



The Window

NWCA Monthly Newsletter

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December 8, 2011



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Educating Today for Tomorrow's World

From Prem Arcot, Academy Board Chair

Next year will mark the start of the Academy's fifth year in existence. Time has flown fast and we have all worked hard to bring the Academy to where it is today. Needless to say it has been an exhilarating ride with many ups and downs with the only constants being hard work and forward movement. I was recently asked what it takes to build a school. There are so many things that go into a success story like ours that it is near impossible to list them all, but distilling things down to their essentials I would say it takes many sleepless nights and the support of an excellent board that has its eye firmly fixed on the goal – a school that exists to serve the students first and last. All roads at NWCA lead to the student. Every decision, however big or small is made with the student in mind. The board has always asked themselves the key question – “What do we do next to make this a better educational experience for our students?”

As long as our board continues to see themselves as the custodians and executors of the core vision of “students at the center of the circle” around which the Academy was founded our staff, students and community will all benefit. I am proud to of the excellent board we have in place at the Academy. A board that has not only nurtured our shared vision but also put it into action at every opportunity. As we all know, these are tough economic times and schools everywhere have cut programs and days effectively downgrading the quality of education students receive. Despite the fact that we do not receive any state dollars and have to pay for everything from rent and salaries to every eraser and pencil ourselves we have managed to pull off a near fiscal miracle by not

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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.



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only keeping all programs intact but adding new ones along with appropriate staff. We have enabled perhaps the lowest possible teacher to student ratio of any private or public school in Oregon. In addition to this we have a highly qualified staff that is clearly passionate about teaching and helping each child reach their own full potential.

As you already know the difference between full tuition at the Academy and the cost of educating a student is \$2200. Given this challenge and our continued strong desire to maintain our high quality program the board recognizes the importance of fund raising to close the gap. Each of our board members is actively working on fundraising on multiple fronts. We invite you all to join us in this effort by attending the Hong Bao gala with your friends and family. If a schedule conflict prevents you from attending the gala please con-

sider adding NWCA to your gift list during this season of giving to help us continue to provide a quality education for our children.

Together we can close the gap in funds and ensure that this valuable program is available to our current and future students

The Academy's board consists of the following community members who have given and continue to give of their time, energy and expertise to educate our students for tomorrow's world. Please take the time to thank them for their efforts when you have a moment

- **Derek Clotfelter** – Treasurer
- **Bill Cockrell** – Secretary
- **Prem Arcot** – Chair
- **Andy Shih** – Advisory member
- **Aurora Oliva Ma** – Advisory member

- **Charlotte Townsley** – Advisory member
- **Binny Arcot** – Founder/Founding Head Emeritus, Advisory member
- **Stacy Payne** – Principal, Ex-officio

As we look forward into the future it is easy to see that our students will be ready to lead in tomorrow's world thanks to the excellent education they have received and continue to receive.

With thanks and wishing you all peace and joy,

Prem Arcot,
Academy Board
Chair



Hong Bao Gala Update

From Kate J.

Have you always wanted to attend an Oregon Symphony performance? How about a night at the Avalon Hotel in Portland with a visit to their world-class restaurant, *Aquaviva*? Maybe you'd like to send your child to art or language camp this summer, or maybe the adults would like to take a trip to Palm Springs?

If this all sounds good to you, then you need to be at Hong Bao Gala 2012! Sip champagne, dine on hoisin pork tenderloin and sticky rice balls with fresh sliced mango and do some post-holiday shopping with your best friends from NWCA.

Plans for our biggest fundraiser and the best party of the year are in full swing, thanks to all of the participation we've had from the NWCA community. Now that Hong Bao is less than two months away we're working on the finer details of the event. If you are motivated to help, we still

need wine for the Wall of Wine (bottles must be worth \$20+ each) and wine to pour at the event. If you have a few bottles you'd like to give, we will gratefully receive it!

We'd also like to remind you that single tickets are on sale for the event. Don't miss out on this great party! Bring a check into school or go online to nwchineseacademy.org/hongbao to get your tickets today. We'll see you there!

Hong Bao 2012 Sponsors: Northwest Neurological Specialists P.C. and Pacific Crest Securities

In-Kind Sponsors: Gango Editions



Parent Teacher Team Update From Mrs. Erickson & Yu Laoshi

We had our 2nd Parent Teacher Team meeting on Monday, November 14th. We still didn't have the turnout we expected, but thank you Aurora, Jessica, and Mohini for attending. We celebrated that all the parents from the Hong Bao Art Committee have started working on the art projects. We discussed the incoming **Pancake Breakfast and Cookie Exchange event**. The highlight of the meeting was the proposal of putting together a school satisfaction survey. We will be finishing our survey in our **December 12th** meeting. **If you have any input or would like to join a committee, please join us at 6pm.**



A Parent's Perspective From Theresa K.

