

西區中文學校

西風

The Westside Breeze



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西風

The Westside
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校長的一封信



Victor Yen, principal

親愛的老師、家長及學生們：

1998年9月的一個星期六早上，太座突然要我一起到Palms Middle School，看看那兒的中文學校。從此便與西區中文學校結下不了緣。先是太座擔任課外活動主任及校務副校長等職務，我只是在一側幫忙敲邊鼓。誰知道當她卸下職務一身輕之際，卻把我給拖下水，接下課外活動主任一職。當了幾年之後更換跑道，搖身一變成了教務副校長。今年更承蒙家長之不棄，在加入中文學校第十三年，當上了第四十四屆的校長。心中誠惶誠恐，深怕才疏學淺的我沒把學校辦好，辜負了大家的期望與信賴。

當上校長，除了承襲以往優良的制度及規範之外，也引進一些新的或被中斷的計畫。茲列舉於下。

1. 家長會議 -

學校以往與家長之間一直缺乏有效的溝通平台，很多家長沒收到或沒看學校寄的電郵，發出的通知/表格往往又沒傳到家長的手上，大部分家長把學生放到校門口就驅車離去。有鑑於此，遂決定每月在大禮堂舉行一次家長會議。歡迎每位家長都能參加，善用此項會議的機會，詢問任何問題或提出任何建議。學校的幹部會列席備詢。對家長的問題是有問必答，對家長提出的建議也會虛心接受。同時學校也會在會議中向家長傳達重要訊息。

2. 專題演講 -

數年前，學校曾每年為家長舉辦一系列的專題演講，內容包羅萬象，從大學申請須知，醫療保健到投資理財等等。這些演講會不知為何被中斷了好幾年。我覺得能提供留在學校的家長一個學習新知的機會是很有意義的事情，決定要重新恢復這個計畫。現在正和各方專家們敲定演講題材及時間中。

3. 榮譽校友 -

在1997-1998學年，學校通過增設榮譽校友制度，讓離開學校的學生及其家人能再度回歸，成為學校的一分子。這項制度雖成立了，卻沒有執行深為可惜。我認為學校應該朝這方面多做努力，讓眾多校友及其家屬成為學校的後盾，也可以助學校一臂之力。藉著整理學校舊檔案之際，將多年前學生名冊建檔，準備藉Facebook及其他管道號召校友歸隊。

前文提到學校創校以來，已經有四十四年了。我們至今仍寄籬人下，沒有一個屬於自己的校園。正因如此，我們的老師及家長應時時提醒我們的子弟，要懂得尊重別人的物品，不要動到屬於 Mar Vista 小學的文具及器材，以免傷及兩校的關係及損害我們學校的校譽。

最後我要利用這個機會，向眾多為學校默默付出無數心力的家長及老師們致十二萬分的謝意。只有在您們無私無怨的奉獻下，我們才能將博大精深中華文化傳承給下一代，我們的中文學校也得以永續經營。

校長 閻興

二零一零年十一月六日

A Letter from Our Principal

Dear Teachers, Parents and Students:

One early Saturday morning of September 1998, my wife asked me to go to Palms Middle School with her to check out a Chinese school there. Since then, an unbroken tie has been forged between my family and Westside Chinese School. At first, my wife took Director of Extracurricular Activities, then she switched to VP of Academic Affairs. As I stood outside and gave her a helping hand when needed. However, when she finished her term, she dragged me into the whole thing. I started as the Director of Extracurricular Activities. After four years, I took the VP of Academic Affairs position as it became vacant last year, and after I spent 12 years in our Chinese school. I was voted the 44th principal. I am excited to be the principal, but I am worried that I will not run the school smoothly and meet everyone's expectations and trust.

Being the principal, I will inherit some well-designed programs, but I will also introduce/ bring back some other programs. The main programs are listed as the following:

1. Town Hall Meetings: There is a lack of an effective communication platform between our school and parents. A lot of the time, parents either don't receive or don't open the emails sent by our school. Our written notices are not delivered to parents' hands, and lots of parents just drop off their kids at the school gates and leave. Under these situations, I have decided to hold monthly town hall meetings in the auditorium for parents and everyone is welcome to participate. We will answer all questions brought up by the parents and address every suggestion from parents. The school will also use this opportunity to relay important information to parents.

2. Seminars: Our school use to host a series of seminars for parents. The topics included college application tips, health care, investment, and money management. These seminars were stopped for several years for many reasons. I think these seminars were very meaningful and could provide parents opportunities to learn new things. I am reinstating this program, am currently planning the topics and scheduling speakers.

3. Honorary Class Membership: In the 1997-1998 school year, our board of director decided to establish an honorary class membership for our former students and their families. Having this enabled our former students and families to rejoin our school. Unfortunately our school has not been able to do anything about it for so many years. Personally I think our school should proactively approach our past students, doing this we can create a vast army to help our school in so many ways. I have created a list of former students by organizing our school's old registry. I plan to use Facebook and other means of communication to reconnect with them.

