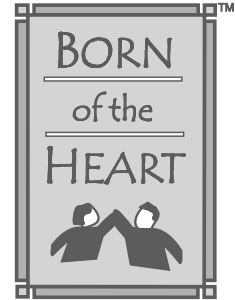


Families with Children from China—NW Presents:

Little Treasures



May 2010

Inside this issue:

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Public School Mandarin

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**September 2010
Issue Deadline:**

August 15, 2010

Please send
submissions to
Newsletter Editor
Gemma Alexander at
gemmadee2003@yahoo.com

Letter from FCC President Lara Peterson:



What an amazing spring this has been! We had a fantastic Chinese New Year celebration; we have welcomed many fantastic volunteers to our Board of Directors such as Terri Jaenson, Gemma Alexander and Colene Baker; and have said goodbye to those who have made a difference in the past few years, like Melissa Bramble and Amy Thorsen.

I'd like to thank all those who have made such a significant impact with FCC-NW in the past year: Alyson Van der Toorn, Carlene Camera, Paul Camera, Deb Tombari, Julia Tombari, Diane Shepard, Gemma Alexander, John Mueller, Colene Baker, Tian Kisch, Melody Xie, Stacy Choi, Terri Jaenson, Michele Lang, Emily Talkov, Robyn Ingham, Mai Burke. They all do an amazing job with their piece of FCC, and each deserves recognition.

We are rapidly approaching summer and one of the best times of the year for FCC-NW - Heritage Camp at Camp Casey on Whidbey Island. The Camp Committee, led by Terri Jaenson and Stacy Choi, will deliver the outstanding programs that campers count on. This year, we will be working to ensure that everyone in the organization knows about the options for camp, and to see that registrations and checks are processed faster. I hope that each one of our members will consider attending camp this year, whether for the full camp experience from July 9th - July 11th, or just for one day. We hope to see you there.

In the coming year, we are going to be asking you- our membership- to help guide us. We are working hard to create new programs, including more adult education through symposia or casual meetings, expanding the success of our teen program and offering programs for both youth (elementary school age) and preschool children. But we need feedback from you we won't know if this is where you want our energies focused in creating what FCC has to offer.

Please contact one of us with your input. Board members' contact information is posted on our new website.

In our efforts to be more financially savvy with your membership dollars, we are going paperless! We are putting together a new online service to ease renewals and allow you to manage your membership. You can update your information, decide what information you want other members to view and pay all online! This will also be the place for all the information pertaining to our organization including the entire website to keep tabs on Teen news, Camp forms, upcoming events, board meeting information and so much more. This site will be up and running by May 15. Check us out at

www.fcc-nw.memberlodge.com.

If you renewed your membership at Chinese New Year - THANK YOU!! If not, you will be receiving an email with instructions on renewing online. It's easy and fast. We will be using PayPal for all transactions. Of course you can always use snail mail too! ■

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Are you a writer, editor or photographer?
Would you like to be?

Little Treasures welcomes submissions of articles, news, photos or art. If you would like to see something in the newsletter, let us know. If you want to help out, but don't know what to do, let us know. We'll be happy to put you to work.



Email Gemma Alexander to get involved:
gemmadee2003@yahoo.com

OPPORTUNITY TO HOST CHINESE STUDENTS



Youth For Understanding USA
www.yfu-usa.org

Youth For Understanding (YFU) prepares young people for their responsibilities and opportunities in a changing, interdependent world.

YFU is currently seeking host families for Chinese students in the Seattle area for the 2010-2011 school year. Host families should be interested in teenagers and international students and have realistic expectations of what life with a teenager is like, provide a stable family unit and be able to provide for an additional member of the family including a separate bed, suitable study area, and three meals per day. You may view student profiles and learn more about hosting at:

www.yfuusa.org.

If you have any questions contact: Rebekah Fuss 206.201.3559 / rfuss@yfu.org

CHINESE LANGUAGE SUMMER CAMP IN CHINA



What better place to learn Chinese than in China? This summer, Smart Panda Presents LLC will take a band of intrepid young students and their families on a language and cultural adventure in China. On this 12-day, 11-night tour, we'll divide our time between bustling **Beijing** and rural **Mu-tianyu**, a village in the shadow of **The Great Wall**.

Our itinerary focuses on family fun with daily blocks of time for young travelers enrolled within the Smart Panda Kids (SPKids) group of our tour. SPKids is the language-learning, educational component of our adventure and is lead by SPP co-founder **Amy Fu** and her assistant. Because low student-teacher ratio is important for effective learning, we're limiting the number of students in the SPKids group to 12, which sets the ratio at 1:6.

The camp is open to children 7-12 years of age, plus their families. The early enrollment rate expires May 1. For fees and details, visit www.smartpandapresents.com/summercamp/home

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 22, 2010

A Glimpse of China Chinese Culture and Arts Festival Free Admission

Seattle Center House

Enter a virtual Chinese garden and partake in traditions covering 5,000 years of Chinese history in this celebration of one of the world's oldest cultures. The festival showcases the unique traditional art and culture of China through visual and performing arts and gift booth exhibitions including: Chinese music, dance, Wushu performances, works by nationally acclaimed artists, seminars and interactive activities. Presented by the Washington Chinese Art & Culture Committee.

June 26, 2010

Teen Dim Sum and Manicures

Meet in the International District for Dim Sum and manicures to celebrate the end of the school year and Emily Talkov leaving the Board and heading off to college in the fall. Please call Julia at 206 524 6837 to RSVP and get further details.

Did we miss something?

We've tried to include all of the local Chinese language resources for FCC families in this issue. But if your family has benefited from a school or program that we've missed, please let us know. We'll put it in the next issue. Email gemmadee2003@yahoo.com with your favorite Chinese educational resource.

