



The Window

NWCA Monthly Newsletter

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SEPTEMBER 30, 2011



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Ni Hao!

Welcome to Northwest Chinese Academy! Our 2011-2012 academic year is in full swing and we're off to a great start!

At Northwest Chinese Academy, we provide a challenging academic program where students are fully immersed in Mandarin Chinese. Our highly qualified and dedicated faculty and staff work together with our school board and parent community to provide a safe, healthy, fun and respectful learning environment.

They also provide cultural opportunities for our students, so that they not only understand Mandarin, but develop an understanding of a culture quite different from their own.

Watching our students learn Chinese has been a fascinating experience. I am surprised daily by what they accomplish—they are truly amazing!

A warm welcome to all our families! I'm looking forward to working with you and your children this year. Please let me know if I can help you in any way.



Warmly,

Stacy Payne, Principal

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.

What a Team!

The Northwest Chinese Academy administration and teachers spent two full weeks getting ready for the start of school. One of the highlights of those weeks was a team building activity they participated in at Synergo.

The NWCA team worked with a representative from Synergo, who led them in a variety of activities. These activities were designed to stretch comfort zones, show the importance of teamwork and be a lot of fun. They played a group juggle game, helped each other through an obstacle course a few feet off the ground. All members had to go from one end to the other without touching the ground. Some members worked as pairs, climbed 35 feet on to a wire and supported one another as they moved further out onto the wire, and away from their partners. The highlight of the day was a swing attached to a zipline!

We were proud of each other. Many of us challenged ourselves, and all of us cheered for each other. A fantastic team was born that day—can't wait to see what's in store for our school this year!



First Day of School 2011

After an action packed summer, students arrived at school on the first day, full of excitement and energy. Our new teachers were excited as well! Students found that things looked a little different this year. Our front door is now red, there are curtains hanging to define classrooms, and most of the coat hooks and cubbies have been moved upstairs! The biggest change, and perhaps the most exciting, was the addition of our new Technology Lab!

Mrs. Stacy led an assembly in the morning to introduce the teaching staff. Rules and guidelines were also covered. All students and staff members are expected to be safe, responsible and respectful at all times. Mrs. Stacy also talked about what a school mascot is, and how we will have a contest to choose one for NWCA.

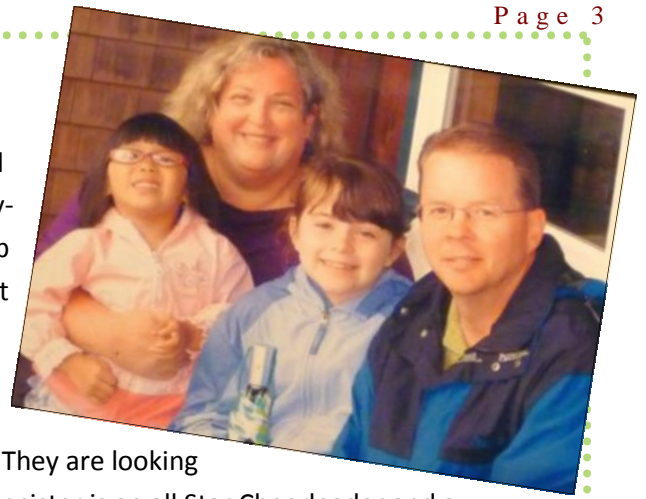
After the assembly students went back to their classrooms to get to know their teachers and peers, receive school supplies and get started on school work.

Mrs. Stacy commented on how this was the smoothest first day of school she'd ever encountered. No doubt it marked the beginning of an awesome school year!

([More photos available online. "Like" "Northwest Chinese Academy" on Facebook.](#))

Welcome Emily's Family!

Emily's family consists of **Ron** (Dad), **Karen** (Mom), big sister **Katie** and NWCA Pre-kindergarten student **Emily**. Emily is from Guangdong Province in China. Ron and Karen travelled there in April of 2008 to pick up Emily, who was 9 months old at the time. The family loves to hang out with one another, ride bikes, watch Funniest Home Videos, read books, take trips to the beach and visit family in Indiana. Their two favorite vacations have been to Disneyland and a two week road trip to Montana and Wyoming for a reunion of their China Travel Group. (They are looking forward to the next reunion on the east coast!) Emily loves ballet. Her sister is an all Star Cheerleader and a great big sister! Emily is teaching her family everything she's learning at school. We're so happy to have Emily and her family join our NWCA Community!!



