



西風



The Westside Breeze

西區中文學校

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12,000ft hike to Cottonwood Lake under icy conditions.

Principal's Welcome Letter/校長的歡迎信

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Westside Chinese School, where it's more than just a language school.

This is a place where the Chinese community connects and thrives in the West Los Angeles area. We are all devoted parents who spend every Saturday to keep this school running for our children to study Mandarin, learn Chinese culture, and meet Chinese-speaking friends.

Learning Chinese is not an easy task, so is getting up early on Saturday mornings. I applaud you and your child for your commitment; we are here to do it together as a community.

Your volunteering efforts are very much needed and appreciated by the school. I look forward to another great year with your participation!

-Michael Chang (2019-2020 School Year Principal)

歡迎加入西區中文學校。本校的目標就是為了全校所有學生有一個地方讓他們學習中文, 體驗中國文化, 和學習中文的同學交流。學習中文並不是一件容易的事, 每週六早上帶著子女一起上學也不是一件容易的事。我非常感謝和各位家長一起為學校做義工。沒有各位的努力付出, 學校是無法維持下去的。

這個校園是在洛杉磯西區主要的中國文化交流處也是在美國扎根的中國子女學習語言的橋樑。我深深的認為前人為我們設立的這一所學校是我們的福氣。我們應該同心協力繼續維持擁有這一美好的福氣而永續傳承下去。再次感謝各位家長對本校的無償付出。我深信本學年度因各位家長義工的努力會是另一個成功美好的學年。-張峻豪 (2019-2020 學年度校長)

西區校徽的歷史

History of Westside Chinese School Logo

By Jason Durkee and Victor Yen



Original Logo (1)



Current Logo (2)

我們學校的校徽最初為圖一所示, 因有些家長覺得校徽中的一隻海鷗太嫌孤單, 1993 年黃授良校長將校徽加以改變, 成為圖二, 兩隻海鷗一大一小, 不再孤單, 也有傳承的意味。另外, 校徽中的 6 個波浪也象徵 6 個創校的家庭。

Our original school logo had one seagull, but because many parents thought the seagull was too lonely, in 1993, former principal, Principal Huang decided to add another smaller seagull. The big seagull and small seagull symbolize the passing down of Chinese language, culture, and heritage through the generations. Additionally, the 6 waves allude to the 6 founding families of the school.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT- VICTOR LEE



Hello, my name is Victor Lee. My wife Karen and I have been sending our daughter, Madeline (age 10), to Westside Chinese School since 2015. Madeline is in her 5th year of Chinese school and is in class 4B. I have been one of the Chinese school's official photographers and the only official videographer for the past 5 years. I also manage the school's photo and video archives on Google Photos and YouTube respectively.

My interest in photography dates back to my childhood when cameras used film. I remember taking pictures with my parents' cameras during family vacations, sending the film for development, and waiting anxiously for days before we could finally see the prints. While it was amazing to witness the transition to digital photography, I feel that it is equally amazing to observe the current developments with computational photography (e.g., high dynamic range, noise reduction, panoramic stitching to name a few examples) which have blurred the lines between traditional "photography" and post-processing or editing.

I began shooting videos in the last decade as digital camcorders went mainstream. I find that video recordings are often a more meaningful way to capture events in which audio is a significant part of the experience. Chinese school poetry recitals, Chinese new year performances, the Spring Concert, and year-end performances are obvious examples. Since I cherish videos of Madeline's performances, my hope is to provide the same experience to other families. While I shoot "serious" videos with a camcorder, I equally enjoy shooting "fun" videos with my iPhone and especially my GoPro for which I own a variety of straps and mounts that allow me to shoot from creative angles.

As you'd expect, Madeline is the subject of most of my photos and videos. However, I also enjoy landscape photography which allows me to combine my photography hobby with my passion for visiting our U.S. national parks. A small sample of my photos can be viewed at <https://500px.com/vlee71>.