YAHOO GROUP MODERATOR MOVES ON

This is Jean Seeley, the moderator of the PNW Chinese Adoptive Families Yahoogroup. If you could spare me about 5 minutes of your time I would appreciate it.

I am writing to let you know that after more than a decade of moderating this listserv (and its predecessors), I am resigning as moderator and eventually leaving the list. While its been a wonderful 14 plus years being part of the Seattle area China adoption community, my China-born daughter is almost an adult now, so it's time for our family to move on with our lives. I will be staying on the list for awhile to help the new moderators make an easy transition and so you all don't even notice the change-over.

I'm really going to miss all the friends our family has made from this community and thank you for being a part of our lives, either as a friend or as a member of this list.

In closing, I wish all of you happy times with your family and hope that despite the passing of time you will continue to encourage your child/children to remember that they are both Chinese and American.

Thank you!
Sincerely, Jean Seeley

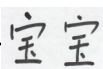
*Interested? Contact FCC Board President Lara Peterson:
laragpeterson@gmail.com*

Looking for a Chinese Tutor?

Yezi Cai teaches conversational Mandarin Chinese, reading and writing to students from age 5 and up.

I have worked successfully with many families. I am energetic, skilled and compassionate. I am a Chinese teacher by trade and understand how to make learning fun and effective. Please contact me for a list of references from other pleased families and adult students of Chinese.

Yezi Cai 206 245 6450 goldenf88@yahoo.com



MELODY DANCE GROUP GROWS

UP -AND OUT

Gemma Alexander

As the Chinese dance program at the Melody Institute has grown, so have the girls who dance there. Chinese dance is now taught to students age three to adult. With more, and larger, students, the current space has become too crowded. Melody Xie, director of the Institute, says, "I am going to build a new studio this summer. The current classroom is too small, and the girls are growing fast!"

The new studio will be twice as large as the current classroom, and will be used for both dance and language classes. The onsite playground will not be affected by the expansion. However, Melody will not offer day camps during the summer break this year. Regular classes will resume after Labor Day, hopefully in the new studio. However, construction may continue through fall quarter.

Spring classes have already begun, but enrollment is open on a space available basis. Currently, the Chinese dance and language class on Wednesdays 4-5:30 pm has space available. Melody Dance Institute offers classes in Chinese dance, language and arts, including calligraphy and painting. Upcoming performances by students in the Melody Dance Group are:

- ◆ 5/22, Saturday, 4:20-5:30, Seattle Center House, Chinese Culture & Art Festival.
- ◆ 5/30, Sunday, 4:30-5:00, Seattle Center, Bagley Wright Theatre, Folklife Festival.
- ◆ 6/26, Saturday, 5:00-5:50, Shoreline Community Center, Shoreline Arts Festival.

All these performances are free events. For more information about classes or performances, please contact Melody Xie at 206-365-3146, email melody.xie@gmail.com, or visit: <http://melodyinstitute.org/>

Melody Xie was featured in the Winter 2009 issue of Little Treasures. View the article online at



Welcome to Mei Magazine! Mei (May) means beautiful in Mandarin Chinese. This quarterly, glossy publication is a wholesome and age-appropriate magazine with a special emphasis on issues specific to Chinese adoptees ages seven to fourteen.

Why Mei?

Mei girls need to see themselves and each other in print! They deserve a forum where they can share in their special sisterhood.

Mei's Promise...

Mei is full of the most engaging, fun and inspiring content.

Mei is designed beautifully for girls who are beautiful on the inside and out.

Mei enlists the help of Asian-American role models and adult adoptees.

Mei is a place where girls can go for the answers they cannot get anywhere else.

Enter our "Reflect" Contest.

We are asking readers to REFLECT on the impact Mei Magazine is having on their lives.

Mei will use your insight in forming the direction of the magazine in the next year to come. Contact us at

editor@meimagazine.com for details.

SOUTH KING COUNTY CONVERSATIONAL CHINESE AND CHINESE CULTURE CLASSES TO BEGIN FALL, 2010

Colene Baker

Several adoptive families who live in the south King County area are collaborating with the South Puget Sound Chinese Language School to establish conversational Chinese classes, to begin in the fall of 2010. We are very excited about the opportunity to create language and culture opportunities for our children in the underserved south King County area. SPSCLS was founded by Immigrant Chinese families who wanted their children to learn the Chinese language and culture through immersion. They are now adding a conversational class for Chinese adoptees which will take a less intensive approach.

Discussions and trial classes are taking place this spring to develop the curriculum. A minimum of 10 students will be required to confirm the conversational class beginning in the Fall, 2010 semester. The class will be offered on Saturdays from 12:45-1:45 pm. The school is located on the Highline Community College campus in Des Moines.

South Puget Sound Chinese Language School also offers a wonderful selection of Culture Classes, offered from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., also on Saturdays. They include:

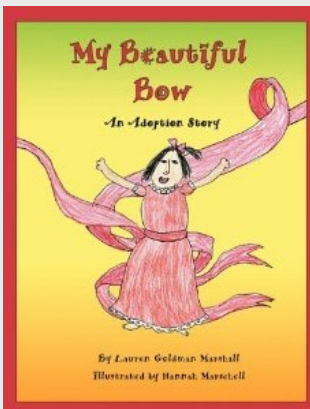
- Arts and Crafts
- Folk Dance
- Lion Dance
- Kung fu
- Calligraphy
- Chinese Musical Instruments
- Chinese Chess
- Chinese Computer

Culture classes are taught in progression to specific age groups. The cost ranges from \$60-\$100 for 15 classes. The conversational Mandarin for adoptees class will be \$150 for 15 classes. Tuition is on a semester basis with two semesters per year. Students may choose to attend the Conversational class, or the Culture class. It is not required to take both.

