



# The Window

## NWCA Monthly Newsletter

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

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## Schools and Students Benefit From Parent Involvement

I was recently putting together my calendar of special dates /staff appreciation days and discovered that November 17<sup>th</sup> is National Parental Involvement Day. Northwest Chinese Academy is fortunate to have a large number of parents actively involved in school. On any given day, you will find parents volunteering in a variety of ways. Our school staff appreciates their time, and the students enjoy seeing them at school. Parent involvement has a wide range of benefits. From volunteering in the classroom, to keeping in contact with your child's teacher, the time you spend investing in our school is invaluable.

Research shows that children do better in school when parents talk often with teachers and become involved in the school. When parents are involved, students make good progress. They develop greater skills and earn higher scores in tests. This boost

in achievement scores can be attributed to a variety of factors. Involved parents are aware of lessons and assignments and can make sure homework assignments are completed. Classroom volunteers can help students needing extra attention.

There are many social benefits from parent involvement in schools as well. Teachers see an improvement in student behavior. When parents are interested in schools, it rubs off on their children. Students develop positive attitudes towards learning and have a greater respect for teachers and administrators. School becomes a place where they enjoy spending time.

Teacher morale is boosted by parent involvement. Parents who invest time in their schools by volunteering send a strong

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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.



"Like" us on Facebook

(Con't from pg. 1)

message of support to staff. The work of teachers is validated, helping to create a positive view of the teaching profession.

Parents who participate in school activities and events will have added opportunities to communicate with teachers. Becoming involved with groups, such as our Parent/Staff Team, gives the teacher and parent the possibility to interact outside the classroom. In addition, parents may also have the opportunity to help with decisions that may affect their child's education.

NWCA has asked families to commit to a minimum of 25 volunteer hours this school year. If you are looking for a way to fulfill your that requirement, I encourage you to join the **Parent/Staff Team**. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 14, at 6:00pm**. Volunteering is a good investment in your child's education. The staff and administration at Northwest Chinese Academy values greatly our volunteers. We really wouldn't be who we are without them!

From,  
Principal Stacy Payne



Links:

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/succeed/communication.cfm>

[http://www.ehow.com/print/info\\_7995841\\_parent-involvement-schools.html](http://www.ehow.com/print/info_7995841_parent-involvement-schools.html)

## Welcome JaKayla's Family!

JaKayla joined Zou Laoshi's preschool class in September and has learned so much already! JaKayla's family includes Mark (Dad), LaTosha (Mom), LaBria (older sister), and Layla (younger sister). JaKayla's family loves to be together, laughing and playing. One of their favorite family activities is to watch movies. Road trips are always fun and the girls enjoy visiting family and friends. At school, JaKayla enjoys painting with watercolors, singing and dancing. We're very excited about having JaKayla and her family join the NWCA community!



## 2, 4, 6, 8, Northwest Chinese Academy is Really Great!

There are so many great things happening at NWCA we want to make sure everyone hears about them!

On the wall just inside our front door is the "Shout Outs" bulletin board. Every time a parent, teacher or student sees or hears about something fantastic happening at school and within our community they are encouraged to write it on a paper megaphone and tape it on the bulletin board. I'll compile a list of Shout Outs and include them in The Window each month. Here are the Shout Outs from October!

\*The **K-6<sup>th</sup> graders** were very well-behaved at the NW Children's Theater!

\*The **1<sup>st</sup> grade class** spoke to each other entirely in Chinese at Katherine's birthday party!

\*The **2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade class** had a very successful day using kinesthetic learning!

\***Nathaniel and Elizabeth** were able to talk with Chinese speaking family members at a recent wedding!

\***Nina** has been taking piano lessons in Chinese!

\* When **preschool kids** see the red cir-

cles on the Hong Bao Gala boards, they use the Chinese words for red (红色) and circle (圆形)!

\***Three 5<sup>th</sup> graders** successfully taught **1<sup>st</sup> graders** a lesson on how to tell time!

\*The **4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> graders** made some amazing inferences and insights after reading *The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury. Insights included: "Even if we look differently, we all have common ground," and "Always strive for understanding. Don't make decisions based on fear."