Welcome Kylee's Family!

We're very excited to welcome **Kylee** and her family to NWCA! Kylee is a new preschool student in Zou Laoshi's class. Her family includes mom **Jessica**, Step-father **Tosh**, 9 year old stepbrother **Gage**, and 7 year old brother **Shawn**. Some of the things Kylee's family like to do together include going to the zoo and the park. They also enjoy going to the Oregon Coast Aquarium and the beach. When they are at home, they like to watch movies together. Kylee also love to have books read to her! Kylee has become comfortable in her classroom, and is beginning to use the Chinese words she's learning. Way to go Kylee!!



More families will be featured in next month's newsletter. Stay tuned.

Beaverton Parade

On a beautiful, sunny(!) August morning, a group of NWCA families rode bikes and scooters, walked and waved at the cheering crowd at the 2011 Beaverton Parade. The students donned their NWCA shirts and decorated their bikes—many using a dragon theme. They were very cool! Others walked along, carrying our banner and passing out candy. Thanks to Bill, Pam and Taylor C., Andy, Karen, Justin and Julia S., Prem and Anisha A., Jared and Sophia T., Lin, Aurora and Elliot M., and Mrs. Stacy for representing our school. Next year, we hope to have our school mascot riding on a decorated float/trailer! We look forward to your participation in 2012. Stay tuned!



Mark your calendars.



October 30: Valley Lanes

October 30th: Start forming your teams and plan your costumes!

NWCA is having a bowling party on **October 30th** at **Valley Lanes** on Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy. All ages are invited to come out and join the fun and raise some funds for the school. Prizes will be awarded in multiple categories for bowling and costumes. You're not a great bowler? That's OK - we have a prize for that too!

Check your mailboxes soon for more details!

Hong Bao 2012

A new school year is upon us! We all know that this means new school clothes, school folders filled with assignments and enthusiastic kids on the playground at NWCA. What you may not know, however, is that September also means it is planning time for NWCA's annual Hong Bao Gala! We will celebrate the Year of the Dragon on **January 28** at the fabulous **Oregon Golf Club**.

We need your help to make this event a success. How can you help this year? Can you be a volunteer on the procurement team and help gather items for the silent and live auctions this year? Do you own a business that would be willing to donate services or goods, or perhaps become an event sponsor? Do you have special skills or connections that could help us as we plan the event?

Please consider all of the ways which you can contribute to Hong Bao 2012. For more information contact either Hong Bao : Kate Jackson (maxjax5@comcast.net) or Charlotte Townsley (ct@charlottetownsley.com).

With your help we can usher in the Year of the Dragon in style!



Images from Hong Bao 2011

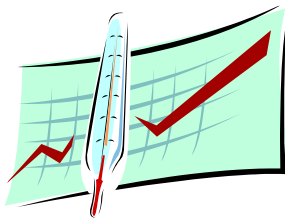
We are a family. Together, we build a school.

Back in the Spring of 2009, I set out with my son to visit the Beaverton City Library. Little did I know that trip would change my son's life. School children wearing the distinctive yellow Northwest Chinese Academy t-shirts were running around outside the library were. "How curious," I thought. "I didn't know there was a Chinese language school in my town," I said to myself. With some investigation and driving around the neighborhood, I found a small humble building. I later learned it was the first school year NWCA was established.

Flash forward two and a half years later, my son is in Kindergarten at a much larger NWCA facility and a larger staffed school. It didn't take long for me to realize that the founding families and teachers of the school had an incredible vision and most of all audacity and heart. Our school is built on our common love for language and hopes that our children will be global citizens in a multi-cultural world.

Like a puzzle piece, everyone plays a vital role in the success of each student and NWCA. Our school continues to mature. It builds on its success and adapts to challenges. NWCA's children, parents and staff are the essential ingredient in making our school a success. From wiring the computers for the new computer lab, bargain hunting for school supplies, to coordinating Hong Bao Auction Gala — families and staff are involved every step of the way.

The Big Picture



In the next couple of weeks, we will put up a **Community Involvement and Fundraising Thermometer** near the school's entrance. This is not only a way to jazz up and rally the community to fundraise but also to **celebrate the tenacity, heart and sweat** that the members of our community give day-in and day-out to make NWCA successful. It is also a tool our school can use to help formulate a wider fund development plan that will hopefully include external funding. As we begin to think about creating a long-term fund development plan, our school must demonstrate 100% community participation to potential external funders. We will track every donation and volunteer hours. This will help us present to foundations that our families and staff are invested in the stability and success of the school.



