



# The Weekly Window

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## An Unforgettable Trip to China

By Mrs. Patty Lemon

Our family started planning our Homeland trip back to China a year ago. We met with our friends who also adopted with us in 2003. We shared with them our thoughts about going back to visit China and what we might like to experience. With everyone's input, commitment, and planning, we traveled to China on April 1st.

On our intense trip we traveled to the big cities of Beijing and Xian where we explored the amazing history of China. Throughout our excursions, our shy daughters who would never speak to a person they didn't know in the US, helped our friends in ordering food or in purchasing items for the orphanage in China. They helped us through real life, spontaneous, situations. This problem-solving isn't something one learns in school but can only be experienced through real life situations. It wasn't until we arrived in Maoming, Phoebe and Fiona's birthplace, that we were absolutely blown away by the girls' language fluency and understanding of the culture. We watched as the girls conversed in Mandarin with the orphanage director and shared an album of their life in America. The Orphanage director smiled at us many times during their conversation. Later she shared with us (through translation) that she knows how difficult it must be for us to support them in learning and sustaining another language in the U.S. and that speaking in their native language will always connect them to their roots. How true for our family story.



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## 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..

## Rummage Sale Proceeds for Future Computer Lab



*Concept image for new computer lab located in the current art and library check out room*

## Rummage Sale Events

Clothes, books, toys, sports equipment, furniture, games, oh my! NWCA is holding our third annual Rummage Sale on June 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. The sale is a fun late Spring fundraiser that is especially important because **we are raising funds to support a much needed new computer lab and Smart Board** for our students. Last year, NWCA raised over \$2,400 and this year we can do better!

Our students are so excited about the prospects of a new computer lab that they've come up with their own designs. Check out the concept images that the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders came up with!

Volunteers are essential to the success of this sale. There are many different volunteer opportunities for each family to help out. You can help out by posting flyers, setting up, working the sale, providing child care, etc. Child care is available for volunteering parents. Take a look and sign up on the Rummage Sale bulletin board in the community room.

Gather and price your items and set them aside until set up on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have a large item that just needs to get out of your house, Stephanie W. offered to store items in her garage or sell it on Craigslist and donate the funds to NWCA. For additional item and sale preparation information, see the tips and guidelines packet available on a previously sent email and on the bulletin board.

Questions or need the sale information packet emailed to you? Contact co-chairs Bill Cockrell (503.734.7480, res1clf8@frontier.com) or Julia Lu (503.690.8988, julia@pdxlu.com).

### Calendar

- Donation Drop Off: Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2:30 – 5:30 PM
- Pre-Sale for NWCA Families: Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 – 5:30 PM
- Rummage Sale Open to the Public: Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM and Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

This event is not just a Rummage Sale...there are many more events to support NWCA fundraising and awareness in the community!

(Continue on pg. 3)



## Rummage Sale Events

1

### Boys Club Car Wash

June 4 -5

Boys Club will host a handy car wash right next door to the Rummage Sale in the Tillicum back parking lot. Our hard working boys and girls will get your car nice and clean for the sunny June weather. Proceeds will benefit the Boys Club and the Rummage Sale.



2

### Girls Club Snack Stand

June 4 -5

Girls Club will host a refreshment stand at the Rummage Sale for hungry or parched customers and volunteers. NWCA girls and boys will provide tasty treats for increased shopping energy. Proceeds will benefit the Girls Club and the Rummage Sale.



3

### Cash Raffle You Could Win \$500!

May 25 - June 5

**What:** Raffle to support NWCA's computer lab

**Details:** \$1 = 1 ticket or \$5 = 6 tickets. The more tickets we sell, the larger the prize. 60% of the money collected will build NWCA's school computer lab. The remaining 40% will be used as the cash prize, up to \$500.

**When:** Tickets sold before and after school, beginning May 25th and at the rummage sale. Tickets will also be placed in family mailboxes on May 25<sup>th</sup> that you can sell to friends and family. **Winner will be drawn June 5<sup>th</sup>.**

4

### Dance Troup Performance at Beaverton Farmers Market

June 4

We are bringing out our talented students once again for a delightful dance performance at the Beaverton Farmers Market on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Come on out to watch our performers before heading to the sale.



## OAKS Test, Something to Celebrate!

Our 3rd-5th graders recently finished taking the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) test. Depending on their grade in school, the students were tested in reading, math, science and social studies. We are excited to pass on the following statistics:

**100% of our students met or exceeded expectations in both math and reading. Furthermore, 93% of our students exceeded expectations in reading, 71% exceeded expectations in math and 66% exceeded expectations in science. (The social studies test is not scored.)**

Most impressive is the fact that all subjects at Northwest Chinese Academy, excluding English language arts, are taught in Mandarin, while the OAKS test is administered in English. Our students not only grasp subject matter in Chinese, but are able to translate and understand it in English. That's quite an accomplishment, and is just one more thing that sets NWCA apart from other schools.

Needless to say, we are extremely proud of how well our students scored!

