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**CONFUCIUS  
INSTITUTE**  
IN EDMONTON

**通讯**

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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



### Upcoming Events

- The CIE has invited Professor Chen Zu Yan & Zhang Hong from Binghamton University to give presentations and a concert for the SLIC Second Language Conference to be held November 7 & 8 at the Double Tree Hotel.
- The 2014 Chinese Writing Contest Ceremony honouring contestants and award winners will be held at 7:00 pm on November 21 at the Confucius Institute in Edmonton.
- The 9th Global Confucius Institute Conference will be held in Xiamen, China, on December 7 and 8.

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## Principal Delegation to China

The Confucius Institute organized a delegation of new Confucius Classroom principals which visited China from October 25 to November 2. This delegation included principals and senior leaders from Edmonton Public Schools. This trip was a great success and it provided the opportunity for the delegation members to gain a better understanding of Chinese education and culture as well as experience first hand life in modern China. One principal mentioned that before going his image of China was that of the 1950s and 1960s but now current misconceptions have been erased.

The delegation visited Hanban offices and some historical sites in Beijing. The main part of the visit was in the province of Shandong, the partner to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. There they met with the Shandong Ministry of Education. Most importantly, all the principals had the chance to visit their partner schools to plan and discuss potential projects for enhancing interschool cooperation.

Many delegates indicated that they learned a lot from this visit. It was the first time that many of them had been to China, and what was learned will positively impact their work in the future.

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## Chinese Resource Training

On October 20, the Confucius Institute hosted a Chinese teacher training session on the subject of Chinese teaching resources. The special guests were Ms. Ma Yamin and Ms. Li Xinying from Iceland International School of Hong Kong, who are the authors of *Easy Steps to Chinese*, one of the resources used at in the Chinese bilingual elementary schools in Edmonton..

Ms. Ma got her masters degree in education at Queen's University in Canada in the area of second language teaching and Ms. Li has received her Ph.D in Applied Linguistics from Qinghua University. For both, most of their careers have been spent teaching Chinese for non-Chinese background learners and writing Chinese teaching resources.

More than 35 teachers attended the session. Most of them were from elementary schools and some from junior and high schools.

After the presentation, our teachers had opportunity to engage in detailed discussions with Ms. Ma and Ms. Li about how to use this and other resources more effectively.

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## Conference on Canada's Asia Challenge

From October 15 to 17 in Calgary, the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada hosted a conference entitled "Canada's Asia Challenge: Knowledge and Skills for the Next Generation". Dr. Wei Li attended the conference on behalf of the Confucius Institute in Edmonton.

The conference brought representatives from government, education institutes, private sector and business to share ideas and discuss some of the issues on how to prepare our young Canadians to be ready for the fast growing world economy, especially in Asia.

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## Support to Women's Day

On October 19, 2014, St. Pauls United Church held the annual celebration of Women's Day. The CIE was invited to provide a workshop on Chinese knots. Chinese Knots are one of the Chinese traditional handcrafts, which symbolizes good fortune and best wishes to the recipient of a knot.. Two CIE teachers, Molly Wu and Kathy Guo provided the workshops for participants in this event. Many people had a chance to learn the skill and made several knots of different styles. They really enjoyed this experience. This is the second time for the CIE to give support for the Womens Day Conference Last year, we provided a workshop on Chinese Dough Art.

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## Chinese Dough Art at Edmonton Senior Care Center

The Confucius Institute was invited to provide the Chinese cultural support to Edmonton Chinatown Senior Care Center on the occasion of their 10th Anniversary



## School Culture Sessions

The Confucius Institute provides free Chinese culture workshops and sessions to schools. Every year, the CIE teachers visit more than 35 schools to provide a variety of Chinese culture

celebration. Three teachers from the Confucius Institute participated in this event and they displayed the Chinese traditional arts to the those in attendance, including Chinese Dough Art and Calligraphy.

The colorful Chinese dough figurines drew a lot of interest from the crowd and many of them tried and enjoyed making images of their favorite animals. Many others also appreciated the beautiful Chinese calligraphy.

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## Grand Opening Ceremony of Confucius Classroom of Edith Rogers School

On October 2, Edith Rogers Junior High School hosted a grand opening ceremony of their Confucius Classroom at their school. More than 200 people attended the ceremony. Among them, Mr. Mike Nichols, Edmonton City Council, principals from nearby schools, Dr. Xinxin Feng, Hanban Advisor to Alberta Education, Mr. Stuart Wachowicz Chairman, Confucius Institute in Edmonton and Dr. Wei Li, Director of the Confucius Institute in Edmonton.

Principal Tim Boan and Assistant Principal Tony Grigoropoulos welcomed the guests and presided over the opening ceremony.

The students from Ottewell School came to Edith Rogers School to show their support and to perform Chinese

sessions, including, Chinese dough art, paper cutting, Chinese knots, calligraphy, Chinese paper folding, Tai Chi, Chinese painting, etc.

About 10,000 students from many different schools benefit from this program.

On October 10 and 24, CIE teachers provided Chinese culture workshops in Dough Art and Chinese Knots to McNally High School students. The students, especially those without Chinese background, were very keen to learn and make things by using the the colorful dough and the strings. It was a great experience for them.

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## Chinese Story Reading

During Reading Week, teachers from the CIE were invited to go to schools to read Chinese stories for the students. Kathy Guo and Steven Sun went to Kildare School and did the Chinese stories to lower grades as well as higher grades. Through stories, the students were able to learn additional tales about Chinese culture, as well as to improve their oral Chinese language.

The CIE teachers went to many schools during Reading Week, including the English schools to read

cultural performances in celebration of the event.

Edith Rogers School started their Mandarin program in 2013 and at that time, with only 15 students registered in the Chinese class. The number of students now learning Chinese has increased to 80 this year. There is much optimism the future.

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stories to students. This is becoming an annual role for the staff of the CIE, as children take opportunity to become exposed to stories of Chinese culture. It has been well received by the students, teachers and parents.

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