We heard the benefits of parent volunteering from a school and child perspective in November's "The Window". This month, I'm here to give you the benefits from the parent's perspective.

This year, I'm on the Parent Staff Team and involved with in-school activities twice a week. Here are some of the things I help with at school and have completed:

- Monitor lunch and recess twice a week
- Photo copy things that teachers need
- Took photos for a Hong Bao project
- Figured out how to scan and save files on the printer, so teachers can save and print curriculum for student and wrote a user guide for teachers and volunteers so everyone may learn to scan and save files as well improved the library database and check out system. And the list goes on...

That's the boring list. Now let me tell you what I've really done.



I listen to funny stories from my children and their classmates while I eat lunch with them. I also get to see what others eat and I have more ideas on what to pack for lunch.

During recess, I protect kids from "villains" in tag games. One day while running around playing soccer because teams were uneven, I realized that I'm out of shape! By the way, kids at

NWCA are very polite. I don't know how to play soccer very well and was happy to hear the wonderful words, "you don't have to play anymore" once another student decided to join the game. Thank you **Brandon** for relieving me - it is now a goal of mine to play with them one day without losing my breath! Most of all, I see how honest the children are. On my first days volunteering, I was unaware of the rules and relied on students to let me know what they could and could not do at school. I am very proud of how respectful and responsible they were.

I help make every day tasks more efficient and easier on teachers and staff so they can spend more time teaching our kids, as well as take a well-deserved break. During one of **Li Laoshi's** breaks, I found her cutting Chinese flashcards out and jumped in to help her. Once the kids returned, I took over and finished making flashcards for the Kindergarteners.



While taking photos for a Hong Bao project I stumbled into the **4th/5th grader's** art class the day they created their idea for school mascot. It was neat to see the kids make decisions as a group and transform their ideas into one end product, the phoenix.

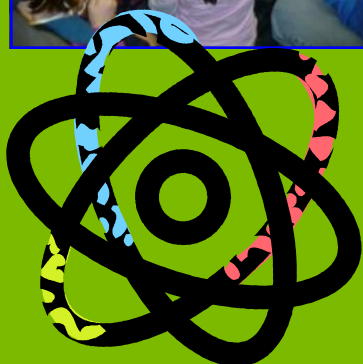
It's great to spend time with my children, their classmates, teachers and staff. I hear and see first-hand reports regarding positive and challenging behaviors of my children. Teachers are willing to work with me as a parent to improve my children's education and behavior, and I thank them greatly.

Super Projects Spotlighted at Annual Science Fair

Walking into Northwest Chinese Academy on Friday, November 18th may have had you wondering if you'd gotten lost and arrived at OMSI. Northwest Chinese Academy was the site of a science fair where dozens of scientists took center stage and wowed spectators with experiments and presentations.

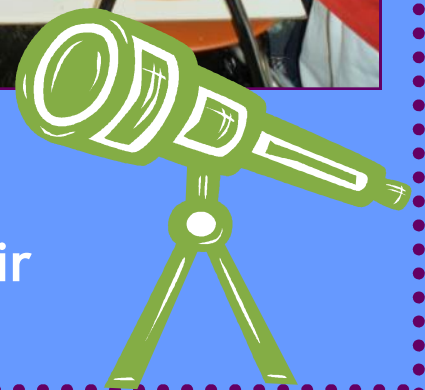
Our scientists spent weeks studying the topic of choice, writing a hypothesis and conducting experiments. Once information was gathered, displays were created and presentations written. The presentations were written in Chinese and hours were then spent in rehearsal.

The big day finally arrived! On that day, the entire school 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 crystals, probability, volcanoes, and more! Some even had the chance to try delicious ice cream by Matias and listen to Wu Laoshi's first graders make music with stemware!





2011 NWCA Science Fair



First Grade Update

From Wu Laoshi

The students in first grade have done such a great job in November. We have been learning so many things!

In Chinese language arts we completed the study of Pinyin. Students are now able to read new characters, complete sentences and even stories with the help of Pinyin! Isn't it amazing? We have learned many new radi-

We would like to thank all of the fourth and fifth grade students for tutoring us with telling time.

In science class we focused on the classification of animals. We have learned the characteristics that make up a reptile, amphibian, and mammal. We found similarities and differences between animals, compared the life cycles of different animals, and learned how a food chain works.

In Social Studies we're studying landforms and bodies of water. We finished learning our Earth's resources. Our first grade students now understand the importance and the benefits of recycling, and they are now more aware of how they can help care for our Earth.