Although most of the web site is in Chinese, SPSCLS can be visited online at: <http://www.spschineseschool.org>

If you are interested in the new South Puget Sound Chinese Language School conversational classes, please contact Colene Baker at 206-824-1335. ■

NEW ADOPTION BOOK BY LOCAL AUTHOR EXPLORES ROLE OF BIRTH MOTHER



The red ribbons of a little girl's sash become imaginary ties to her birth mother and her adoptive mother in *My Beautiful Bow*, a newly published children's picture book, aimed at ages 4-8, written by Seattle author Lauren Goldman Marshall and illustrated by her daughter Hannah Marschell.

When a casual comment at the breakfast table prompts questions, Abby learns how the birth mother who carried her in her belly and the forever mommy who carries her on her hip both love her and have helped to make her who she is. "Your birth mother gave you a lovely singing voice," her Mommy tells her. "I give you songs to sing."

Marshall wrote this book for her younger daughter, Abigail, whom she and her husband adopted from Jiangxi province in 2005. Her older daughter Hannah illustrated it, as a gift for her sister. Her illustrations offer a fresh child's perspective and underscore the theme that love is what makes a family. After revising and working with a book designer, they have published the book through Dog Ear Press. Initial reviews on Amazon.com have been overwhelmingly positive.

Soft cover copies of *My Beautiful Bow* are \$14.95 plus shipping and can be ordered through Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com. They are also available at Alphabet Soup Bookstore in Wallingford. Marshall also has a limited number of hardcover editions for sale. You may contact her directly via her website www.lauren@laurenmarshall.com to purchase an autographed hardcover edition. These cost \$16.95 plus \$5.95 for shipping and handling.

宝宝



Washington International School

Carrie Howard

Washington International School offers a variety of Mandarin language and Chinese culture programs for all ages. These include bilingual preschool, kindergarten, and summer programs (ages 2.5 to 15); Chinese immersion preschool (ages 2.5 to 6); an after-school Chinese program (ages 5 to 15); and Saturday Chinese lessons (all ages). WIS also offers academic instruction in English reading, writing, and math.

The school has two locations, one on Roosevelt Way in the Northgate neighborhood of Seattle and a new location at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in the Factoria area of Bellevue. Classes are held on weekdays, weekends, and after school depending on the age group. Summer camp options include full-day and half-day schedules. Instructors at Washington International School are bilingual in Mandarin and English and have a strong background in education. Open houses are held every Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Seattle location.



WIS has been serving children from China since it first opened in 2002. Each year dozens of children from China attend WIS preschool, after-school, Saturday, and summer programs. Parents are invited to the students' stage show each summer and the Chinese New Year celebration in early spring. For more information, please visit the WIS website at www.WashingtonInternationalSchool.com, e-mail info@WashingtonInternationalSchool.com, or call Principal Jayme Liang at 206-280-1222. ■



宝宝

Northwest Chinese School was founded in 1995 and currently has more than 1,500 students and over 100 staff members. NWCS offers more than 90 courses in subjects including Mandarin, Simplified Chinese, pinyin, math, SAT preparation, English writing, dancing, and Chinese art, culture, and music for ages from pre-school to adult. NWCS also offers academic instruction for school-age students. School headquarters are located at Newport High School in Bellevue; a Seattle branch location is housed at Washington Middle School in the International District. Classes are held on Saturdays from September to June, and the school offers a full-time summer day camp program as well. Classes especially designed for children who do not hear Chinese spoken at home are offered for students from kindergarten through sixth grade.

NWCS, under the direction of Principal Zhang Tao, is dedicated to making the learning of Chinese language and culture more enjoyable. Teachers at Northwest Chinese School use a combination of traditional Chinese and contemporary American teaching methods. The school also hosts seminars for parents on a variety of topics during Saturday class times. The non-profit school is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS) and is a member school in the Chinese Schools Association in the United States (CSAUS).

For more information, visit the NWCS website at <http://www.nwchinese.org/>, send e-mail to admin@nwchinese.org (general inquiries) or lucky-days22000@yahoo.com (Seattle branch), or phone 206-227-3378 (general inquiries) or 206-228-1013 (Seattle branch). ■



Steve Zugschwerdt |
Courtesy of the Kitsap Sun, Bremerton, Wash.

Lilly's mom waited her turn anxiously after Chinese class to tell Ying the good news. A few minutes later both were beaming. Ying nearly had tears in her eyes. The news was that 7-year old Lilly had proudly shared with her 2nd grade class her understanding of the significance of China's Mid-Autumn Festival, it's Chinese name, and how it was celebrated in China. Moreover, her teacher noted that Lilly was now using her Chinese name in characters as well as her

English name on drawings and the like.

Ying Zhang, Director and Teacher at the Panda Institute, explains that this is what makes it all worthwhile. She says, "It's relatively easy to sit kids down and teach to them from a text. However, to truly engage them, have them enjoy learning, and to share your enthusiasm with them takes a tremendous amount of time and effort." She adds that "having the children speak, read, and write Chinese is our main goal, but fostering an environment in which they feel truly special about themselves and proud that they are familiar not just with one culture, but at least two, is one of the beautiful outcomes."

Michael Fowler, Administrator at the school, adds, "As a student, I had friends of Chinese and Japanese ancestry that knew and cared surprisingly little about their heritage, despite having attended weekend language schools. 'Panda,' is entirely different from the dreaded conventional schools. Each week is more like an event, a show, or a celebration that students look forward to participating in. Children learn best through a combination of activities that uses all of the senses. We combine dance and movement with plays, arts and crafts, instruments, and games." The former Chinese major explains, "We are in the business of generating enthusiasm and fostering the China experts of tomorrow."