We are a family. Together, we build a school: installing play structure, car wash, read-a-thon and rummage sale.

As presented this past August at a community meeting, while a **full-time tuition is \$12,750**, the **true cost of educating each child is \$14,200**. Every year, the gap between tuition and true cost is made up by fundraising vigorously throughout the year. You can help us by participating in our school fundraising events: The Hong Bao Auction Gala, Family Bowling Tournament and Rummage Sale to name a few.

The Hong Bao Auction Gala is the biggest and most important fundraising event for our school. The auction goal is to raise \$110,000 or MORE! Your volunteer time and effort for this event is crucial. Please support the Hong Bao Committee any way you can. Procure auction items! Assist with art projects to be auctioned off! See tickets! Every bit helps. Your assistance will get us closer to the \$110,000 goal!!!

So, look for the thermometer soon. You'll be amazed how much all the families and staff put in to create a world-class school.

If you have ideas and suggestions, zap me an e-mail!

Warmly,
Elliot's Mom, Aurora
(aurora_oliva@hotmail.com)

Moon Cake Festival

Article by Zou Laoshi, Preschool

In the Chinese lunar calendar tradition, the seventh, eighth and ninth months comprise autumn. During fall, the skies are commonly clear and cloudless and the nights crisp and sharp as the moon appears to be the brightest. The 15th of the eighth month is the middle of autumn, thus the festival celebrates the moon's appearance as the brightest and most beautiful throughout the year.

The full moon is traditionally a symbol for reunion, *tuanyuan*, as *yuan* means round. The Chinese people celebrate by coming together as families (and as the NWCA teacher-student community) to eat and be merry. Moon cakes are typically round, symbolizing the full round moon of the mid-autumn festival.



The story behind moon cakes

According to legend, Chang'e *嫦娥**and her husband Houyi**后羿

**were immortals living in heaven. One day, the ten sons of the Jade Emperor transformed into ten suns, causing the earth to scorch. Having failed to order his sons to stop ruining the earth, the Jade Emperor summoned Houyi for help. Houyi, using his legendary archery skills, shot down nine of the sons, but spared one son to be the sun. The Jade Emperor was obviously not pleased with Houyi's solution to save the earth: nine of his sons were dead. As punishment, the Jade Emperor banished Houyi and Chang'e to live as mere mortals on earth.

Seeing that Chang'e felt extremely miserable over her loss of immortality, Houyi decided to journey on a long, perilous quest to find the pill of immortality so that the couple could be immortals again. At the end of his quest he met the Queen Mother of the West who agreed to give him the pill, but warned him that each person would only need half the pill to become immortal.

The teachers at NWCA were very excited to celebrate Moon Festival. They prepared ingredients for all students to make cakes to take home and bake. See next page for moon cake recipe to make at home.

Houyi brought the pill home and stored it in a case. He warned Chang'e not to open the case and then left home for a while. Chang'e became too curious: she opened up the case and found the pill just as Houyi was returning home. Nervous that Houyi would catch her discovering the contents of the case, she accidentally swallowed the entire pill. She started to float into the sky because of the overdose. Although Houyi wanted to shoot her in order to prevent her from floating further, he could not bear to aim the arrow at her. Chang'e kept on floating until she landed on the Moon.



While she became lonely on the Moon without her husband, she did have company. A jade rabbit, who manufactured elixirs, also lived on the Moon. Another companion is the woodcutter, Wu Gang. The woodcutter offended the gods in his attempt to achieve immortality and was therefore banished on the Moon. Wu Gang was allowed to leave the Moon if he could cut down a tree that grew there. The problem was that each time he chopped the tree, the tree would instantly grow back, effectively condemning him to live on the Moon for eternity.

The teachers at NWCA were very excited to celebrate Moon Festival. They prepared ingredients for all students to make cakes to take home and bake. Here is the moon cake recipe to make at home with your children anytime!



Try it at home!

Moon Cake Recipe

Dough: 4 cups cake and pastry flour, ½ cup brown sugar, ½ teaspoon baking powder, ¾ cup vegetable oil, 2 tablespoons honey, 4 tablespoons beer and/or milk (pick one or both)

Filing: You may use anything you wish; most prefer red bean paste (2 packages) from Uwajimaya.