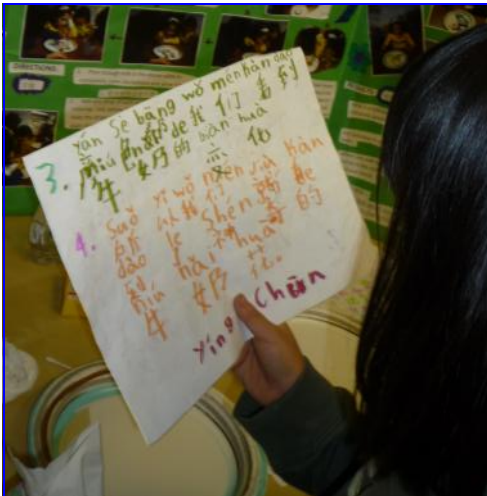
What is the greatest thing we have done for November? The science fair for sure! Our first graders have done two amazing projects – "magic milk flower" and "wine glass music box". We have done many hands on activities dealing with sounds and enjoyed working in groups to make our milk flowers bloom. And if you want to try

cals, characters and texts as well. In reading we have started learning a new genre – Chinese poem. Don't be surprised if our first graders read poems like real poets!

In Math we are finishing up our unit on addition and subtraction within 20 with regrouping. We have learned a variety of strategies and tools to solve addition and subtraction problems: counting on and back, doubles and near doubles, making a ten, using counters, number lines, and drawing pictures. In addition, we have been doing activities based around clocks.



these two cool things out, don't hesitate to ask us. We would be very happy to help!



NWCA Star Students for November

Congratulations to the following students for remembering to be safe, responsible and respectful!

Ana Sofia, Francine, Kiran, Seth, Mia, Nathaniel, Ethan, Sawyer, Gigi, Yohan, Seth, Kyra, Naomi, Matias, Stephen, Brandon, Taylor

Two, Four, Six, Eight Our Students are Really Great!

- Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade students have been teaching Tracy Chinese words at snack/lunch and correct her when she says something wrong!
- During the all school recess, (after the all school assembly), the 4th/5th graders slowed the soccer game down and helped the Kinder/1st graders play. They said, "Good kick!" and "Great job!"
- Preschool student Kylee taught the kids at the Sprint Store to count in Chinese!
- 4th grader Genevieve spent a Sunday afternoon showing friends from China around the Oregon Zoo. She spoke Chinese all day!
- 2nd grader, and ballet student Sophia speaks Chinese to the ballerinas from China at the Oregon Ballet Theater!
- Preschool students sang with Kindergarten and 1st grade students!

And a funny....Zou Laoshi asked Kylee what "putting your foot in your mouth" meant. Kylee's response was, "Dirty!"



Photo: Julia using the building block to form the Chinese character: 三 (Three), 上 (Up), 下 (Down), 水 (Water) and 二 (Two). When Donna Laoshi saw it, she was excited. Julia, you did great job!

A Great Big Thanks Goes Out To...

♥ Donna Laoshi, Li Laoshi, Qian Laoshi and Wu Laoshi for raising \$3,000 for NWCA.

♥ Donna Laoshi for sewing and donating bean bags for our students to use!

♥ Liz S, Theresa K and Aurora M for helping teachers with photocopying!

♥ Aurora and Lin M, Thomas and Theresa K for supervising lunch and recess!

♥ LaTosha W for teaching Zumba to our Preschool and Pre-K classes!

♥ Jessica D for telling our Preschool and Pre-K classes all about being a mail carrier!

♥ Stephanie W, Lin M and Binny and Prem A for bringing in treats for our staff!

♥ Binny A and Nora S for donating supplies for classroom Hong Bao art projects!


♥ Theresa K for helping with the library computers!

DECEMBER 2011– January 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7 Library Open 4:30–5	8	9	10 Community Pancake Feed & cookie exchange
11	12 Parent Teacher Team Meeting 6 pm—NWCA library	13	14 Library Open 4:30–5	15 Family Night @ Racoon Lodge 5 pm	16 All School Assembly / Party 2 pm	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
 <h2 style="color: red;">Winter break no school</h2>						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						
1 January	2	3 Back to school 	4	5	6 “Cawfee Tawk” @ Starbucks 8:15 am	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14

Thursday, Dec. 15
Community Dinner at
Racoon Lodge, 5 pm.




**Save Box
Tops Coupon
and submit to
NWCA.**




NORTHWEST CHINESE
ACADEMY PRESENTS
Hong Bao Gala 2012
JANUARY 28, 2012
5 O'CLOCK
OREGON GOLF CLUB
WEST LINN, OREGON

Support your children's school. Purchase Tickets to Hong Bao!