



# Happy Spring!

Barrington Chinese Immersion Council - March 2021

## 新年快乐! Happy New Year!

Hello and Happy Spring! 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. We welcome any suggestions you have to help keep Chinese top-of-mind for our students!



Kate Baker

Barrington Chinese Immersion Council Board President

email: [katebaker05@hotmail.com](mailto:katebaker05@hotmail.com)



## New Year Celebrations

In years past, our Chinese students have typically celebrated Chinese New Year with class parties. We would also march alongside them at the New Year Parade in Chinatown. And what has become a new favorite thing to do is attend PI8's Dragon

Dinner, where Chinese dancers would dress and perform for us, with their loud drums and fire torches outside!

Despite the fact that we are in the middle of dealing with distance learning, wearing masks and being six feet apart from each other, our teachers did a WONDERFUL job celebrating the New Year with their students in ways we could not believe! They shared with us so many wonderful photos and videos filled with crafts, songs, and talents! We hope everyone had a great time at their respective celebrations! Thank you, teachers!



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## Party Photos!

### 幼儿园 (kindergarten)

Please note that due to space limitations in the newsletter, we weren't able to accommodate photos of all students for each grade. Contact your CI teacher if you haven't seen all the photos and videos they captured!





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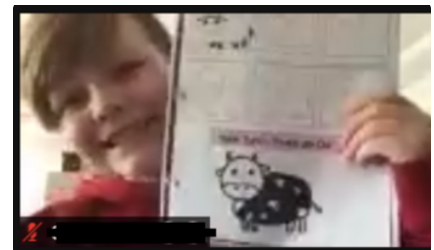
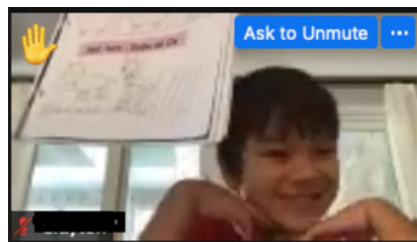
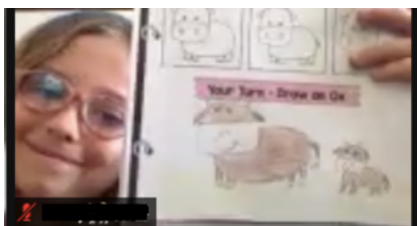
## 一年级 (1st graders)





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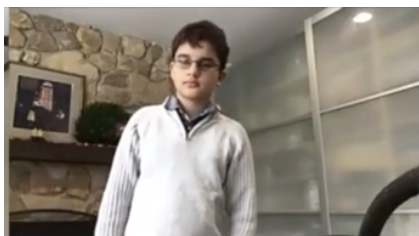
## 二年级 (2nd graders)





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### 三年级 (3rd graders)



the ancient legend, "the  
story of nian"

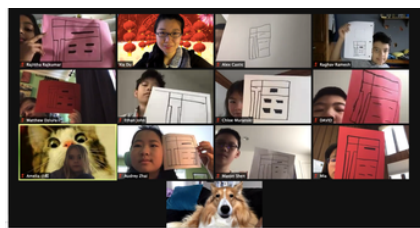


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## 4th Graders



making dumplings



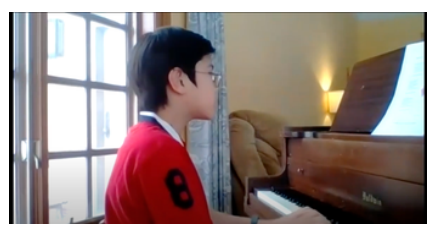
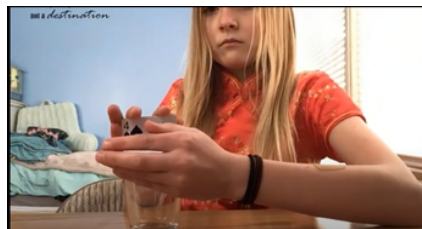
writing "福" (good fortune)





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## 五年级 (5th Graders)





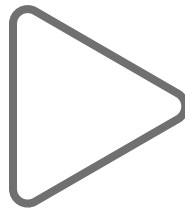
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### And now...a special announcement from 6th grade...

Mrs. Weerts and Mr. Yu had a variety of ways to celebrate the New Year too, with one that was shared with all of Station Middle School. Kaya Nikolov, Antonia Rojas, Lily Wills and Ella Yang are four 6th graders who assisted Mr. Aalfs, Station's principal, with morning announcements on February 12, the first day of the New Year. Each girl gave their fellow students warm wishes over the intercom. Click below to hear what was said!