As mentioned above, our school was established forty four years ago and we still do not have a place to call home. We continue to rent classrooms from LAUSD, therefore, our teachers and parents need to constantly remind our students to honor other people's property. We should not touch Mar Vista Elementary School's

property/supplies, because it is vital to keep a good relationship and a good school reputation.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our devoted teachers and parents. Without your sacrifices, we could not be here to pass Chinese culture and language to the future generations. Only your selfless dedication makes our school sustainable and the best place to learn Chinese.

Sincerely yours,

Victor Yen, Principal
November, 2010

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Attorney Paul Herzog is a Westside Chinese School parent and in English. We are happy to provide a free phone consultation and we represent individuals throughout the United States.

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PTA's Trip to China and Our New Teacher



Laurie Deer, PTA president

The Westside Chinese School PTA is active and looking for parent volunteers. Laurie Deer is our new PTA president. Her son, August, is in the 1A class and her family has been involved in Westside Chinese School for two years. The PTA is charged with acting as the parent liaison for the school and responsible for the school's fundraising. Westside Chinese School cannot operate without parent volunteers or without raising additional funds through the efforts of the PTA. Year after year, our parents have generously given their time to ensure the success and continuing existence of the school. A tightening economy means the PTA's job is more important than ever. This year, the PTA is adding new volunteer opportunities, more fundraising events, and more school sponsored family participation events.

For the first time, we are organizing a group tour to China. The trip will be conducted in conjunction with UCLA. This is a seven day trip to Beijing and departs approximately July 10, 2011 and returns July 16, 2011. This is an important opportunity for your children to connect with Chinese culture and language. If you are interested in the China trip, please let us know right away. Contact our PTA president, Laurie Deer, at wscspta@gmail.com.

The PTA also requires parent volunteers. If you are interested, please contact our PTA president, Laurie Deer, at wscspta@gmail.com.

王敏文 Minwen Wang, 5B Class

王敏文老師是在1999年獲得中國雲南大學歷史系的碩士學位，然後她在中國湖南和廣東教中學將近二十年。她2009年來美國後，一直在帕薩迪納市立學院學習英語。2010年，王老師參加了南加州中文學校聯合會 (SCCCS) 舉辦的中文教師培訓。2010年7和8月，她加入SCCCS舉辦的STARTALK夏季學校教暑期班。並於2010年9月正式成為西區中文學校5B班的老師。

王老師很喜歡西區中文學校，因為第一：她深深地被我們辦校宗旨所吸引。她很願意把中華文化和歷史融入中文教學中，使中文教學與文化教育兩相結合，為傳承中華文明盡一份自己棉薄之力。第二：王老師更強烈地被我們學校這麼多優秀的老師所吸引。她很想融入這個和諧創新的大家庭，更讓她萌發了躍躍欲試與老師們一起切磋教學技藝的心情。第三：她被閻興校長和吳欣怡教務副校長等學校行政人員，這樣一群為志業奮鬥的戰士深深地打動。他（她）們從事中文教育工作並不是為了個人一己私利，一切都是為了傳承中華文化而無私的奉獻自己，她更覺得義不容辭。

王老師的嗜好是讀書、寫作和健身，她最喜歡吃的中國菜是媽媽親手製作的外婆菜。



王敏文老師

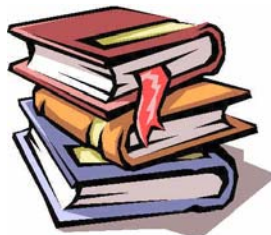
Minwen Wang

In 1999 Ms. Minwen Wang graduated from the Yunnan University. She received her master's degree in arts in the History Department. Afterwards she taught middle school students in Hunan and Guangdong provinces in China for nearly 20 years. In 2009, Ms. Wang made a big change, she moved to the United States. Since then, she has been learning English at Pasadena City College, and in May of 2010, she attended the Southern California Council of Chinese Schools (SCCCS) program for training Chinese teachers. In July and August of 2010, she also participated in the SCCC's STARTALK program. In September of 2010, she successfully became a Westside Chinese School teacher, for the 5B class.

As it turns out, Ms. Wang loves Westside Chinese School. She is attracted to the school's philosophy and mission of how the school combines both Chinese culture and history, and is willing to include these strategies into her teaching as well. Ms. Wang was amazed at how our school's teachers are very knowledgeable and would like to integrate into our harmonious and creative family. Ms. Wang wants to learn from the other teachers at our school and says that their energy encourages her to teach at our school as well. She is moved by how our principal, Mr. Victor Yen, Vice Principal, Shinyi Wu, and other staff members dedicate their time and energy selflessly into helping Westside Chinese School's students learn and progress. She feels an urgency to be a part of this and to help complete their mission.