People sometimes ask me for advice about how to improve their photography. If you're ready to take the leap from a point-and-click photographer to a hobbyist like me, I'd recommend the following:

- (1) Get a digital single lens reflex (SLR) camera if you don't already own one. This will allow you to shoot in manual and semi-automatic modes, as opposed to fully automatic modes where you have little control over the camera's settings
- (2) Understand the "exposure triangle" which is a 3-way constraint between aperture, shutter speed, and ISO (sensitivity). Use this knowledge to leverage available light in different scenarios to control depth of field (e.g., generate bokeh), increase sharpness, minimize noise, etc. to get the effects you desire
- (3) Keep practicing! See what works well (or not so well) for you in different situations, and make adjustments on your next photo shoot

As a bonus recommendation, I'd like to remind you to back up your photos and videos. The hard drives and solid state drives on your phones, tablets, laptops, and desktop computers will eventually fail. There are too many backup options for me to address here, so if you really want to learn more, find me at Chinese school and we'll chat.

Sabara the Mystery Universe: The Beginning

By Alula Savene

Rosie, Luna, and Hanna are 4th graders who attend the same class at Apple Orchard elementary school in Nevada. They are the best of friends, always hanging out together. Rosie is a shy, quiet girl who is not good in public situations. She nearly barfed when she had to give her third grade presentation, but that's another story for another time. She always wears her brown hair in braids with a kitty headband. Her favorite animals are cats, and she has a black cat named Furball. Next is Luna. Luna is also shy but she's the leader of the pack. She has straight blonde hair with black tips, and she always leaves it down. Her favorite animals are dogs, and she has three. Finally, there's Hanna. Now Hanna, she pouts...a lot. Now I'm not trying to be rude but she pouts for VERY petty reasons. She has black hair and ALWAYS styles it really fancy. Her favorite animals are also dogs yet she has no pets.

Anyway let's start the story. It was a Thursday at 2:40 PM. There were three minutes left until freedom from school for the day. It was silent. Everyone was reading. Ms. Jane, a no-nonsense teacher, was grading a test that the students had recently finished. The entire school was calm. Then all of a sudden: "DING, DONG!" went the bell. "All right class, before you go make sure to grab the field-trip slip at the front! Because of the nature of the trip, only students with parent signatures can go" Ms. Jane said. Later, at Rosie's house, "the squad" was talking. "I wonder where we're going for the field trip!" Luna said. "I'm sure it's going to be dangerous" said Rosie. "Who CARES?" said Hanna. "It'll probably be somewhere SUPER kiddy, like always. Like some zoo or something. Or even a PETTING zoo." Then Rosie stood up, walked into her room, grabbed Furball, and screamed "I LOVE THE PETTING ZOO!" into her pillow, and started crying. "Hanna! What the heck!?" cried Luna. Then, Luna slowly made her way into Rosie's room. "Hey, you ok?" said Luna. "Hey, can you please leave me and Furball alone?" Rosie said. Then she continued crying.

Fast forward to the next morning, the class hopped on the bus. About three hours later, they find themselves in the middle of nowhere, facing a building surrounded by a fence. "All right class! This is Mr. McMan. He will be your guide today." said Miss Jane, pointing to a man dressed in a tan suit. "Excuse me?" said Victoria, one of the students. "Where are we?" "We, young lady, are at Area 51" said Mr. McMan. "WWWHHHHAAAAAAA!?!?" the class said in sync. "You mean the place that has tons of memes involving aliens?" said Victor. "Kinda. Let's just get on with the tour okay?" said Mr. McMan. Later they walked inside a room with giant test-tubes filled with different colored gases. "Feel free to smell the gases through the pipes that connect to the tubes" said Mr. McMan. Rosie sniffed a red one and it smelled like strawberries. "MMMMMM!" she said. Sometime later, the class entered a room filled with doors. "Welcome to the Portal Room! Feel free to look through the doors; just DO NOT GO THROUGH THEM!" Mr. McMan said. Later the class left yet Luna, Rosie, and Hanna didn't notice and were left all alone. "Uh guys, we're all alone." said Rosie. "W...what should we do?" asked Luna. "We should go through one of the doors!" said Hanna. Luna and Rosie nodded. "Let's go through the green door" said Hanna. "Sure" said Luna and Rosie in unison. Then they opened it. It looked like the hall that they came through. Then they walked through but fell. "AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAEEEEEE" they screamed. Eventually they just kept falling and got scared. "I told you it'd be dangerous, now who wants to go to the petting zoo, huh?" said Rosie sarcastically "All right all right, me," said Hanna "you wi-" THUMP.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

Friendship Day

Photographers: Davis Lee
and Victor Lee





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MY TRIP TO CHONGQING, CHINA By: Jason Durkee