Word has spread that there are changes afoot at the Panda Institute. Ying explains them as follows:

1 - Immersion: This year Ying began supplementing the Panda weekend schools in Seattle on Saturday mornings and on the Kitsap Peninsula on Sunday afternoons

(Continued on page 16)

READING, WRITING AND MANDARIN

Gemma Alexander

"Thirty-five years ago," says Franklin High School ESL teacher Betty Lau, "six schools in the Seattle district offered Chinese. But a series of superintendents believed Chinese language was unimportant, and eventually the program disappeared entirely." For most of the past twenty or more years, no one would have expected to find Chinese language in the curriculum of a public elementary school. Historically, Mandarin has been considered an exotic language that few people were likely to need as adults in the business world. Even families that wanted their children to study Chinese looked outside of the school system. They hired tutors, or sent their children to Saturday classes run by and for the Chinese immigrant community. In addition, Michele Aoki, Washington State Foreign Language Director, says budget restrictions and changes resulting from the No Child Left Behind Act have forced many elementary schools to eliminate foreign language programs entirely.

But with China's rapidly growing economic influence, Mandarin is beginning to be more widely recognized as a valuable asset. The U.S. State Department has identified it as a "critical need foreign language." Together with Arabic, Farsi, and a handful of other languages, Mandarin Chinese has been judged not only to be important to the United States in business, politics and national security, but also underrepresented in the American school system and work force. Lau reports that during the first Gulf War, a critical shortage of Arabic translators caused the federal government to reconsider its dependence on translators for foreign affairs. Today, the emphasis is on training subject matter experts to be fluent in more than one language.

Educators are also beginning to recognize the value of foreign language immersion programs not only for language acquisition, but for cultural awareness and developmental advantages as well. Test results for bilingual children and children in foreign language immersion programs are consistently higher in a number of subjects.

Although still far from common, Chinese language immersion programs are beginning to appear as an option in public schools around the country. Lau recognized the opportunity to bring Chinese back into the Seattle schools when she applied for a grant in 1997 to fund a summer language camp. Since then, she has worked tirelessly writing grants to

establish elementary language programs, and teacher training and certification programs. In the Seattle school district, three elementary schools offer Chinese: Graham Hill in Seward Park, John Muir in Mount Baker, and Beacon Hill in the Beacon Hill neighborhood. Launched in the spring of 2007, these three Seattle schools participated in a new elementary Chinese language program. The half-hour per day language program was funded by a three year [Foreign Language Assistance Program \(FLAP\)](#) grant awarded to Seattle Public Schools in fall of 2006. FLAP is a federally funded program exclusively targeting foreign language instruction in elementary and secondary schools. Lau says, "It's very exciting to see all of this happening now."

At Graham Hill Elementary School, the program has expanded to serve all kindergarten, first, and second grade students. At John Muir Elementary School, the program is designed to help children learn Mandarin, while also teaching numbers, concepts, and mathematics to kindergarten through third grade students. In the fall of 2008, Beacon Hill Elementary School incorporated a full international school program. Education with a global perspective will be infused throughout the K-5 curriculum. The language immersion program for Spanish, Mandarin and English started with fall 2008 Kindergarten classes and in 2009, includes both Kindergarten and First grade. The school plans to add a new grade to the immersion program each year, until all grades are served.

Under the Seattle School district's old assignment plan, any student in the district could request assignment to one of these schools. However, beginning in fall 2010, students will no longer be able to choose any school in the district, and only students living within the assignment area for these three schools will be able to enroll. Although foreign language programs in general are being cut nationwide, Aoki says interest in immersion programs is so intense that immersion programs are actually growing. Seattle is likely to add another immersion school in the West Seattle area next.

The Bellevue School District offers Chinese at the secondary and middle school levels, but has not introduced it to the elementary schools. Lake Washington School District has shown some interest in elementary level Chinese, but has not yet established a

program.

Sponge, a private language school for young children, currently offers its program to children at the Seattle Infant Development Center, JCC Early Childhood Center, The Bush School, and Bertschi, among others. This year they began providing before-school and after-school language classes for the Mercer Island School District. At other schools, such as TOPS in Seattle, the PTA arranges after-school Chinese classes with individual teachers.

It is hard to know how many schools offer Chinese, either as part of the regular curriculum, or through before-school or after-school programs. The state does not track foreign language programs at the elementary level at all. Even at the secondary level, data comes from a voluntary survey administered by the University of Washington. The Asia Society maintains a directory of schools offering Chinese on its website, <http://asiasociety.org>. However, this list is far from complete, as it is completely voluntary. Parents who want their children to study Chinese still must check with each school individually to find out what language resources are available. If none of the schools offers a Mandarin program, now may be the time to start one. ■



New Book From Grace Lin

Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same will be arriving at your nearby bookstore in July, but the girls have already begun

garnering praise. The book has already been chosen as a Junior Library Guild Selection and been reviewed by the highly esteemed and famous School and Library Journal blogger Fuse #8. She calls it "a future classic."

EVENTS IN THE WORKS

Youth Events:

Many exciting youth events are in the works for the rest of 2010! Some possible events include horseback riding in the summer, Pump It Up in the fall, Paint the Town just in time for the holiday season, and swimming in the winter. Watch your e-news for details on dates and costs. Activities are especially geared for kids 7 to 12, though some are also appropriate for our younger friends. If you are interested in helping out FCC, please consider being a host for one of these events, especially if you live on the East-side. The activity will be planned and all you have to do is show up with a smile!! Contact Alyson at 206 523-8280 or Lara at laragpeter-son@gmail.com

Single Parent Events:

We had an intimate dinner at the Italian Spaghetti House in March. Our annual swim party and potluck at the View Ridge Pool is in the works. Since the pool limits guests, this will be an RSVP event. An email will go out to moms already on the email list before it will be announced on e-news. If you would like to be on this list, please email Alyson at aly-sok81@yahoo.com.

