



# The Window

## NWCA Monthly Newsletter

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### Hong Bao Gala 2016 Was a Success!

by Principal Stacy Payne

The 2016 Hong Bao Gala was our most successful event yet, raising over \$112,000! During the week following the gala, I spent some time reflecting on all that happened to make the evening such a success.

The 2015-2016 academic calendar had a staff in-service day scheduled the day prior to Hong Bao. That morning our teachers and administrative team worked with the Hong Bao Co-Chairs, Maryanne and LaTosha, to put the finishing touches on several projects. We put together bidder packets, checked to make sure auction packages were complete, created posters,



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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 bilingual 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*

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and gathered decorations and supplies to be transported to Portland Golf Club (PGC) the following morning.

I arrived at PGC the next morning to join several parents and Board members in getting the venue ready. We worked feverishly to hang decorations, display Silent Auction items, place pictures of our beautiful students on tables, organize registration, and get things ready for the party. The venue looked stunning!

Arriving at the Portland Golf Club later that afternoon, I couldn't help but feel the excitement - the party had started! Beautifully dressed people were picking up their bidder packets, checking out the Silent Auction items, purchasing bottles from the Wall of Wine, nibbling on appetizers, and enjoying a beverage or two. Several fourth and fifth grade students were selling chances to win the Golden Ticket Raffle and the opportunity to play the game Heads or Tails.



The tables were filled with parents and friends. Our fantastic teachers and staff members were seated at several tables - it was great to see so many of them there! Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves!

KGW's Drew Carney was our emcee again this year and was joined on the stage once more by professional auctioneer Kelly Russell. They are a terrific team! They started the evening by choosing the winner of the Golden Ticket Raffle. Rumor has it the winners are planning to attend next year's People's Choice Awards! They next led the group in a very fun game of Heads or Tails.



The friendly bidding war began! It was fun to see what people were bidding on and who went home with the coveted items. A beautiful video highlighting NWCA was shown, followed by alumna Anisha speaking on the impact Northwest Chinese Academy has had on her, and about the opportunities our school affords its students.

I smiled as I remembered the fun of the evening. The NWCA community is caring

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and supportive. What a blessing it is to be a part of it.



Thank you to our wonderful Hong Bao team:

Maryanne Stebbins, LaTosha Wilson, Alithea Corter-Bell, Lynda Travis, Laura Schultz and Anita DeHaan; your tireless work produced a fabulous party! I am grateful for all of you!

Thanks to the wonderful teachers, parents, friends and community members for their continued support of NWCA. Your generous donation of time, talent and resources has helped raised \$112,250 for our school! We wouldn't be who we are without you!

***Xin Nian Kuai Le, everyone!***



## New NWCA Parents Celebrate Hong Bao

by Ariel and Arya Surowidjo

As parents of a three-year-old, it's fair to say we initially looked forward to the NWCA Hong Bao Auction & Gala for one simple reason: date night. A chance to dress up and have an uninterrupted dinner at a golf club? Going once. Going twice. SOLD to the bedraggled-looking couple in the back row!



Little did we know what a friendly and generous community we'd have the privilege of celebrating with that evening.



Having never been to Hong Bao, Aurora and Lin graciously invited us to sit at their table. And we're so glad they did. Not just because they won (and shared) the decadent espresso-flavored auction cake, but because we had a great time getting to know them and other NWCA parents over good food, numerous laughs, and a genuinely fun and memorable experience.

It was wonderful to see the collective efforts of so many students, parents, teachers/staff and community sponsors come together to create this annual celebration of NWCA. The venue was beautiful, with every detail thoughtfully planned and executed. The kids' art projects were incredible and proudly displayed.

Even the auction itself was entertaining, complete with an epic game of Heads & Tails.

Through it all, the spirit of generosity and shared commitment to giving our children the very best was contagious. So we gave—more than we expected to—and came home with a tinkling obsidian wind chime, hand-made by the 5th grade class. (Thank you!) Every day it reminds me of the unique educational experience that is NWCA and the dedicated community of parents and teachers that support it.

Thanks to Hong Bao, we can more fully appreciate what our daughter, Ayu, means when she says, "I love my school!" NWCA is a very special community, and we're so glad to be a part of it.



