



The Weekly Window

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

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Ni Hao, Taiwan!

By Marilyne C.

Many of the adventures and trips we take as a family come about opportunistically, and our first trip to Taiwan last month was no exception. Genevieve and I had a chance to tag along on a business trip with her dad. We were curious about the culture and atmosphere in Taiwan and wondered if the Mandarin spoken there would be the same as mainland China. Genevieve could go on the condition that she would use her Mandarin skills every day and at every opportunity. This was eagerly promised, and I'm proud to say that she followed through.

With her dad committed to long days of business meetings and dinners, Genevieve and I spent our time exploring with families of his local colleagues -- which gave us an opportunity to make new friends - or on our own. People were gracious. They wanted to make sure that we were enjoying our visit. They were orderly. They queued at bus stops and at the subway station. Pedestrian crosswalks were honored; there was no need to huddle en masse across a street.

We had no problem getting around at all. Genevieve used Mandarin all the time and people everywhere were impressed and said that she had no accent. Some people assumed that she was
(Continue on pg. 6)



Taipei 101 (top) and National Theatre

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 Raised \$3,800 by Bill C.

From great deals to a fun Raffle drawing and from suds to grub, this years annual rummage sale was a grand event.

The school was filled to the brim with bicycles, toys, hats, purses clothes books and more Christmas trees than a Safeway parking lot during the holidays. The farmers market was entertained by a few of our talented students who danced and handed out Rummage Sale fliers. **The Girls Club** was at the front entrance making sure no-one went thirsty or hungry. If that was not enough, **The Boys Club** was out back washing cars while you shopped, giving cars super custom car washes.

This year's event earned nearly \$3,800. That is more than \$1400 over what was earned last year.

So, how did we do it you ask? **Julia Lu**



was the school champion that led Rummage Sale Committee charge to victory this year. **Derek** and **Victor** took on the car wash as a Boys Club activity and armed the kids and **Su Laoshi** with picket signs, sponges, buckets and Super-soakers. Clearly this was a controlled water fight with cars involved. **Mrs. Angell, Shari, Nora, Marilyne, Stephanie** and **Binny** helped provide the necessary baked goods and supplies to run the Girls Club activity. One could not get past the front door of the

school without being asked to take note of the delectables and beverages available for purchase. **Karen** took on the raffle that created something out of nothing and created a cash prize. **Marilyne** got our school a spot at the Farmers Market for our kids to perform and secured a place for next year. **Jenny** took our sale on-line and got top dollar for some of our finest items. And a lot of wonderful people at our school volunteered their time to help set-up, tear down, organize, sort, unload cars, load cars, clean-up and watch kids. That is how we did it.

It is the success of the children of the Northwest Chinese Academy that inspire us to have such events So, thank you everyone who helped make our school rummage sale a success this year. Because of your contributions the Students will have a technology center. This means a Smart Board for the Kinder grades and an actual computer lab for



the older kids. Giving all students at Northwest Chinese Academy better opportunities for learning.

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Dance Troupe at Beaverton Farmers Market!

The NWCA Dance Troupe gave their final performance of the 2011/2012 school year at Beaverton Farmer's Market this past Saturday. Under sunny skies, the 2nd – 5th grade troupe dancers performed the "Gongfu" and "Peacock" dances followed by Kindergarten and 1st graders that performed a "Be Fit" dance. Our students surely have special talent, check out the performance pictures.

Special thanks to our Dance Troupe parents who drummed up the Rummage Sale business by handing out flyers over at the Farmers Market. Also, thank you to **Su laoshi** for leading the choreographing this wonderful troupe and parents that helped collect costumes, performers and event details.



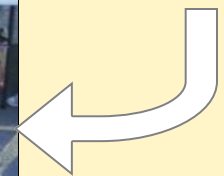
Rummage Sale Cont. from pg. 2

Rummage Sale Funny Moments :

- **Mimi** (Stephanie's little one) test drove all the little bikes. She is getting better at stopping.
- The Ikea Sofa strapped to the roof of a car. We never did get that rope back.
- Eating healthy brownies. The secret ingredient is apple sauce. (the secrets is out)
- Listening to the kids rate how dirty they thought your car was. Binny should visit the car wash more often, and **Bill** should have had his car washed twice.
- Watching the mass balloon launch. It is amazing how long kids will watch balloons float up.
- I know there are many more moments that I can not recall, so do not be offended if I have omitted anything .