# Annual NWCA Spelling & Vocabulary Bee

From Mrs. Angell and Mrs. Erickson

This year's annual NWCA spelling and vocabulary bee was a huge success! Staff and students all worked together to create an amazing Smart Board program for hosting the Bee. Students took turns spelling words with an oversized keyboard, a soccer goal game, incomplete sentence correction tools, and a "drag and match" board. Even with a few minor technical glitches here and there, the program created a fun and interactive way for students to showcase their considerable spelling and vocabulary skills.

When the students journaled about their experience the next day, they wrote things like, "I was nervous, but the moment I stepped up to the board my nervousness was gone," "I pressed the buttons and I got it right and everyone clapped for me," "It was fun!" and "My mom was proud of me, and I was proud of myself!" We were all so proud of our students as well. See you next year for another round of spelling and vocabulary fun!



# Elementary Field Trip to Northwest Children's Theater

From Mrs. Angell

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, the elementary school attended a spirited performance of the Junie B. Jones play "Jingle Bells, Batman Smells" at Northwest Children's Theater. The cast and set were decked out in true Junie B. style with an array of vibrant costumes and boisterous props. The positive message on the importance of giving was apparent throughout and our naturally generous NWCA kids were on board all the way.

Northwest Children's Theater is an intimate venue so we shared the performance with only a few other schools and we are proud to report that our students were so quiet and

respectful during the performance that when the actor playing Junie B.'s teacher ventured out into the crowd for part of one act, he chose several of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders to sit with! The kids got a real kick out of watching the play with a member of the cast and we got a kick out of their reactions. To see a clip of the play, go to [nwcts.org](http://nwcts.org).

Our students really stood out in their yellow NWCA shirts and helped to raise awareness about the school in the most positive way. After the show, the actress who played Junie B.'s stuffed elephant stayed to take a picture with our kids and she was so im-

pressed with their interest in the play and their bright, insightful questions. Plenty of thanks goes out to all the parent volunteers who came along and to Northwest Children's Theater for putting on such a great show!





## A Great Big Thanks Goes Out To...

- ♥ Victor L and Bill C for installing our SMART board!
- ♥ The parents who served as chaperones for our field trips! Thanks Bill S, Jenny Y, Ray C, Julia L, Pam C, and Marilyn C. for coming with us to the NW Children's Theater. Thank you to Karen S, Matt D, Jessica D, Tosh B, Sara M, Eloisa and Elisabeth C, Andrew P, Meera H and Joyce L for coming along on the trip to the Pumpkin Patch. Many of them helped with driving—we are grateful!
- ♥ Charlotte C. for the yummy Beaverton Bakery treats she brought in for the staff!
- ♥ Karen S, and Steph W for organizing the Bowling Tournament! People are still talking about it!!
- ♥ Brad and Kate J for donating the pumpkins for our Harvest Festival!
- ♥ Anisha, Binny and Prem A for the delicious organic pumpkin bread—it was a wonderful Harvest Festival treat for our teachers.
- ♥ Lin M, Kathryn G and Theresa K for helping with snack and lunch duty!
- ♥ Lin M, Kathryn G, Theresa K and Marisel B for helping teachers with photocopying!
- ♥ Marilyn C-S, Lisa S, Deb S, Liz S for Hong Bao procurement.
- ♥ Joyce L with the Hong Bao invitations
- ♥ Jessica D for Hong Bao procurement and sponsorship
- ♥ Sara M for Hong Bao special appeal video

There are many reasons why Hong Bao Gala is NWCA's signature fundraising event. We all get to spend an evening together bidding on fabulous auction items, eating delicious food and drinking great wine. And all this merriment is for a good cause: raising funds to continue the work done every day at NWCA.

This year's Hong Bao Gala is on **January 28** in a new location: the Oregon Golf Club in West Linn. The Hong Bao team started planning in August and we're in full swing now. With table sales gearing up and a chill in the air, the Hong Bao team's thoughts are turning more and more to . . . wine!

So many of you have come up to us asking what you can do to help. What we need most urgently are donations for our silent and live auc-

tions. This month we're focusing on wine. We are a thirsty crowd and never any thirstier than when we're engaged in a bidding war with our best friends. We need wine for the table, wine for the Wall of Wine, and wine in our glasses!

