



BCIC Newsletter

Barrington Chinese Immersion Council - February, 2020

New: The Chinese Middle School Club!

BCIC is proud to announce our first pilot after school Mandarin resource and review program for 6th, 7th and 8th grade.... Chinese Middle School Club!

Mrs. Weerts and Mr. Yu will lead two five-week sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3:50-4:45 (April 2nd to May 5th). The activity bus will be available for students to take home at 5:00 pm. This is a fun, interactive way for your Middle Schooler to practice their developing second language and review Chinese characters and principals they have learned up to this point. They will also introduce more advanced techniques on how to apply their skills in everyday speaking. Main goals:



- 1.Strengthen verbal interpersonal communication through activities (songs, games, plays, hands-on and NO HOMEWORK!)
- 2.Encourage listening and speaking skills to better prepare for APPL tests.
3. Practice their skills outside of the class in real life

Topics covered include but are not limited to, expression with numbers (years, dates, age, time, money, phone number, address, length of a period of time, etc.), using measurement words correctly, applying adverbs correctly in sentences with conjunction words to form more complex sentences. Also, use different sentence structures correctly; declarative sentence, question sentence, exclamation sentence, special sentences, verb tenses.... and more.

BCIC's hope
this program



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success of

You can register for Chinese Club through our website <http://www.bcic220.org/product-category/chinese-middle-school-club/> for one or both 5 week sessions (5 Tuesdays or 5 Thursdays). The price is \$50 per five-week session (\$10/day)! Space is limited. For more info: katebaker05@hotmail.com.

Chinese New Year 2020!



Are you ready for the Year of the Rat? This year, the Chinese New Year began on Jan. 25 and ushered in the lucky rat — the first of the 12 Chinese Zodiac signs and a symbol of wealth.

Well . . . Barrington's Chinese Immersion students are certainly ready! There were lots of celebrations throughout the schools and in the community.



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Chinese New Year, cont'd.

Class/school parties!



Student performance at Rose Elementary



1st grade Chinese Immersion students!



The 5th graders worked on their origami skills

Lion Dance Dinner at Pl8 Restaurant!



The dancing lion prior to entering the restaurant



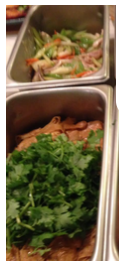
Drummers are outside too, pounding!



Here they are in the restaurant - jumping up high!

Chinese New Year, cont'd.

Family traditions and celebrations!



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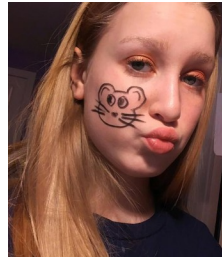
A lovely array of New Years cuisine

Lucy loves her noodles on New Years!

Beautiful decorations captured by Sylvia Shen



Kate, Lucy and their uncles celebrating the holiday



Maggy is sporting a facepainted rat!



Seen at Chicago's New Year parade

Barrington's Chinese exchange students

Frank, James, and Fiona are middle schoolers from Nanjing, China, and they were our guests for three weeks this past January.

Starlink Global Education was the organization that facilitated the Chinese students' arrival. Starlink helps American students and Chinese students break the barriers between the two different cultures, experiences and education backgrounds by providing a global summer program in the U.S. with American students and Chinese students.

On school days, Frank, James and Fiona attended Station Middle School and got to shadow some Chinese Immersion students. Then, during their free time, they had some fun and learning opportunities, including attending a Chinese dance show in Chicago, watching the New Years parade in Chinatown, learning to make dumplings, and visiting a host family's house to make an authentic Chinese dinner.

Overall, all the participants had a wonderful time, while simultaneously learning more about another culture.

Thanks to  **smore**

 **443** students in

your excellent program. we look forward to speaking with her about the possibility of reciprocation in the future, where the U.S. students travel to China for a similar experience.



**Fiona, James and Frank
with Rose Principal
Heather Schumacher and
Sherri Liang-Zhou of
Starlink**



**The students also visited
our 3rd graders for songs
and fun**

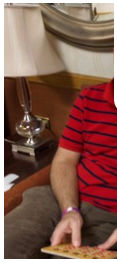
More successful events at Greencastle!

Since our last newsletter, we've had several super fun visits at Greencastle Manor!

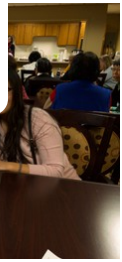
What is Greencastle Manor? It's a wonderful older adult community located in downtown Barrington. Many residents speak Mandarin! BCIC has been partnering with them since 2018, participating in several of their events, like Christmas and New Year parties. And BCIC has held multiple events there too, and it is so wonderful to see our kids conversing and bonding with the Mandarin speaking seniors.