## Co-Chairs Reflect: All the Pieces Fall Into Place

by LaTosha Wilson and Maryanne Stebbins

Have you ever put together a puzzle? How about putting together a puzzle with family and/or friends? Life can be like a puzzle. We all have a different picture of what our puzzle looks like, but the area that connects us all is the Northwest Chinese Academy. Well, the concept for this year's Special Appeal video was the NWCA puzzle. As Co-Chairs for Hong Bao 2016, we wanted to ensure that this event fit with NWCA's overall goals by bringing our community together in a fun way to raise funds to meet the needs of our growing school. We believe that we achieved this and so much more.

The first piece of the puzzle was to figure out "why" we needed Hong Bao. We went to the Board and asked for direction. We needed to know that volunteering our time would make an impact. The Board provided us with the vision, and Hong Bao transformed into "we have to do this" instead of "we got stuck with this". Every time I came to school and saw the students and the staff, we realized that we were doing this for them, and each task didn't seem so overwhelming anymore.



The second piece of the puzzle was to get our community involved and give people ownership over their section of the puzzle. Maryanne provided leadership, direction, creativity, and a Diet Coke along with a smile at every opportunity. LaTosha brought passion, persistence, fun, great ideas and a get-it-done attitude to our team! Alitheia researched and provided sought-after trips and items for the silent and live auction. Laura was an idea-generating machine! She shared her wisdom from being the Chair of her daughter's school's auction, and the information was invaluable. Lynda did an

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amazing job coordinating the beautiful art pieces. Anita was our all-around everything! She even created the little monkeys that hung from the centerpieces. Aurora has taken care of the decorations for as long as I can remember. She is so talented, and it is always a surprise to see what signature piece she creates. This year she found a way to display the thank you notes from the students after our first idea didn't quite work. Arya put together our opening slide show and provided all the precious pictures of the students.

The last piece of the puzzle was to understand that NWCA is growing and that the borders of our puzzle are expanding and changing. NWCA is unique and special. Hong Bao is a fun way for us to raise funds to meet the needs of NWCA. Hong Bao allows us to come together and use our talents and resources. There is value in Hong Bao, and we hope that you believe it and that you continue to support Hong Bao. We cannot wait to share what we achieved as a community this year!

To all the parents that participated in the art projects, ran errands, contacted businesses, decorated, made baskets, provided childcare, donated, etc., please know that you are an important piece to the puzzle! Lastly, thank you to Mrs. Stacy. She is more than a principal. She is truly an extension of each parent. She knows the kids and seeing the love and care that she displayed for each child was an endearing reminder of "why" we do what we do.

Thank you all for your kind words and wonderful comments about Hong Bao. Everyone kept saying that it must have been a lot of work. True, it was a lot work, but we all came together to throw a fabulous party. It's not like we had to learn to speak Chinese. \*wink\*



## **My Hong Bao Experience**

by Our 4th and 5th Grade Students

### **Mikayla's Experience**

At first when I heard that we were selling raffle tickets I was excited and a little nervous, but I was mostly excited. When Mrs. Stacy first gave us the script and saw that it was a little hard we had to practice the script over and over again. It was really hard but worth it for the school to raise money.

A couple days later it was Hong Bao, and the 5th grade and Elliot, Sawyer and I were dressed up fancy. A couple minutes passed and it was time to hand out the tickets. I was very nervous but I finally asked someone and my first answer was "I will buy 1." Then I asked, "What was your bidder number?" and he/she said it was 325. I kept asking people until Elliot,

Sawyer and I sold out. At that time it was time to eat. After that we went to the school and had fun.

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### **Sonja's Experience**

My experience at the Hong Bao Gala was interesting. When I got there, suddenly I was being rushed to a room behind the check-in counter. Wang laoshi dropped a bunch of necklaces over my neck and off we went, selling Heads or Tails necklaces to everyone. I sold a lot, and I only had five necklaces until I sold out. After the Silent Auction Room was closed, all the kids went to have dinner, then we left. Back at school, the six kids that helped sell necklaces and raffle tickets had an awesome pizza party for three hours.