You might be thinking that you don't have anything to donate to the auction, but you would be surprised what you have or who you know! If you have wine, drink wine, own a winery (or know someone who does who has a giving spirit) then you can help Hong Bao!

Please contact either **Kate Jackson** (maxjax5@comcast.net) or **Karen Shih** (kshih123@yahoo.com) for more information or to come unload cases of wine from your car!



# NWCA's First Bowling Tournament

By Mrs. Erickson



On the night before Halloween the ghouls came out to play in the first NWCA Bowling Tournament. Family, friends, and teachers hit the Valley Lanes in their Halloween costumes to raise money for our school. The night began with the teams competing for the highest team score, the highest individual score, and the highest number of gutter balls. When asked what his favorite part was **Seth S.** shouts, "I liked getting the top score!" The Boys Team and the Dads Team won the highest team score of the night. The highest individual score awards went to **Derek C.** and **Genevieve C-S.** And the silliest award of all, highest number of gutter balls, was awarded to **Deb S.**

After two hours of bowling and mingling, the kids played games to get a head start on their candy collecting. They had fun moving things like pennies and beads from one container to the next with chopsticks. They also tested their suction skills by using a straw to move paper as fast as they could. Then the most exciting event of the night, the costume contest. There was such a variety of crazy, spooky, or sparkling costumes. All the kids lined up to show off their costumes. The judges took a long look and then **Karen S.** announced,

"And the winner for best kid costume ... **Elliot!**" Everyone cheered and clapped. The Ma family must have spent a lot of time on their costumes this year because the individual adult winner was **Aurora!** Then the teachers dressed as Team Disney Villains won best team costume. As stated by **Kaitlynn P.**, "I loved all the costumes!" The event was a huge success thanks to the hard work of **Karen** and

**Stephanie W.** With **57 bowlers**, we earned around \$809.16 for our school, and everyone had a blast doing it. As mentioned by **Qian Laoshi**, "It was great to see so many teachers, kids and families involved as a community."



## Friday, Dec. 2

"Cawfee Tawks" - Relax and chat with other parents at Starbucks by Valley Plaza. 8:15 am after drop-off.

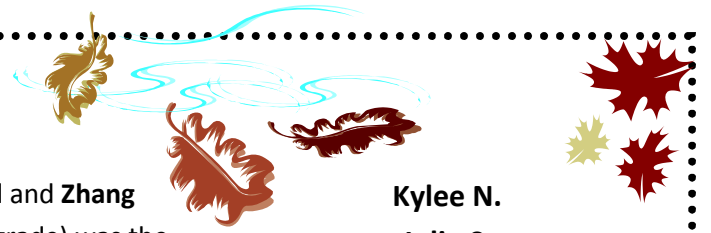


## Thursday, Nov. 17

Community Dinner at Raccoon Lodge, 5 pm.



# Harvest Festival Fun!



Students and staff celebrated fall with special events and activities on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Many students brought in apples for our Biggest Apple Contest. After guessing which was the biggest, the apples were measured and weighed. **Nina's** apple was the heaviest, weighing in at 1.6 pounds! **Elliot** and **Elizabeth** had the fattest apples measuring 15 inches in circumference. Students couldn't wait to take a bite out of their apples—it was hard to wait for lunch!

Pumpkins were the center of attention next, with each class receiving a pumpkin to decorate. Students brought in supplies to use and were given 10 minutes to create their masterpiece. The

pumpkins were judged and **Zhang Laoshi's class** (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade) was the winner!

Since NWCA now has a school mascot, classes worked on creating a school cheer. Each class presented their cheer—some in both English and Chinese. After voting it was determined that the cheer created by **Yu Laoshi's** class is the Official NWCA cheer. We'll all need to learn it so we can shout it out with pride!

Finally, awards were given to the October Star Students. Those recognized by their teachers and classmates for being safe, responsible and respectful are:

- Kylee N.**
- Julia S.**
- Kai D.**
- Julia S.**
- Nathaniel K.**
- Mia S.**
- Kaitlynn P.**
- Maira C.**
- Elizabeth K.**
- Kyra Crawford**
- Naomi S.**
- Nikhil R.**
- Anisha A.**

Great job students—keep up the good work!!



# P is for Pumpkin: NWCA's First Preschool Field Trip

The day started as everyone gathered in warm coats for a chilly morning as preschool and pre-kindergarten students took their first field trip last Tuesday.