2021 Chinese New Year Annoucement



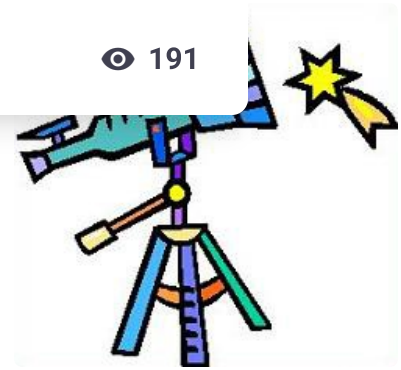
### be on the watch!

Soon, we will let you know the date of our next BCIC General Meeting. This is a meeting that isn't only just for board members, but it's for ALL OF US! And it will contain speakers and topics that

you'll want  
forward to :



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## A new year brings new opportunities!

One thing we at BCIC love to do is find opportunities where our students can practice and enrich their Chinese speaking skills and knowledge of its culture. We've found a few for you, and they are detailed below. Let's start out 2021 with a bang and get involved in some of these groups!

## Take an opportunity to learn more about Chinese culture!

We recently found out about an interactive student exchange with students in China. This program is led by a CI teacher in Florida with students and teachers participating from the US and China. It's fun and engaging and a great way for your Chinese immersion student to practice what they learned, or simply observe others. We've already had two of our 5th grade Barrington CI students, Lucy and Kate Vraniak, join last month and they absolutely recommend checking out this group! You'll see in the photo (above) that they won red envelopes with money from answering Chinese vocabulary questions.



This is a growing community and the exchanges are held monthly. They are theme based and a couple weekends ago, they celebrated the Lantern Festival which closed Chinese New Year! If you are interested in participating, feel free to contact the group leader, Zhang Xia at [Sunshine99zhangxia@gmail.com](mailto:Sunshine99zhangxia@gmail.com).

(Recommended for students age 10+)

## These middle schoolers took the opportunity!

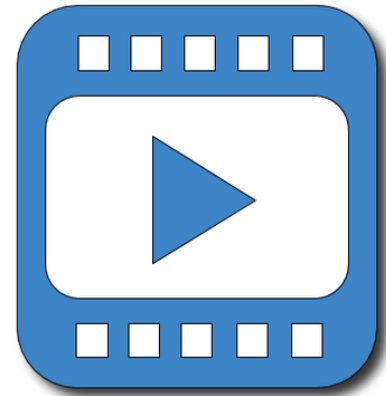
In the summer of 2019, we started this club. And now we are SO excited to say it's back - Chinese Middle School Club is currently underway! The students are offered a fun, interactive opportunity to gain additional Chinese language proficiency and cultural experiences! Camp takes place every Tuesday afternoon at Station Middle School hosted by teachers Mrs. Weerts and Mr. Yu. The kids play an assortment of games, cultural activities and practicing conversational Chinese. Too fun!



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## take an opportunity to showcase your digital technology skills!

The Chinese Language Digital Teaching Association is holding a contest that should be of great interest to many of our CI students. It's called the Golden Bull Cup Vlog Master Contest, and there are three ways to enter. You can create and submit: a) a video; b) a compilation of hand-drawn illustrations or computer graphics; or c) a combination of photos, illustrations and videos.



This contest has separate winners for elementary, middle, and high schoolers. The deadline to enter is April 20, 2021. Link for more info:

<http://www.cldta.org/2021373292927530403vlog36948201542282336093.html>

## Barrington High School Winterfest 2020

We can't close this newsletter without a note about the tree that BCIC displayed at BHS Winterfest last December. The tree was placed on a driving route alongside trees from about 30+ other student groups. It stayed up for three evening showings! Those of us who went the last night lucked out! The weather was super mild, compared to the first couple of evenings where spectators viewed decorations through harsh rain/cold conditions!

Anyway, all the evenings were beautiful with everyone's contributions to the event. BCIC would like to publicly thank again those that helped plan and decorate our tree! It was a true collaboration between students, teachers, moms, dads and even grandparents! It couldn't have gone as smoothly as it did without your help. And we look forward to participating again next December - such a great event for the entire community!



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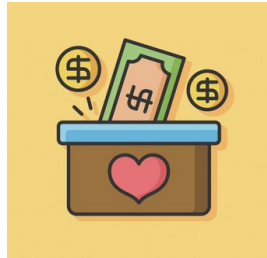
members

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](http://www.bstrongtogether.org).



### 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, a senior living community in Barrington with many Mandarin speakers. 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!



### 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 2020-21 school year? Simply visit [www.barrington220.org](http://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](http://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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