## NWCA Girls Leadership Club: Helping Our Community



The NWCA Girls Leadership Club is at it again! In a recent service learning field trip to the **Oregon Food Bank**, club members volunteered time and toil to help feed hungry children and families all across Oregon. With the help of stellar parent volunteers and club advisor Mrs. Angell, NWCA kids packaged over **1,200 pounds** of food! In a colossal effort, fourteen volunteers packaged a total **931 healthy, satisfying meals**. NWCA kids were shocked to learn that Oregon has the second highest rate of hunger in the United States. Moreover, club members learned that it's *fun* to make a positive difference in our communities. Thanks to the teamwork and generosity of the Leadership Club, hungry people will be well fed in communities all across Oregon.



## Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue visits NWCA



Madalyn S. and Mia S. practicing how to yell for help when there is a fire.



Katherine L. and Seth S. practicing how to crawl to the door when there is a fire.

## NWCA Scientists, Simply Amazing!

Recently, Northwest Chinese Academy was the site of a science fair where dozens of scientists took center stage and wowed spectators with experiments and presentations.

Our scientists spent weeks studying the topic of choice, writing a hypothesis and conducting experiments. Once information was gathered, displays were created and presentations written. The presentations were written in Chinese and hours were then spent in rehearsal.

The big day finally arrived! On Friday, May 6th, the lower level of the academy was transformed into our own "Science Museum." Family and friends were invited to come between 2:30 and 4:00 to hear presentations, view

displays and ask questions.

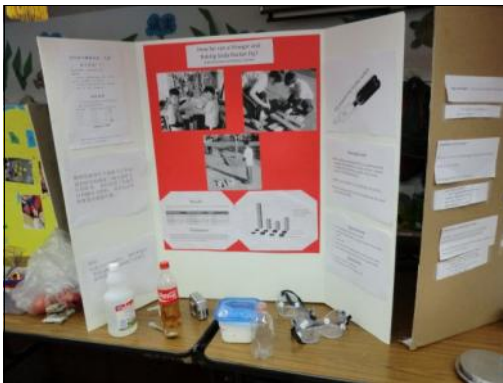
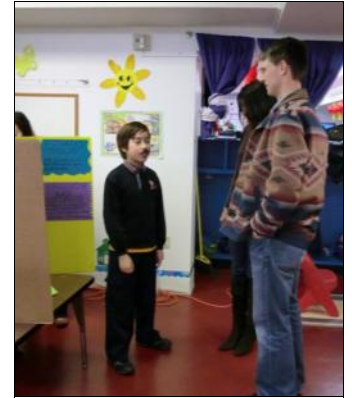
The audience heard presentations about earthworms, solar energy, liquids and solids.

They also heard presentations about animals and scientists.

We was even a hovercraft!!

(Many of us got a chance to ride it—great fun!)

All who attended went home having learned a few new things, impressed by the efforts of the NWCA students, and looking forward to next year!



Continuation from pg. 1 from Mrs. Lemon



The next day, we visited a school which was located right next door to their orphanage. We met with the Principal and office administrator. We toured the school where 50-60 students in a classroom learned various subjects, including English. The third grade class (same grade as the girls) sang the ABC's and "Head and Shoulders" for us. When they were on break, the students came out to practice their English. "Hello, how are you." When I responded with "Great, how are you?", they would immediately run away and not answer with a response. An hour a day of any foreign language can not prepare anyone with real life situations. How fortunate for us that we discovered NWCA. We are so grateful!

As we walked back to our bus from the entrance gate of the school, there were classical Chinese poems lining the exterior cement walls. There our girls started to quietly chat with each other about the writing and they read the lyrics to themselves. The Principal overheard the girls and asked if they were studying Chinese. They looked scared but said, "Yes". Then he pointed to the wall and asked them to read it. They looked at it and together they read aloud the Chinese characters of the story.



In the school hall ways there were several English quotes painted on the ceiling beams with Chinese translation underneath. One in particular resonated in our heart with what we had experienced on our China trip: *By reading we enrich the mind, by conversation we polish it.*

As your child blossoms from their Mandarin immersion education at NWCA it is absolutely important for them to travel to China. It is immeasurable the value it will have in building confidence as well as an affirmation of the journey you have chosen by this wonderful education.



This trip would not have been the same without the education they have received at NWCA. Jeff and I feel truly blessed for the vision and outcome at NWCA that our girls were able to demonstrate during our visit back to their homeland. Our hearts are full with gratitude to the community of supporters for NWCA.

## A Great Big Thank You !!!

The following for helping with the Leadership Club trip to the Oregon Food Bank:

Liping T., Patty L., Shari M., Shouly M., Prem A.

Bill C., Nora S.,

The following for helping with marketing and distributing flyers:




Karen S., Marilyn C., Kate J., Stephanie W.



# FOUR WEEKS AT-A-GLANCE

## MAY - JUNE 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22	23	24	25 Zoo Field Trip K-5th 	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 <u>JUNE</u>	2 Rummage Sale Donation drop-off 2:30-4 pm	3 Rummage Set-up & Preview sale for NWCA family and friends only.	4 Rummage Sale Car Wash Snack Stand Dance Troop 
5 Rummage Sale Car Wash Snack Stand Raffle Drawing	6	7	8	9	10 Planning Meeting 6-7 pm Adults only	11
12 	13 <b>Teacher Appreciation Week</b>	14	15 End of School Celebration	16 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	17 Staff in-service day	18

**Volunteers needed to assist  
with Rummage Sale.**

**Please see sign-up board located  
near the school's entrance.**