My Chongqing vacation started out in a simple way: being rushed to the airport after a volunteer outing where I had to be woken up at five in the morning. In China we were greeted by our tour guide and a tour bus (think big van) and proceeded to take a boat to another part of land. One fruit vendor there tried to sell us oranges that were overpriced for the tourists, and I saw that in Chinese stores, people really do sometimes argue about unfair prices and get price reductions on items. We went to see one of Chongqing's more famous landmarks, The Three Natural Bridges, which are large rock formations adjacent to each other in a mountainous area that form three rocky bridges. I learned that this is where one of the transformer movies was filmed. At another location we saw the Dazu Rock Carvings, intricate carvings of Buddhist practices which took some of the carvers almost their entire lives to create.



One of Chongqing's Three Natural Bridges.

On another day we went to see a face changer show, where masked performers dance and quickly swish their arms to change masks. Surprisingly, the show offered much more than just face changers, with some sort of tea performance where a man whisked around a teapot with an extra-long spout, two Chinese dance songs that were somewhat confusing to follow and a hand puppet show. Along with the show itself, we drank tea and ate Chinese snacks (some cookies, crackers, and pitted fruit) during the performance. Chinese food was a great part of my trip, with many Chongqing restaurants specializing in fish soups; I had a full course meal for pretty much every meal. Also, worth noting: We saw giant pandas, red pandas, and white tigers at the Chongqing zoo, and there was a strange spiky looking food in a hotpot place that was probably the only food in China that I was definitely not sure about. Overall the experience was definitely enjoyable (except for being checked by the police at night in our hotel) and it was probably one of my favorite vacations in China.



Standing in front of the Buddhist Reincarnation Wheel at Dazu Rock Carvings (1000 years old).



Watching Chinese Opera while having tea and snacks.

西風 The Westside Breeze

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北海道遊記

漆曉曦

今年暑假我和爸爸媽媽去日本北海道玩了十天。其中除了在札幌市區以外；都是爸爸開車載我們自駕旅行。我們去了札幌、登別、旭川、富良野和小樽這幾個大城市。北海道很大；風景也很漂亮。那裡有很多森林和平靜的湖；例如洞爺湖、支笏湖和美瑛青池。北海道也有很多可愛的動物。有一次我們開車的時候，我看到了一隻鹿；後來又看到一隻狐狸。我們去旭山動物園看到了很多可愛的動物！我也在登別熊牧場餵熊；還去富良野餵了羊駝。真的很好玩，也很可愛！



我們去富良野薰衣草的農場。那裡種了好多各種顏色漂亮的花。我們在那吃到很好吃的薰衣草霜淇淋。然後，我們去隔壁的哈密瓜農場吃哈密瓜霜淇淋配夕張哈密瓜。很甜，很好吃！

我們在北海道住的旅館很酷。我很喜歡睡在榻榻米上面；很舒服。洞爺湖的旅館晚上還有煙火表演；從旅館房間就看得見。北海道夏天的天氣很涼爽。北海道很好玩，我很想再去。爸爸媽媽也很喜歡北海道；我們計劃明年夏天再去一次！



中國迷信: Chinese Superstitions

Numbers

The ever-so-infamous number 4 is a sign of death due to similar pronunciation
(四 Sì → 死, Sǐ)

If you want good luck, the magic number is 8 because of its similar pronunciation to prosperity/wealth

Colors

Black and white (白色和黑色) are considered unlucky because of associations with mourning and loss, though white is more considered to represent brightness and purity these days.

Red (紅色) represents happiness and marriage, and is the color of red pockets (紅).

Gifts to Never Give

The pronunciation of “pear” is too similar to “separate” (梨 Lí → 離 Lǐ)

Mirrors are said to attract malicious ghosts, and breaking one is a bad omen.

Umbrellas (傘 Sǎn) have a similar pronunciation as “breaking up”.

Avoid shoes (鞋 Xié) at all costs. They sound exactly like “evil”. Also, shoes are something that you step on.

No sharp objects! They insinuate that you want to cut off a relationship because of the common Chinese saying, “one slash and it’s in two parts” (一刀兩斷 Yī Dāo Liǎng Duàn)



Unexpected Superstitions

“Giving a clock” sounds similar to “attending a funeral ritual”: 送鐘 (Sòng Zhōng)

Never stick your chopsticks into a bowl of rice – it resembles incense at a tomb

Written by: Andrea Pua
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