Lee Farms led our group through their farm to explore many farm animals – chickens, pigs, horses, rabbits and goats! Everyone got a chance to pet three day old baby chicks and very friendly goats. After visiting animals, students learned how to make apple cider and watched a presentation on

different pumpkin varieties. Then, there was a long adventurous path to the pumpkin patch. After a windy trip through a hay maze, sliding down a culvert slide and a trek through a corn field maze, we arrived to a big field of pumpkins. Each student picked out their favorite pumpkin and loaded a tractor hay ride back to the parking lot to finish up the event.

Our sixth graders partnered up with preschool students to help out during the field trip. It is great to see our

youngest and oldest students at NWCA work together. Big thanks are in order to our volunteer carpool parents, field trip transportation was perfect! I hope families enjoyed carving/baking their child's pumpkins. This was the start of many fun preschool field trips to come.





Math class



Newest 6th grader XiXi

## 6th Grade Happenings

From Yu Laoshi

October has been a great month for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. Although we have the smallest classroom in the entire school, there is a lot of great learning going on here.

In Chinese class, we finished the book *The Old Man and the Sea*. We had a lot of great discussion about the book in class, and we did some research about the fish and one of the characters in the book. We also finished a writing piece about how people use chopsticks differently. Another great thing in this month is that we completed a read aloud project about one of the most famous prose in Chinese. Check out these links to see what they did.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg5Y6O3sg3M>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXyvZgtDTSk>

In math class, we focused on the process of developing algorithm for fraction multiplication and division. It's amazing to see how the girls apply their logic thinking to solve some real life math problems.

In art class, we are getting a little bit ambitious. We will participate in the National Chinese Karaoke Contest. We are working hard to put together our music video. We will let you know when it is ready. Don't forget to vote for us!

Oh..... one more thing. If you think there are only two students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade class, it's no longer accurate. We have our student #3, a guinea pig! Her name is XiXi (Cici in English). XiXi says hi to the NWCA community.



Old Man and the Sea

## “Like” us on Facebook

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





## SnapShots



More photos  
online. "Like us"  
on Facebook.



Photos from recess time.

# NOVEMBER 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Library Open 4:30—5	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Library Open 4:30—5	10 <u>No Classes</u> Staff In-Service Day	11 <u>Closed</u> Veterans Day	12
13	14 Parent/Staff Team 6 pm School Library	15 NWCA Board Meeting 6 pm School Library	16 Library Open 4:30—5	17 Dinner @ Racoon Lodge 5 pm	18 Science Fair 2:30—4 pm 	19
20	21	22	23 End of Trimester Report Cards Library Open 4:30—5	24 <u>Closed</u> Thanksgiving Holiday	25 <u>Closed</u> Thanksgiving Holiday	26
27	28 <u>No Classes</u> Staff In-Service Day & <u>Parent-Teacher</u> <u>Conferences</u> Book Fair	29 Book Fair	30 Library Open 4:30—5 Book Fair	Dec 1 Book Fair	2 Cawfee Tawks @ Starbucks next to Jesuit 8:15 am Book Fair	3
4	5	6	7 Library Open 4:30—5	8	9	10 Community Pancake Feed!

## Scholastic Book Fair: Nov. 28 - Dec. 2



NWCA will host a Scholastic Book Fair starting on Parent Conference day, Monday, November 28th through Friday, December 2nd. Students, parents and staff choose from a variety of books for every reading level and themes to increase reading opportunities at home and possibly purchase books for holiday gifts. We are excited to gain **40% of book sales** in Scholastic Bonus Points from books purchased by parents and staff. That is large amount of proceeds that will support literacy supplies and books for the school! NWCA set a goal to sell 100 books by the end of the Book Fair and I know we can do it!



## Sign Up for Parent- Teacher Conferences



Parents has the opportunity to sign up for conferences beginning this afternoon. Look for the sheets on the table in the Parent Corner. (Conferences with our English teachers are available for parents of Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade students.)

Please print the Preconference Questionnaire that was e-mailed to you. One for each teacher you will be meeting with, fill it out and return it to school by Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Your child's teacher will use it in preparing for your conference. Thank you in advance for taking the time to do this!