Ms. Wang loves to read, write and exercise. Her favorite food is the Pickled Chinese Cabbage made by her mother because there is nothing like a warm, homemade dinner.

By 陸慧 Helen Lu, 7A/8A Class



我為什麼 上中文學校

劉博杰

2009年1月，西風刊登了黃靜校長撰寫的一篇，關於學生們為什麼要來中文學校學習的文章。她生動地闡述了精闢的理由。我是一名在中文學校學習了九年的學生，今天我要告訴大家我來上中文學校的原因。說起來，誰不想星期六在外面享受一下，而不要到學校來上學，這種犧牲也許很難使人理解。但也就是因為這種對於學習中文的堅持不懈，使我獲益匪淺。

我現在已是一名高中三年級的學生，我在中文學校的學習使我獲益良多。多年來我在中文學校打下了堅實的中文基礎，讓我在需要的時候能用中文與人交流，為此我感到自豪。實際上，美國的大學也十分看重學生對外國語文的熟練掌握，若會說流利的中文，就更讓人羨慕了。未來，能通曉中文，在社會上更是一項有力的本事。世界上說中文的人不僅眾多，中文一年比一年受到更多人的青睞。此外中國還有許多的就業機會，許多雇主把懂中文的人看作是一份資產。

有人也許認為中文學校僅僅是對知識的一種灌輸，而不知道中文學校不僅有嚴謹的教學方式，還有豐富，活躍的社交活動。學生們每週從不同的地方，來學校匯聚一堂。大家在一起學習中國文化，這對於忙碌了一周的家長和朋友們來說都是一次難得的機會。在休息時間和課後，學生們可以玩耍和選擇參加多種課外活動。還有一個你絕不想錯過的機會，便是每年中國新年的慶祝會。這一天有適合每個人的娛樂，遊戲，表演，美食等豐富多彩的項目。

雖然，今年因為我在高中的課程十分繁忙，沒能在中文學校上全天的課。但我十分有幸仍有機會保留作為西風的一名成員，而使我能夠在中文學校裡與大家一同分享學習中文的樂趣。總之，上中文學校有許許多多的益處，一篇文章很難全面敘述。在結尾之前，我還要告訴大家，中文學校的中餐美食很棒！有我喜歡的炒麵，只要問一問學生，他們一定會告訴你他們喜歡的食物。從以上這些豐富多彩的中文學校學習的經歷，總歸一點，中文確實是有趣的語言文化，具有吸引力，能使人熱愛，和讓人去掌握，並享用一生。

WHY I ATTEND CHINESE SCHOOL

VINCENT LIU

In the January 2009 issue, the principal, Jean Huang, presented her point of view about why students attend Westside Chinese School. Though these reasons are all well-founded, another perspective for the same question proves valuable—that of the student. Having attended Chinese School for the past nine years, I now present my own perspective regarding why students go to Chinese School. After all, wouldn't kids rather be spending their weekends elsewhere rather than at another session of school—and on a Saturday? Granted, it may be difficult to grasp the concept of sacrificing free time, but the benefits reaped from this extra day of class are plenty.

As a high school student, I fully recognize these great benefits of attending Chinese School. The massive foreign language credit accrued after years at Chinese School immediately places students ahead of peers who have not been fortunate enough to receive such an education; indeed, colleges admire students who are able to speak other languages effectively, especially such a popular language as Chinese. In the future, the ability to converse in Chinese will confer manifold benefits not only in college but also in the real world—after all, Chinese is becoming more widely spoken with every lapsing year, and the language already wields the greatest number of speakers in the world. Various occupational outlets will be available to Chinese speakers in China, the nascent powerhouse of the future, and employers will treat them as valuable assets to their businesses and public relations.

A widespread misconception is that Chinese School is a place solely for academic inculcation. While Chinese School is undoubtedly a place for rigorous learning, commonly overlooked is the fact that here exists bustling social activity. Friends from different schools are granted weekly opportunities to meet and spend time together, gatherings that would be otherwise difficult to coordinate with the hectic schedules of students and parents. During break and afterschool programs, students are able to play and engage in a variety of thrilling activities. Likewise, festivals—including my favorite, the Chinese New Year Festival—are celebratory occasions with games and fun for all; these are events you don't want to miss!

Although I cannot attend the three-hour session due to my busy schedule as a high school student, I am glad to have the opportunity to remain part of the Westside Breeze and the great community at Chinese School. Indeed, the benefits of attending Chinese School are many. There would be too many to list in one article; the list above is by no means comprehensive. But before I bring this topic to a close, there are a few final enjoyments I would like to enumerate. The Chinese School food is awesome! The noodles are my favorite; ask around—I'm sure many would agree! In light of all these rich benefits conferred by going to Chinese School, at the bottom line, I feel that Chinese is just a charming, appealing, fun language to master and brings insight to one's aesthetic soul.