



Welcome to the New School Year!

Barrington Chinese Immersion Council - September 2020

Welcome back to school! An introduction . . .

Hello Chinese Immersion parents! My name is Kate Baker, and I am the president of Barrington Chinese Immersion Council. For those of you with children new to the Chinese Immersion (CI) program, we are a parent-led organization that's dedicated to support our children's growth in learning about the Chinese language and culture. You can read the official mission statement at the end of the newsletter, but here's a smattering of things we typically do:



- collaborate with CI teachers on activities, and provide them grants with school supplies and items they need
- raise awareness of our organization to the community
- work with Barrington High School in finding Chinese-related scholarships, internships, and communicate them to CI parents and students

Obviously, this year is different. Our organization is not currently as visible as normal. But our group still exists, with our passion and commitment to our cause! We normally have a back-to-school meet-and-greet, but due to COVID safety concerns, an event like this cannot be done at this time. But we still plan to have virtual board meetings, and when we do have our general meetings we will communicate the days/times of them to you, and we'd love for you to attend!

Lastly, we welcome any suggestions you have to help keep Chinese top-of-mind for our students! This newsletter contains a smattering of suggested websites and other materials, recommended by some of our CI teachers as well as parents. Hope you will find some of them useful!

Here's to a great school year!

Kate Baker



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Barrington Chinese Immersion Council Board President

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History, Nature, and Music!

Let us introduce to you our first vignette of online Chinese resources, provided to you by Du Lao Shi of 4th grade, Zander Lao Shi of 3rd grade, and Wang Lao Shi of 2nd grade.



How would you like to spend time watching beautiful nature clips and listening to wonderful Chinese music, all while taking a virtual tour of the Great Wall of China? Well, now you can! <https://www.thechinaguide.com/destination/great-wall-of-china> provides gorgeous 360 degree views of three popular lookouts.

And the nature clips (14 of them!) <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5WqtuU6JrnW4kEUgSmqdEEH6aZYqP1yu> are not only produced by Conservation International, but includes narration from popular Chinese figures like Star Wars' Jiang Wen, film director Feng Xiang, and more!

And for our younger viewers, or any Disney lovers, you can view the Great Wall with popular Disney Music in Chinese! Frozen's "Let it Go" <https://youtu.be/h8MjP2t1zXw> and Moana's "How Far I'll Go" <https://youtu.be/LpOd3tLvDA>. The singing is beautiful!

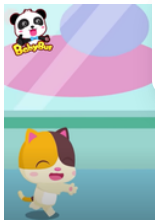
Baby Bus, Little Fox and More!

Are you familiar with Baby Bus? Home page: <https://www.youtube.com/user/babybus1000> BabyBus' goal is to make learning a fun experience for earlier-grade kids by creating classic nursery rhymes, kids songs and stories with 2D & 3D animations.

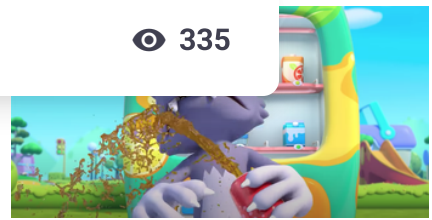
Also, try out The Little Fox who plays songs and stories, including pinyin and tone lessons for younger learners, plus short animated stories with Chinese subtitles.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCipQJmg3yqouy6MRtPv_0Bg And - don't miss out on Elmo's series of 26 Mandarin lessons!

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqebdByEHNL0vfUdFJ3mwCRh_KYGSUZk7



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Subway Safety Song

Garbage Truck Song

Big Wolf Drinking Coke Song

More Resources for All Students

The following two links are brought to you by Wang Lao Shi of 5th grade:

- <https://www.audio-lingua.eu/?lang=en> is a website from the GEP (a Group of Pedagogical Experiments) in the Académie of Versailles. It offers more than 6000 mp3 resources in 13 languages to listen online or download in order to practice oral comprehension skills. There is no other website offering so many languages, an interface translated in all these languages, so many files and so many possibilities.
- Kids of all ages should check out Digital Dialects!
<https://www.digitaldialects.com/Chinese.htm> The Mandarin Chinese learning materials on Digital Dialects are free to use, and were developed for language students of various ages and learning styles. School students and young children should enjoy some of the colorful and intuitive word games, such as the animal vocabulary game, or the fruit and vegetable quiz. Games include recorded spoken Chinese from a native speaker with a standard accent. For a quieter environment, students are given 'text only' options, which are the games without sound. Games use both pinyin, a romanized Chinese alphabet, and Chinese simplified characters.

Lastly, here are a couple of recommended games from Michelle Chase, one of our board members whose daughter is a 7th grade CI student:

- Storytelling Game - A fun way to play with your child and practice Chinese at the same time is to play a storytelling game in Chinese. This game challenges your child to use their Chinese skills creatively. We like "Tell Tale," but you could also play with Story Cubes too. If all players do not speak Chinese, your child can start the story in Chinese, the other players start in English and players can see how closely their ideas and storylines match up. Players take turns this way to create a story, with a lot of laughs along the way. Challenge your child to create a silly story or use as many descriptive words as possible.
- Chinese Nature Walk - Kids can narrate a nature walk or walking tour in Chinese. Encourage them to pretend to be the leader of a nature hike or a walking tour and point out as many things as possible in Chinese - birds, trees, rock, flowers, houses, etc.



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Another way to practice Chinese

Another great way to offer Chinese enrichment is by using . . . believe it or not . . . a good old book!

Of course Amazon has a large variety of Chinese books of all levels. Have you tried these other companies?

- <http://www.chinesebooksforchildren.com/>
- <https://www.jojolearning.com/>
- <http://www.chinasprout.com/>
- <https://www.yesasia.com/us/en/chinese-books.html>
- <https://chalkacademy.com/chinese-books-kids-love/>



If you have any additional suggestions, please share them with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram!

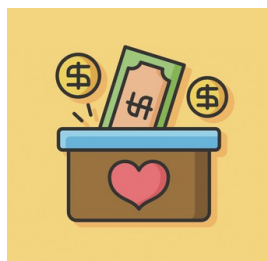
Community Resources for Support

BStrong Together has been created to support parents, children and youth, community members and others impacting the lives of Barrington area children in our shared goal of raising happy, healthy, resilient, and adaptable children capable of successfully navigating the world of today and the future. Website: www.bstrongtogether.org.



Volunteer Opportunities!

We always appreciate your help! There are several committee positions open.



Make a Contribution!

Thanks to all families who have contributed so far to BCIC! Your kind donations help

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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 you can help with too. Contact us!

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, materials and experiences not covered by our tax dollars. We aim to build a strong relationship and sense of community between BCIC, the school district, teachers, staff, participating families and the community at large.

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Phone: (847) 381-6300

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

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

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