2:30 and 4:00 to hear presentations, view displays and ask questions.

All who attend will surely go home having learned something new!

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue to visit on May 9th



Next Monday, May 9th, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue firefighters and education staff will visit NWCA! Students in preschool through 2nd grade will experience a presentation about fire safety and tour a fire truck. There will be two age level presentations: preschool age starts at 10:30 AM and the Kindergarten - 2nd grade student presentation starts at 11:00 AM. Each age-appropriate presentation will last about 20 minutes. There will be much student intrigue with the fire truck tour and plenty of home and school fire safety information given.

Screen Free Week Celebration!

National Screen Free week took place this year from April 18-24. I am pleased to report that a good majority of our students successfully gave up their DS games, computers and televisions!

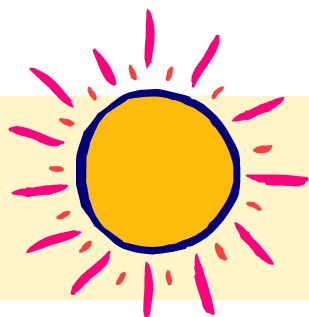
As a reward, those students who stayed away from the screen are invited to a "Screen Free" Celebration Party with Mrs. Stacy. Here are the party details:

When: Friday, May 13

What: Students will be dismissed from class for part of the day to spend the time celebrating with Mrs. Stacy. Each child is invited to bring in their favorite board/card game to play with their friends. (Please make sure your game has been labeled with your name.) We'll also enjoy a special treat.

Please let Stacy know if your child completed the week successfully so she knows who to expect at her party!





Summer Day Camp: *Chinese Immersion and Adventures with Mrs. Angell & Mrs. Erickson*



The summer sun is peaking out, let's get ready for NWCA Summer Day Camp! Don't forget to sign your children up for our continued immersion camp as well as the **new addition**, Summer Adventures with Mrs. Angell and Mrs. Erickson. Each camp session has awesome themed activities planned.

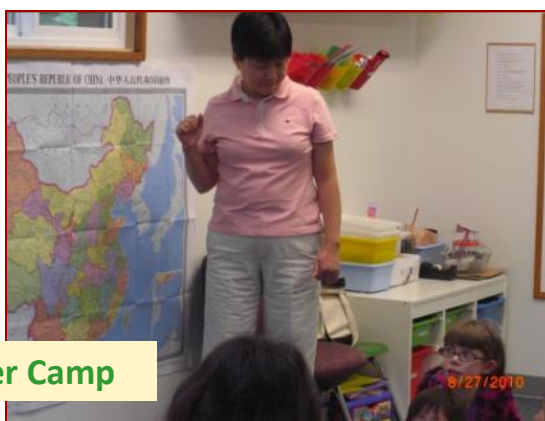
- All ages may attend Chinese camp, K - 5th grade may attend Summer Adventures
- Half or full days and one to two week sessions available
- \$210/week full days, \$105/week half days



Take a registration packet from the family box area or get one from our website. The registration and payment deadline is June 1st.



Scenes from 2010 NWCA Summer Camp



Powell's Bookstore Read-a-thon Event: May 20th



Please plan to join us on May 20th at Powell's Bookstore Cedar Hills for our Read-a-Thon Closing Event. The event will begin at 4:00pm and will feature author and children's advocate **Trudy Ludwig**. Student performances and reading will also be part of the fun. Invite your friends and family! Purchases of books or gift cards made between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00 will bring a 20% credit to NWCA and raise money for our literacy programs and materials!

Continuation from pg. 1 from Mrs. Erickson

has to be tricky as to how they sneak in these cut days. "District leaders attempted to target school days that fell close to holidays, giving students longer breaks for Thanksgiving and spring break," says Nicole Dungca of The Oregonian. NWCA follows the school calendar set by the Beaverton School District showing a planned 175 school days in the 2010/2011 school year. As the year has progressed, the Beaverton School district has randomly cut five days. Some schools like West-Linn Wilsonville have decided to cut 9 to 15 days off their school calendar. The NWCA calendar has remained the same!

A public school day consists of 6.5 hours a day, totaling 1137.5 hours a year. An NWCA school day consists of 8 hours a day, totaling 1400 hours a year. With our extra school hours and unchanged school calendar NWCA students go to school 41 more days or 8 more school weeks in year.

West-Linn Wilsonville School Board Chair says, "I believe this (cutting school days) is the best we can do." The administration and teachers at Northwest Chinese Academy believe that we can do it better.

A Great Big Thank You !!!



Victor L., Theresa and Thomas K. for their help in making sure the computers were up and ready for OAKS testing.

Marilyne C. and Stephanie W. for their help with marketing NWCA.

The following people for their help at Kidsfest:
Tracy L., Marilyne C., Prem A., Donna laoshi, Li laoshi, Mrs. Erickson, Brad and Kate J., Mohini P., Bill C.

Shari M. for helping with P.E. class each Tuesday.

Shari M., Julia L. and Theresa K. for helping in the library on Thursday afternoons

Ellen G. and Tracy L. for organizing the Read-a-Thon.

Stephanie W. for bringing in home baked goodies for NWCA staff on their last in-service day.

FOUR WEEKS AT-A-GLANCE

MAY 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>MAY</u>	2	3	4	5	6 Science Fair 	7
8	9 Visit from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Pre-School-2nd Grade. 	10	11	12	13 Screen Free Week Party w/ Mrs. Stacy Payne	14
15	16	17 NWCA Board Meeting 6 pm Picture Day 	18	19	20 Read-A-Thon Event with Tracy Ludwig @ Cedar Hills Powell's Bookstore 4 pm	21
22	23	24	25 Zoo Field Trip K-5th 	26	27	28 Reminder: submit Summer Camp Application next week by June 1

“Like” us on Facebook



NWCA is now on Facebook. It's a great way to keep up with the Academy's upcoming events and to view some of our recent photos. Invite your friends and family to check us out and like us too!

Look for us under “Northwest Chinese Academy.”



Rummage Sale Save Your Stuff!

June 4-5