Living & Working in China

Panel: Quite a few FCC members have lived and worked in China in recent years. If you have ever thought about living in China, this will be a great opportunity to hear about a variety of experiences. A panel of "experts" will share about their time in China, including living conditions, teaching English, studying Chinese, traveling and enrolling their children in school. Watch your e-news for time and date in late May or June.

BOTTLES FOR BABIES IN CHINA

Dear FCC-Northwest:

Experiencing the orphanage environment in China with FCC last summer was undoubtedly unique and moving. One of the experiences that stand out was feeding a baby with a cleft palate at the Starfish Foster Home in Xian. This little girl was probably just over a year old, and had the brightest eyes and most curious expression. Bottle in hand, I fed her for over 40 minutes. However, it was quite a frustrating task for her to get any formula from the bottle with her cleft palate. She would attempt to take in as much formula as possible with each suck, but would end up intaking more air than actual formula. This process was very tedious for both her, and for me. I had to be very patient and hold very still. Unfortunately, when a baby sucks in too much air, they throw up, and in fact, my little girl threw up after spending so much time trying to get some milk.

Although the Starfish Foster Home receives generous donations from overseas benefactors and supporters, they still need a lot of help in caring for their babies. About 20 percent of the children at the home have cleft lips, and the entire staff uses the generic baby bottle for feeding all of the children. Since I gained firsthand experience with feeding cleft babies, I developed a desire to reach out and help cleft palate children. After coming home from the trip, I did a lot of research in the fall and early winter about the defect.

The occurrence of cleft palate is four times more common in Asian babies than in Caucasian babies. Cleft palates can come in many severity levels, and when the baby is big enough, can be corrected with surgery, usually costing a few thousand US dollars. However, after more extensive research, I learned that there were special bottles, designed for cleft palate children, that were relatively inexpensive- about 2 dollars US each- made by Mead Johnson. This could make a huge difference for the orphans in china with cleft palates. Since the one child policy has created a desire for a perfect child, many Chinese families will leave cleft babies in orphanages. This is why the prevalence of cleft babies in orphanages is exceedingly high. The need for proper equipment for these children such as cleft palate bottles will ensure better nutrition, and reduce the frustration of the baby and caretaker.

Realizing that a way to help these children exists, I have undertaken a service project in collaboration with Love Without Boundaries. I am collecting donations to purchase cleft palate bottles that will be distributed to orphanages by Love Without Boundaries. It is my hope that Starfish Foster Home gets the first shipment of bottles, and subsequent shipments be distributed to other facilities that have a need.

If you are interested in donating to my project, please do so by check, made out to "Julia Tombari" and mailed to:

D. Tombari
Hawthorne Hills Professional Center
4026 NE 55th St
Seattle, WA 98105

With all our efforts, many of these facilities will get cleft palate bottles for their babies. Thank you for any donation that you are able to make.

Sincerely,
Julia Tombari
FCC Youth Board Member



CHINESE ADOPTEES REACHING ORPHANAGES: PROJECT CARO

Tian Kisch

Tian Kisch and Lanfen Kaplan launched Project CARO (Chinese Adoptees Reaching Orphanages) in December 2009 after returning from the FCC-NW Teen China Trip. Both Tian and Lanfen came to the U.S from orphanages in China, and are currently high school students in Redmond, Washington. Two visits to China and the orphanages they came from showed them that they have a common passion - giving back to orphans.

In conjunction with non-profit organization Kids Without Borders founder Son Michael Pham, Project CARO aims to raise donations to benefit the orphanages in China, specifically the Xuanhua Orphanage that the FCC-NW teens visited. Project CARO held a booth at FCC-NW New Year, and raised nearly \$150 in donations for the Xuanhua Orphanage! CARO is also currently planning a fundraiser through the Student Council at Alcott Elementary.

For more information, please visit their blog at www.projectcaro.blogspot.com email at projectcaro@gmail.com.



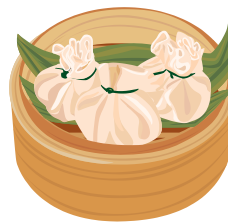
TEEN BOARD OPENING

Our very successful teen board is seeking a new member. We are looking for a teen who will be entering the 8th or 9th grade in the fall. Teens work together to develop programming for the teens of FCC, so far this has included the very popular teen trip, and programming at special events like Chinese New Year and the Autumn Moon Festival. In this next year the teens will plan for the 2011 teen service trip, fundraise for a teen scholarship fund, and plan general events for teens. We're looking for a teen who enjoys service, leadership, and a willingness to develop their own leadership skills. If you are interested or have questions please contact the FCC teen coordinator-Deb Tombari at 206 524 6837.

COMING SOON!

Look for the TEEN CORNER insert starting with the next issue. With content determined and created by the FCC teens, the Teen Corner will give voice to the interests and activities of the people this organization is all about. Teens and their parents can turn to the Teen Corner to learn about the next Service Trip to China, projects like Julia Tombari's baby bottle collection for children with special needs, and social events and activities organized by and for FCC teens.

TEEN EVENT



The teens are planning another get together! We are planning to meet on June 26, 2010 in the International District for Dim Sum and manicures. We will celebrate the end of the school year and

Emily Talkov leaving the Board and heading off to college in the fall.

Come help us celebrate!

Please call Julia at 206 524 6837 to RSVP and get further details.