Directions:

1. Make dough: mix 1 tablespoon of warm water with ½ teaspoon of baking powder. Put all ingredients together and hand mix. If it feels dry, add a little bit more warm water. Dough needs to be exposed to room temperatures for one hour prior to use, covered.
2. Press dough out to small circles with center holes, place filing in the middle and seal the round moon cake dough around filing.
3. Brush egg yolk over the moon cake top before baking to make the skin look golden-yellow. Do not pre-heat oven, place moon cake in over and bake 300°F-375°F for about 15 minutes or until golden-yellow. Let cool and enjoy!

Biggest Thanks...

- **Andy and Karen S.** and the Northwest Chinese Academy Board for the gift of really cool shoes for our staff!
- **Aurora M.** for being the editor of our monthly newsletter again this year. She does a fantastic job!
- **Prem A., Bill C., Victor L., Thomas K., and Theresa K.** for helping get our new Technology Lab up and running!
- **Lin M., Aurora M., Harold S., Brad J., Bill C., and Prem A.** for painting, cleaning, curtain hanging and construction—getting our school ready for our first day!
- **Aurora and Lin M.** for preparing all the food for the New Family Welcome BBQ. Thanks also go to the **Clotfelter, Martin and Chinn families** for being there to greet our new families. **Donna Laoshi, Qian Laoshi and Tracy** helped out too!!
- **Shari and Sarah M.** for shopping for school supplies—a big job!
- **Shari and Binny** for sorting supplies, books and getting our library and classrooms ready.
- **Stephanie W.** for her sewing skills—the shortened curtains look great!
- **Julia L.** for printing off materials needed for Chinese Curriculum Night!
- **Kathryn G.S.** for helping with P.E. Class each Monday!
- **Theresa K.** for helping out during Picture Day.
- **Ray C.** for volunteering to be the school librarian.



Phoenix voted as school mascot

After three years, it is about time that NWCA chooses a mascot to represent our community! Stacy started a contest to select a positive mascot created by students and chosen by the entire community. Each class created a mascot entry and presented on Monday, September 26th to an all school assembly. Students presented colorful, artistic posters and mascot personality details in Chinese. Each mascot represents NWCA values, students and school spirit. Mascot posters were hung in the community room during the last week in September showcasing the exciting contest entries: **pre-school's** cat and pony, **pre-kindergarten's** horse, **kindergarten's** large bird, **1st grade's** dragon, **2nd/3rd grade's** monkey, **4th/5th grade's** phoenix and **6th grade's** panda.

Adopting a mascot will instill school spirit and increased visibility in the community. Voting was open until Friday, September 30th to everyone in the NWCA community. Thank you to all our fantastic students for their creative ideas, and congratulations to our 4th and 5th graders!



Snapshots



More photos online. "Like us" on Facebook.



Fourth grade Spanish with Professora.



Students at the new computer lab.

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 PE @ Soccerplex	4	5 Library open 4:30-5	6	7 Coffee @ Starbucks by Jesuit High 8 am	8
9	10 PE @ Soccerplex Parents-Teacher Team Meeting 6 pm	11	12 Library open 4:30-5	13	14 * Staff In-Service (No School)	15
16	17 PE @ Soccerplex	18	19 * Field Trip - Elem. Library open 4:30-5	20 Community Din- ner @ Raccoon Lodge 5 pm	21	22
23	24 PE @ Soccerplex	25 * Preschool Fall Field Trip	26 Library open 4:30-5	27 * Spelling Bee	28	29
30 Bowling Fundraiser: Valley Lanes	31 * Harvest Festival PE @ Soccerplex					

Community Dinner & Coffee Talks

In an effort to build a strong community, a variety of special events have been planned over the course of the school year. Two events will occur monthly—coffee at Starbucks and dinner at Raccoon Lodge.

Coffee at Starbucks will happen on the **first Friday of each month**, beginning **October 7th**. After you've dropped your child off at school, head over to the Starbucks next to Jesuit High School.

The Kick-Off Dinner at Raccoon Lodge took place on Thursday, September 15th, and will happen on the third Thursday of each month at 5:00. Quite a few families showed up, ate a meal together and shared a lot of laughs! Mrs. Stacy was there too. Raccoon Lodge is located at 7424 Southwest Beaverton Hillsdale Highway.

Please take advantage of these dates to have fun and get to know one another! Hope to see you on **October 20th**!

Mark your calendar

Friday, Oct. 7



Thursday, Oct. 20