### **Annabel's Experience**

When I got to the gala I was so nervous. When it was time to sell tickets there were not that many people, but they slowly came. I really like selling tickets because when you get older and you want to sell someone something you will know how because you already did. It was really fun and I would do it so many more times.

### **Nina's Experience**

My experience at Hong Bao Gala was fun! I like going around asking people if they wanted to buy tickets to play Heads or Tails. Sometimes convincing people to buy tickets was hard, but in the end people did end up buying a couple. After we ate, we headed toward NWCA where we all stayed upstairs playing on computers or with toys.

### **Elliot's Experience**

At first when I heard Hong Bao I was a nervous wreck, but when I got the script I calmed down a lot. For the first five minutes nobody wanted a ticket. Once I got someone to buy a ticket people just kept wanting to buy tickets.

I was almost out of tickets when people didn't want to buy. I only had 4 more but when the announcement said that there was only 10 minutes left, a really nice man bought all of my tickets.

Finally I went to give my clipboard to Maryanne.

### **Sawyer's Experience**

I had lots of fun at Hong Bao. It was cool to go somewhere that I've never been before. I was a little nervous at first, but it wasn't too hard. Before I knew it I had sold out, in fact everyone sold out. So we were successful. Next came dinner. We got hamburgers. My hamburger had cheese on it so I just ate the fries. I wasn't too worried because I knew we'd get pizza when we got back to school.

Soon they announced the raffle, but a bunch of people had speeches, so we had to wait a while. I was a little disappointed that I didn't win. But it was fun anyway. I will definitely be back next year!



## Xie Xie, Hong Bao Donors!

### \$8000+

Lin Ma and Aurora Oliva

### \$7000+

Melissa Tom and Michael Jugo

### \$5000+

Don and Ione Spear

Liz Smith

### \$3000+

Harold Sun and Joyce Lee

LaTosha and Mark Wilson

Benjamin and Holly McHugh

Yanping Cao and Xinhao Shi

Jay Iglesias and Danita Tom

### \$2000+

Dirk Morgan and Deborah Syna

Brad and Kate Jackson

Eloisa and Elisabeth Contreras

Toby and Amy Rapp

Richard and Charis Humphries

Elvia Aguilar and Ryan Harmon

Judy and Ron Stebbins

Janie Bullock

Michael Rosenstein and Kathy Kitayama

Kanok and Prunprapai Boriboonsomsin

Bradley Schenck and Fangxiao Xiang

### \$1000+

Prem and Binny Arcot

Pam and Bill Cockrell

Ronald and Karen Fortlander

Andy and Karen Shih

Jim and Dana Atwood

Andrew and Maryanne Stebbins

Everett and Lynda Travis

Jingzi Zhao and Christopher Perkins

Jacinta and Eric Kilber

Alithea Corter and Bryen Bell

Jon and Ann Levy

Simonne Pollini and Mehatem Ashenaffi

Stephanie and John Liu

Allizon and Michael Bieker

Richard and Vesna Ader

Ariel Olson and Arya Syrowidjojo

### \$500+

John and Stacy Payne

Emily Culbert and John Nusser

Mayor Dennis and Ann Doyle

Frank Huang and Chao Liu

Cynthia and Bradley Johnson

Adam Wolf and Caroling Lew-Wolf

### \$250+

Andrew Moulton

Cathy Holmgreen

Sara Kushner

Stephanie Reck

Jennifer and Doug Ricks

Tracy and Zach Haas

Jim and Holly Gosewehr

Patsy Harmon

### \$100+

Mohini and Vihang Pandya

Christine Mitchell

Chieh Wan and Cassandra Chong

Eric Zimmerer and Grace Yin

Alfonso Lule

Susan and Alan Compton

JoEllen Collins

Denise Stewart

Matt and Kari Blasing

Tom and Lourdes Lew

Scott and Kim Harrington

Brian and Matilde Sanguino-Warner

Terry Burr

Jerry Bell, Jr.

### Additional Gifts

William H and Stevie Cockrell

Brad and Jennifer Newman

Dawn Sedgwick

Joanne Sedore

Julia and Victor Lu

Andrea Saso

Hansi Qu

Heidi and Rohn Hein-Archer

Denise Ledet

Gregory Cabanos

David and Cindy Louie