Get
Bill's look!



NWCA apron is available for purchase for \$20. Great for summer BBQs. Sombrero and beard sold separately. Thanks **Brian S.** for making it possible!

3rd Annual Bi-Lingual Read-A-Thon 2011



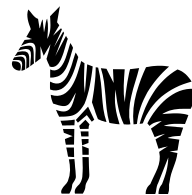
Thousands of minutes and pages were read over the past couple of months, from preschool to 5th grade students. That is an amazing effort toward increasing literacy awareness, spending time together as a family and enjoying reading entertainment. This year NWCA families gathered pledges funds to develop the English Literacy program curriculum. Money is still rolling in to match the tremendous amount of reading our students completed thanks to student supporters of family members, friends and parents that are contributing to a great cause. There will be an announcement of total funds raised and the student that raised the most pledge money next week!

There were a few special events that gathered the NWCA community together while students continually had their noses in books for the past eight weeks! To kick-off the Read-A-Thon, parents visited NWCA in April for Bead Head Day! Many parents volunteered to read their favorite books to students throughout the day, some even dressed up in pajamas, just like the students. Students listened as parents read books and shared their love of reading.

About half way through the Read-A-Thon, students that successfully completed the "No Screen Week" challenge earned a board game and treat party with Stacy. About 15 students turned off their T.V., computer and video games for the week.

Finally, Powell's Books at Cedar Hills Crossing hosted a finale event for NWCA to exhibit our student literacy talent. This exciting event brought the NWCA community together to watch literary performances by all of our students. Each class practiced and performed a variety of poems, books, songs and book reviews in both English and Chinese. In addition, along with Powell's generous offer to match 20% of proceeds sold that afternoon to NWCA, the entire Book Wish List was purchased during the event, totaling about \$500 of books and money to purchase curriculum. Our English program will surely benefit from this year's Read-A-Thon!

Zoo Field Trip



On Wednesday, May 25th, Kindergarten -5th grade students, teachers and parents boarded the bus and headed out for a fun-packed day at the Oregon Zoo!

The rain didn't stop our group from having fun! With raincoats and umbrellas in hand, we trekked from one end of the zoo to the other. We explored the Great Northwest Trail and came face to face with bears, bobcats and wolves. In the Fragile Forest exhibit, we watched monkeys, turtles and exotic birds. Penguins, tigers and sea otters were on display in the Pacific Shores, while in Africa we viewed lions, cheetahs, giraffes and hippos. And of course, we stopped by to see the Asian elephants.

We found cover and enjoyed a picnic lunch. Afterwards it was back to the exhibits to see what we'd missed earlier.

At one point the rain was coming down pretty hard—but we didn't fret! The Kindergarten and 1st grade classes found a space to enjoy a game of freeze tag. Other groups met for popcorn and cocoa provided by some generous teachers and parents.

At the end of the day, students were met by their families at the front gate. We all were a little wet, but enjoyed ourselves very much.



A Great Big Thank You !!!

Nerissa Williams (Laya and Freedom Rajee's grandmother) for her generosity in purchasing our Wish List books from Powell's at the Read-a-Thon Closing Celebration

Karen , Justin and Julia S., Harold and Kiran S., Binny and Prem A., Shari M. , Steph and Gigi W., Bill, Pam and Taylor C., Ting laoshi, Donna laoshi for helping at our Open House in May

Ellen for all she did to make our annual Read-a-Thon a success.

Pam C., Patty L., Jackie T., Andrew P., Karen S., and Liping T. for serving as chaperones for our trip to the Oregon Zoo in May.

A very special thanks to **The Sills Family** for their help with advertising our Open Houses this spring. Nora coordinated people to pass out flyers, purchased signs and posted them around town. The Sills family also donated the "Now Enrolling" sign that is posted at the end of our parking lot entrance. Thanks too for helping with getting our water problems fixed and for being willing to jump in wherever needed.

Ni Hao, Taiwan! Continuation from pg. 1

going to school there. For some reason, many people thought that since she spoke Mandarin, then so did I! Taxi drivers always did a double-take when we got into the car, and on at least one occasion, I am sure that we were charged more while our taxi driver carried on a conversation with Genevieve – before we even left the hotel.