Chinese New Year



宝宝

Year of the Tiger



Chinese Language Resources

Compiled by Tian Kisch & Gemma Alexander

GENERAL RESOURCES

Confucius Institute

A non-profit initiative of the Hanban, the executive body of the Chinese Language Council International, a non-governmental and non-profit organization affiliated to the Ministry of Education of China. Their stated goal is, "satisfying the demands of people from around the world who learn Chinese, enhancing understanding of Chinese language and culture, strengthening educational and cultural exchange and cooperation between China and other countries, deepening relationships with other nations, and developing multiculturalism for a harmonious world." <http://confucius.washington.edu/>

Chinese Language Teachers Network

Promotes teaching of Chinese language at all educational levels in the State of Washington. Informs the public about issues related to teaching Chinese; develops a resource network for Chinese language educators; and arranges professional development workshops for teachers. Local affiliate of Chinese Language Teachers Association. <http://www.cltcn-wa.org/>
<http://clta-us.org/>

SCHOLARSHIPS

NSLI-Y Scholarship

The US Department of State, through NSLI-Y (National Security Language Initiative for Youth) provides full ride scholarships for high school students to learn critical languages abroad, including Mandarin. Eligible high school students can apply for a summer, semester, or year abroad, and are given the opportunities to "attend a new school, understand a new culture, create a new life with a host fam-

ily," and experience complete language and cultural immersion. In 2010 approximately 200 students were awarded this scholarship to study Mandarin in China. This is an extremely competitive scholarship, with a lengthy application. <http://www.nsliforyouth.org/nsllicms-0.2/content/index>

SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS

Chong Wa Chinese School

Offers immersion, after-school, Saturday and adult courses during the school year. We offer a summer language camp program for 5 weeks. The building serves as a meeting place for civil minded Chinese as well as home base for organizations such as the Seattle Chinese Community Girl's Drill Team, the dragon team and a Chinese language school. Program mission statement : To teach Chinese language and culture to all those who wish to learn. <http://www.chongwa.org/>

Community Centers

Check your neighborhood community center's course list. Sometimes Chinese classes are offered for kids, adults and families.

Melody Institute

The Melody Institute, Inc. offers Chinese dance, language, and art classes in the Seattle area to students of all ages. The Melody Dance Group is part of the Institute. The Group has been performing Chinese folk, traditional, modern, and ethnic dances around the Pacific Northwest for over 11 years. Our goal is to foster and spread a knowledge and understanding of Chinese language and culture. <http://www.melodyinstitute.org>

Northwest Chinese School

NWCS offers Mandarin, Simplified Chinese, pinyin, dancing, and Chinese art, culture, and music for ages from preschool to adult. School headquarters are at Newport High School in Bellevue; a Seattle branch is at Washington Middle School. Classes are held on Saturdays from September to June, and the school offers a full-time summer day camp program. Classes for children who do not hear Chinese spoken at home are offered for students from kindergarten through sixth grade. <http://www.nwchinese.org/>

One World Now!

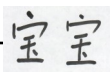
This is a Seattle-based program that encourages leadership and the learning of critical foreign languages (including Mandarin) for high school students in the Seattle area. **Chloe Choi** is currently studying abroad in China through One World Now! <http://oneworld-now.org/home.html>

Panda Institute

Ying Zhang Fowler is a Mandarin teacher born in mainland China who has been teaching Mandarin to adults and children for the past 19 years in New York, Seattle, and now in Silverdale (Kitsap) as well. Classes follow a dynamic, interactive format using songs, stories, crafts, and dance. Maximum immersion is achieved through minimizing class size and parents participate with children. <http://www.pandainstitute.com/>

Polly-glot Tots

Our mission is to offer engaging and affordable language immersion classes for children and to foster a community of families interested in bringing foreign language and culture into their homes. <http://www.pollyglottots.com/index.html>



Chinese Language Resources

Compiled by Tian Kisch & Gemma Alexander

Sammamish Chinese Academy

Located right at the top of the Sammamish plateau, they've expanded dramatically over the past few years, and they now also offer a variety of summer camps. SCA offers two separate curricula: one for those who understand spoken Chinese and have a Chinese speaking environment at home, and another for children who do not yet understand spoken Chinese and usually do not have a Chinese speaking environment at home. Excellent for Chinese adoptees!
<http://www.chineseacademy.org/>

Seattle Chinese School

Seattle Chinese School (SCS) was founded in 1966 under the organization of the Seattle Chinese Women's Club. It was the earliest Chinese school established in the Seattle metropolitan area. SCS is a self-supporting, non-profit organization. Its purpose is to enhance the education of the Chinese language and culture for overseas Chinese. The volunteer school administrators and teachers strive to plant the seeds of the Chinese culture in our hearts by offering quality Chinese education.
<http://www.seattlechineseschool.org/>

Seattle Language Academy

Offers adults a variety of day and evening classes in Mandarin Chinese, from beginning through advanced levels. Accelerated and Intensive classes are available in Summer Quarter.
<http://www.seattlelanguageacademy.org/>

Seattle Languages International

Offers private and group lessons for adults and children at its own locations or in the public schools.
<http://www.seattlelanguages.com>

South Puget Sound Chinese School

Offers academic Chinese classes from K-6, as well as conversational Mandarin and a number of culture classes.
<http://www.spschineseschool.org>

Washington International School

Bilingual and immersion preschool, bilingual kindergarten, and summer programs; after-school Chinese; and Saturday Chinese lessons (all ages). Locations in north Seattle and Factoria.
<http://www.washingtoninternationalschool.com/>

World Language Programs

A.C.E. World Language Programs offer Seattle-area adults and children the opportunity to learn foreign languages. WLP is committed to increasing international education and awareness, recognizing that international exchange benefits all participants. We have been instituting summer language camps throughout Washington schools for over 15 years. Children in schools throughout the Puget Sound region receive affordable instruction in Mandarin Chinese. Classes may be either integrated into the school day as part of the school curriculum or as a supplementary extracurricular activity.
<http://www.cultural.org/wlp/>

SUMMER CAMPS

FCC-NW Heritage Camp

July 9-11 at Camp Casey on Whidbey Island. Register online for our 17th annual heritage camp NOW
www.fcc-nw.com

Local Schools

Most of the local schools listed above also offer summer programs. Check each listing's web page for details.