The interaction with Greencastle residents allows the opportunity "to enrich the students' experience by drawing on the wisdom and expertise of Greencastle residents," says Sue Hulet, Greencastle's social service coordinator. It also provides "an opportunity for Greencastle residents to share their talents and skills while participating in activities they enjoy with the students and families."

Remember that BCIC families are always welcome to volunteer independently! Give Sue Hulet a call at 847-382-1935, or email her at shulet@embraceliving.org. And stay tuned for future opportunities with Greencastle residents! In the meantime, enjoy the photos below of our most recent Bingo event a couple months ago.



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Year-end activity (formerly "The potluck event")

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 6, because this evening will be a special one for many of our students, and for our teachers too! Of course we will be serving Chinese food, but **new this year, we will be celebrating our students and staff** (the purpose of this event will have a totally different spin!) And students and families of ALL Chinese Immersion grades won't want to miss what we're planning!

We look forward to seeing you there! More details are forthcoming . . .

Meet the teacher - Mr. Yu!

We are thrilled that Hang Xin Yu has joined the District 220 Chinese Immersion team! This is his first year teaching Chinese reading/writing at Station Middle School for grades 6, 7 and 8. And although Yu Lao Shi is new to our district, he is NOT new to helping students advance their knowledge of the Chinese language! Recently, we had the pleasure of sitting down and talking with him. Here is a recap of our discussion which we'd like to share with you . . .



Yu Lao Shi was raised in Hangzhou, China. Hangzhou is about a 4 hour train ride from Beijing, and is also the home of the world's biggest online commerce company, Alibaba. Yu Lao Shi has always wanted to teach, and what brought him to the U.S. was his desire to further his own education at Valparaiso University in Indiana, where he obtained two masters degrees. After graduating from Valparaiso, Yu Lao Shi taught Chinese in Gary and Plymouth, Indiana, as well as in Monee, Illinois.

But what brought Yu Lao Shi to Barrington? He heard wonderful things about District 220's Chinese Immersion program through friends and parents of the program. And now that he's settled in his role, he's finding the parents, students, and his supporting colleagues are indeed wonderful to work with.

Yu Lao Shi sees his middle school teaching role as a critical one for preparing his students' Chinese education for high school and beyond. This means that working on handwriting, grammar and sentence structure is key. However, after his rigorous school days are done, he enjoys hiking and

watching for
he and his



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ressive, as

Thanks, Yu Lao Shi, for sharing this interesting information with us!

Upcoming Events and More

Referendum 220

The Barrington 220 School District is placing a \$147 million referendum question on the March 17, 2020 presidential primary ballot. If you can't head to the polls on March 17, early voting runs March 2-March 16.

GET OUT THE VOTE



EARLY VOTING
March 2 – March 16



Learn more at: Barrington220.org/Referendum

BCIC Board Meeting

On Tuesday
shared up



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the group

- resource support for students
- cultural and enrichment programs
- our Greencastle community service program
- a new year-end celebration and recognition event for our 5th and 8th grade students

Our next General Meeting is on April 7. We hope you can make it!



Volunteer opportunities!

We always appreciate your help! There are several committee positions open. Mandarin-speaking parents - we'd appreciate any time you can offer for projects at Greencastle. Also, we are looking for people who can help continue fostering relationships and planning events with Chinese organizations in the community. For the rest of you non-Mandarin speaking parents - there are things for you to do too, from fundraising to helping at our end-of-year dinner. Contact us!



Make a Contribution!

Thanks to all families who have contributed so far to BCIC! Your kind donations help support the requested needs of Chinese Immersion teachers. Still want to contribute for the 2019-20 school year? Simply visit www.barrington220.org, and then under "Parents", click on Web Store. Then, click "Shop" and finally "Donations".

And don't forget two other super-simple ways to donate: designate Barrington Chinese Immersion Council as your charity of choice with smile.amazon.com, as well as with Heinen's Grocery!

About Us

Our mission is to advocate for and support the Chinese Immersion Program in District 220, Barrington, Illinois: its families, staff and teachers both in and outside of the classroom with advice,



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s. We aim
between

BCIC, the school district, teachers, staff, participating families and
the community at large.

Email: bcic220@gmail.org

Website: bcic220.org

Location: P.O. Box 283 Barrington, IL 60011

Phone: (847) 381-6300

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/646209902098154/>

Twitter: [@chinese_council](https://twitter.com/chinese_council)

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