



#### CIE Provided Culture Support to Ice on Whyte

On February 2, Ice on Whyte Festival despite the cool weather, witnessed a warm celebration for Chinese New Year. The *Confucius Institute in Edmonton* was invited by **Ice on Whyte** to provide different culture workshops for this special celebration. Inside a special heated tent there were many different activities, such as Chinese dough art, Chinese paper cutting, Chinese knots and Chinese calligraphy. Many people were attracted by these activities, old and young. From the noon time to evening, there was a constant crowd for all these activities.



Young children tried especially hard to learn how to make the dough figures and Chinese knots and paper cutting. Many adults requested a personalized calligraphy of their name. All the participants had a great time enjoying experiencing Chinese culture.

#### The Celebration of the Year of Snake—2013

During the Chinese New Year period, the *Confucius Institute in Edmonton* has much involvement in both community and school celebrations. It is a great time to share the Chinese culture with the general public and students.

On February 9 and 10, the CIE had the booth at West Edmonton Mall which displayed Chinese Dough Art, Chinese Knots and Paper Cutting, as well publicizing the supports and services the CIE offers to the community. CIE also organized a 30 minute performance at a carnival. Meyonohk Confucius Classroom and Ottewell Confucius Classroom contributed performances which included Lion Dance, Chinese Folk Dance and Poem Recitals. Their performances were warmly welcomed by the audience.



On February 16, the CIE also attended the Chinese New Year celebration at City Center Mall. The CIE teachers performed Chinese Tea Ceremony and also provided Chinese culture workshops.

The CIE during the period of Chinese New Year visited many schools, demonstrating Chinese art and other aspects of Chinese culture.

#### A PD Day for Edmonton Chinese Teachers



CIE invited Dr. Liu Meiru, the director of Portland University Confucius Institute to give a presentation of New Concepts on Learning Chinese Characters to about 30 Edmonton Chinese teachers at the Second Language Matters conference that was organized by Edmonton Public Schools. Her presentation was well received by the teachers attended.

#### Edith Rogers Had the First Chinese New Year Celebration

Edith Rogers School organized its first Chinese New Year celebration on February 8. The Confucius Institute provided the full support to this event by bringing a lion dance, a performance of Chinese traditional musical instruments (Guzheng and Yangqin), as well as the cultural workshops in Chinese dough art, paper cutting, taichi and Chinese dance. The celebration was a great success and some teachers commented that this was the best cultural celebration the school had ever had. CIE has also presented a Chinese culture kit to the school as the special gift.



#### CIE Hosts 2013 First Meeting of All Confucius Classroom Principals

The CIE hosted the first principal meeting of 2013 for 14 Confucius Classrooms. This meeting discussed the 2012 and 2013 budget, Chinese language testing, the exchange programs with Shandong schools, as well as new technical supports for Chinese language teaching.

#### 2013 YCT and HSK Meeting

The CIE organized the 2013 YCT and HSK test meeting which was attended by all the schools in Edmonton offering Chinese language. This meeting discussed the issues regarding the Chinese language testing in the past and completed the plan for this 2013. One of the big change is that 2013 will be the first year that some schools will use the on-line Chinese language proficiency tests.

#### Special Visitors to CIE

In February, the CIE received three groups of visitors and who came to learn about the CIE operation in hopes that they can enhance their work. The visitors were from The Confucius Institutes at Carlton University, University of Saskatoon and the University of Regina. Also there was a visit from the affiliated school of Shuzhou University of China. Some delegates had the chance to visit Kildare School and Rosslyn School. They left impressed with the work of the CIE and the Chinese program in EPSB.

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