Smart Panda Presents LLC

This summer, Smart Panda Presents LLC will take students and their families on a language and cultural adventure in China. The 12-day, 11-night tour is divided between Beijing and Mutianyu.
<http://www.smartpandapresents.com>

STARTALK

STARTALK is a component program of NSLI. Its mission is to encourage the learning of a critical foreign language, and the website offers several useful links to various programs around the nation for learning languages over the summer. STARTALK 2010 offers two programs in Mandarin in Washington state—the Gonzaga University Startalk Program and the OneWorld Now! Chinese program. Both are of minimal cost or free, thanks to generous STARTALK grants.
<http://startalk.umd.edu/>

TECHNOLOGY

ChinesePod

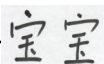
A must for those who don't have time for classes! ChinesePod is a podcast that you can download for free through iTunes. They also offer web and mobile study tools (like flashcards and other games). Popular with teens because they are modern and hip, (Tian Kisch's favorite lesson is "Girl Talk") and their focus on conversational Chinese makes the lessons relevant and useful. They offer podcasts at all different levels, from total beginner—or "newbie"—to highly advanced. On the weekends they feature a "Saturday Show" with another favorite of mine, the "Bad Word of the Week."
<http://chinesepod.com/>

Global Chinese Language and Culture Center

This Taiwanese e-learning website for overseas Chinese also contains downloadable classroom materials.
http://edu.ocac.gov.tw/home_en.htm

Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is interactive language learning software that teaches a new language by immersion, rather than translation and memorization drills.
<http://www.rosettastone.com/>



PANDA INSTITUTE

(Continued from page 7)

with teaching at the Peninsula's largest Montessori school. In doing so, she has begun incorporating more of an immersion style. Ying explains, "If I ask them to 'stand and repeat after me' in Chinese they won't understand me the first time, they may on the second, but they will on third. I am constantly being surprised by how quick the children are."

2 - Audio: Before each class, MP3 audio files of the target words and theme for the class are sent out to all students. These are produced with the help of bilingual daughters so that children can hear adult as well as peer reproduction of uniquely Chinese sounds. Ying explains that this is very helpful support for parents and students and reinforces what is learned in class. Families are incorporating the audio into rides in the car, listening while getting ready for meals in the kitchen, and even from their smart phones during downtime.

3 - More characters: Around the new classroom, you will find large character posters showing characters from the current as well as previous lessons. Ying explains, "Children have an amazing capacity at character recognition. We are embracing and building upon this from lesson to lesson. In addition, the older children get writing assignments to practice their writing each week. They seem to really enjoy this!" ■



Steve Zugschwerdt | Courtesy of the Kitsap Sun, Bremerton, Wash.

DO IT YOURSELF CHINESE

Gemma Alexander

Four years ago, three parents at TOPS Elementary School in Seattle wanted to find Chinese classes for their children. One was Chinese, and wanted an in-school alternative to the traditional Saturday Chinese school. Another had a background in education, and wanted to see more foreign language opportunities at TOPS. The third was the adoptive mother of a child from China, who was looking for a heritage program that would introduce Chinese language. Although each was coming from a different perspective, all agreed that TOPS needed an after-school Chinese language program. They were confident that TOPS, with its international student base, could support a language program. So they began looking for a teacher.

Today most of the original families and teacher have moved on, but the program continues. Classes are now taught by Pollyanna Wang of the Chinese Language Teachers Association. There are three classes: First and second grade, third through fifth grade, and a class for kindergarteners that starts in the second semester, taught by Xiao Yu Jackson.

Current administrator of the program, Nancy Bacon, notes that establishing an after-school language program is fairly straightforward, but she does offer a few tips to make it easier. "You can pay the teacher an hourly rate, but there is less financial risk if the pay is per child. A per child rate works economically, and also incentivizes the teacher to keep the class engaged so no one drops out." She adds that interest seems to be highest in the younger grades, but drops off as kids get older and other activities compete for their interest. At Schmitz Park Elementary School, where the teacher comes from a Chinese exchange program, they did an interest survey before building the program, to ensure that there was enough interest to support it. The survey found that there was phenomenal interest in their West Seattle neighborhood.

At TOPS, they have found a maximum class size of fifteen works when there is a parent in the room to support the teacher. Having parents in the classroom helps keep the teachers happy, too. The Chinese teacher can focus on the lesson more than discipline, and the teacher whose classroom is being used feels doesn't have to worry that they will have to clean up after the Chinese class. Which leads to Bacon's other piece of advice. "Make sure that

(Continued on page 17)

PANDA INSTITUTE SUMMER IN QINGDAO PROGRAM

It has long been Panda Institute Director Ying Zhang's plan to share her scenic, seaside hometown with her students. Now, she explains, is the right time to begin. "Many current and former students are at an age at which they can benefit the most in terms of creating memories and lasting impressions."

This year, in late August/early September the 10-day program will include intensive language training and hands on experience with cooking local specialties, traditional dance and martial arts, traditional instruments, calligraphy, and art. Ying explains that each participant will return with their own creations as well as an album of highlights of the trip.