While spoken Mandarin was the same, the written characters were not. Taiwan employs traditional, not simplified, characters. Reading signs was sometimes a challenge. One afternoon, some university students tentatively asked if they could practice their English with us. They were only in their second year of studying English and their struggle to make the right sounds and find the right words reminded me how beneficial it is to learn another language at a younger age.

Taiwan has a wonderful mix of memorial halls, beautifully landscaped gardens that attract hundreds of white butterflies, Buddhist temples, museums, natural landscapes, and their famous night markets where you can buy everything from stinky tofu to socks! And we took advantage of seeing as many as we could in a brief 9-day visit.

If allocated the entire newsletter, I could describe in detail all the wonderful places we visited: Taipei 101, the 2nd tallest building in the world with an elevator that ascends in 33 seconds and doesn't make your ears pop; Longshan Temple where Genevieve had an opportunity to partake in a celebration; the National Palace Museum where we enjoyed the display of ornate imperial furniture and the ancient curio boxes with their hidden compartments; the Dongsui night market where we found a little shop that customizes sandals; the Traditional Arts Centre and the handmade scarecrows dotting the rice fields outside Taipei City.

One of the most memorable experiences of our visit to Taiwan was the day we spent up north. I hired a driver to take us to the northern coast – about 90 minutes outside of Taipei. There, we visited a geologic park which included formations that we'd never seen anywhere before. They looked like swept sand with big black sponges on top and they towered over both of us. While there, we kept hearing announcements in Chinese on a loud speaker from the nearby aquarium. Of course, we had to go check it out. Genevieve used her Mandarin to get walking direc-

tions and to purchase our tickets. We were immediately led to the arena in time for the last show of the day. I enjoyed watching, but understood nothing of what was being said. Ten minutes into the dolphin show, Genevieve jumped up and headed down the bleachers toward the stage. "Where are you going?" I asked. "They asked for volunteers," she called back to me. And

so, I watched my blond haired child parade up to the stage with 4 local children and participate in the dolphin show! The trainers were quite surprised that she understood everything that was being said and asked Genevieve to make up two simple math equations for the dolphins that they would answer by ringing a bell. And she did – in Mandarin, on a microphone, in front of people she didn't know. I was so proud of her. And the best part? One of the dol-

phins leapt out of the water and kissed her on the cheek!

Her dad and I were very proud of Genevieve's confidence, willingness and ability to converse in Mandarin every day while we were in Taiwan. It makes us that much more appreciative of the investment we are making in her education here at NWCA.

We hope to go back to Taiwan soon, spend time with our new-found friends, and explore more of the country.



Sun Yat Sen Hall



Summer Outreach Opportunities: Volunteers Needed

During the months of June, July and August, Northwest Chinese Academy has been provided with several opportunities for our elementary school students to get out into the community and raise awareness about our school. We are very excited! Our students have been given the chance to show others how fluent they are, all while learning the importance of helping others.

Below is a list of dates, times and locations, along with a brief description of what we'll be doing:

- **Hillsboro Library**
2850 Brookwood Parkway
2:15-2:45pm
Saturday, June 25

We will be a part of the library's multi-cultural event on this day. NWCA students and staff will read stories,

sing songs and lead a craft activity.

- **Lan Su Garden**
239 NW Everett St. Portland
From 1:00-3:00pm on the following Saturdays
July 9, 30, August 6, 13, 27

NWCA teachers and students will be leading activities for visitors— activities such as creating paper lanterns, playing Jenga, and teaching them a few Chinese words and phrases. (All activities have been planned and we will bring along all supplies needed.)

- **West Slope Library**
3678 SW 78th Ave. Portland
12:30-2:30pm
Saturday, July 16


NWCA teachers and students will be leading a Chinese craft time for drop in library patrons.

- **Nike Child Care Center**
1 Bowerman Dr. Beaverton
3:00-3:30pm
Thursday, July 21 and
Monday, August 15

NWCA students and staff will read stories, sing songs and lead a craft activity.

No planning on the part of our students and families is necessary. We will provide all plans and supplies, along with one or two of our NWCA staff members. Students need to simply show up and amaze the crowds with all they know!

If you are available to help at any of the above listed outings, please let **Stacy** know ASAP. Thanks!

 = Volunteers Needed

June

July

August

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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31						

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			