Ying explains that a major advantage of holding the program in Qingdao is her connections in the community. "Participating families will be guests at schools and homes, interact with the locals, and build friendships."

Another advantage of Qingdao is that "there will be opportunities to relax and enjoy the sandy beaches, hikes in the hills, visit the picturesque Mt. Lao, the 2300 year old home of Taoism, and stroll the markets and parks of this quaint, former German protectorate that has been dubbed the "Switzerland of the Orient."

She notes that some parents will get introductions to teaching opportunities so that they may return to stay for a longer period at a later date.

Visit www.pandainstitute.com for more information.



DIY (Continued from page 16)

there is a group of parents who are committed to getting things done. There are too many details for one parent to manage, and having several families involved in planning ensures buy-in. It is also important to get buy-in from the teachers whose classrooms you will be using." Bacon adds that unless the community is supportive and involved in the program, it is not sustainable, and ultimately not worth the effort.

There are basically three steps to establishing an after-school language program.

1. Create the Scope

Betty Lau, ESL teacher at Franklin High School and advocate for foreign language education, recommends parents do careful research before starting out. Lau says, "Parents need to consider their academic goals." Do they hope to achieve fluency for their children, or is this going to be an enrichment program? Fluency requires a significant commitment, and daily exposure to the language. Forty-five minutes one day a week is a more typical commitment, and is fine for enrichment. Lau recommends that parents carefully consider what they want the program to include. Will it be strictly spoken language, or will students learn characters and elements of Chinese culture as well? Lau recommends examining the STARTALK website (<http://startalk.umd.edu/>) where the Classroom Collection and Multimedia Teacher's Collection provide examples of best practices in curriculum development.

2. Establish a Budget and Find a Teacher

These two steps are part of a symbiotic process that involves researching typical hourly rates for teachers, and finding out who is available. In most cases the teacher will determine the curriculum. Lau says, "Elementary learning is experiential. Children need to move, sing, and make things. The teacher's approach must match the philosophy and goals of the parents." A Washington State Residency Certificate is a good qualification to look for when hiring a teacher. Lau asserts that while certification is not necessary, recent training is. She explains



(Continued on page 18)

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Families With Children From China Northwest is an entirely volunteer-run organization. FCC-NW wants YOU to get involved to help make FCC events and programs better for all our members. You too can be a part of

- ◆Heritage Camp
- ◆Moon Festival
- ◆Chinese New Year
- ◆Seasonal Playdates
- ◆Little Treasures newsletter
- ◆Yahoo Group Moderator

Volunteers are always needed for our major events. Right now, the board especially needs a coordinator for the Moon Festival. Toddler and youth playgroups need additional parents who are willing to host playdate events planned by the board. Contact FCC Board President Lara Peterson at laragpeterson@gmail.com for details on how to get involved.

DIY (Continued from page 17)



that pedagogy for Chinese language instruction has changed rapidly in the past few years. Many native speakers, who may have received training years ago, or in their home country, will not be familiar with the new approach, and may not know what to expect from American students.

The teacher will also be the single largest expense in the budget, and will determine how much students will have to pay. Parents can look to existing school programs to help develop a budget. The PTA may have money to provide scholarships, to ensure the program is available to all students.

3. Delegate Responsibility

Once the program is established, there are a few ongoing tasks that need to be delegated. While one person may take primary responsibility for handling student fees and teacher payments, another may be responsible for publicizing the program to the school. A teacher must be found to donate their classroom. Each week, one parent should volunteer to monitor the class, another to bring a snack, and someone should commit to making sure the classroom is cleaned up at the end of the day.

Bacon says finding a good teacher is the biggest part of establishing a program. She says that TOPS benefited from the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) because it increased the number of trained Chinese language teachers in the area. It used to be the case that "native



speaker" was the only qualification most Chinese language teachers had to offer.

The International Education Washington website (<http://www.internationaledwa.org>) hosts a job board for Chinese language teachers. Both Lau and Michele Aoki, Washington State Foreign Language Director, recommends contacting the Chinese Language Teachers Association (<http://clta-us.org/>). Another option is to bring in one of several outside language providers, such as The Language Lin LLC or A.C.E. World Language Program to run before- and after-school foreign language programs. ■

CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SUMMER CAMP @ TOPS

June 28-July 2, 2010

9:00am – 1:00pm

2500 Franklin Avenue E, Seattle

Cost: \$100 per session

Minimum students: 10; max 24

For: Entering grades 1-5

Instructor: Xiao Yu Jackson

Chinese Language and Culture Camp engages elementary-aged children in speaking and hearing Chinese while having fun with games, songs, and crafts. TOPS after-school Mandarin teacher, Xiao Yu Luo Jackson has taught the Chinese at TOPS for five years. She is a native Mandarin speaker and has developed her own curriculum, immersing the children in the Chinese language and culture through songs, dances, reading, arts and crafts, activities, playground games, plays and simple writing in the Chinese language.

For camp information, please contact Xiao Yu Jackson at xyjackson@seattleschools.org.

For registration information, please contact Nancy Bacon at nancy@bahiastreet.org.



17th FCC-NW Heritage Camp

July 9-11 @ Camp Casey
Whidbey Island

Registration form available at
www.fcc-nw.com

Questions?

Contact Stacy Choi or Terri Jaenson
stacyannachoi@gmail.com tjaenson@msn.com



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- ◆Moon Festival
- ◆Chinese New Year
- ◆Seasonal Playdates
- ◆Little Treasures newsletter

There is lots to do behind the scenes to keep the organization running. If you can only volunteer once or twice, volunteers are always needed for our major events.

Look inside to find more ways you can get involved and help make FCC-NW the best it can be.



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