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**CONFUCIUS
INSTITUTE**
IN EDMONTON

通讯

(Tōngxùn- newsletter)

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

恭贺新春 Happy Chinese New Year



羊年喜气洋洋

羊年扬眉吐气

Confucius Institute in Edmonton
埃德蒙顿孔子学院

Upcoming Events

**MARCH 22: The 4th Alberta Chinese Bridge
Competition for University Students**

MAY 5 and 6: YCT and HSK Testing (in school students)

MAY 23: The 8th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition for School Students

JUNE 4: HSK Testing for Public candidates

CHINA TRIP - Five Confucius Classrooms have organized student groups to visit China and their Shandong Partner Schools during spring break

Note: For details, please check CIE website at www.confuciusedmonton.ca



Professional Development: Second Language Matters Conference

On February 2nd, the Second Language Matters Conference was held at the Fantasy Hotel. Most of the more than 50 Chinese teachers from Edmonton Public Schools and all the CIE visiting teachers attended the conference.

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton was one of the sponsors for the conference, which focuses on improving second language education. Mrs. Joanna Chang from University of Calgary, Mr. Robert Kong Qingmin and Dr. Wei Li of the CIE, made a presentation on the "International Chinese Language Teaching Material Development Program". The session was well attended. The purpose of the program is to better enable teachers to develop their own teaching materials using an on-line platform. This project is based on research and analysis of nearly 5000 commonly used Chinese language teaching materials worldwide. It provides a huge resource data base as well as assessment tools that can be integrated with locally developed resources.

This presentation was supported by the Division of Teaching Resources of Hanban.



Chinese New Year Celebration at West Edmonton Mall

The CIE participated in the Chinese New Year celebration planned by a number of local Chinese organizations at West Edmonton Mall on February 7 and 8. This was one of the biggest events for Chinese New Year celebration in the city of Edmonton.

During the two days of celebration, the CIE set up a booth to demonstrate traditional arts, such as Chinese Dough Art and Chinese Knots. The demonstrations attracted large crowds both of children and adults.

The CIE Yang Qin Team of 8 people also performed at the event. The beautiful traditional music was well received by the large audience. The performers included music students from the CIE Yang Qin Class and some of the CIE visiting teachers.

At the celebration, the Meyonohk School Confucius Classroom performed the Little Lion Dance, Drum Dance and a Tibetan Dance.



The CIE Participates in the Chinese New Year Celebrations at Concordia University of Edmonton

On February 9, Concordia University of Edmonton organized a Chinese New Year celebration with more than one hundred students and staff in attendance.

The CIE was specially invited to participate. At the event, the CIE brought two performances for the celebration - a Lion Dance and Erhu (Chinese Violin) performance.

During the celebration, Chinese food was provided and attendees participated in Chinese games, like using chopsticks to pick up marbles.

All the participants enjoyed learning some new aspects of Chinese culture.

One week later, the first Mandarin and Chinese culture class started at Concordia with the support from the CIE. Now about 15 students, professors and administrators began attending the classes. Hopefully this will be the start of Chinese language and culture education at Concordia.



The CIE Attended the Chinese Consulate's New Year Reception at Calgary

The CIE was invited to attend the Chinese New Year reception hosted by Chinese Consulate in Calgary. Mr. Wang Defeng and Dr. Wei Li represented CIE.

The reception was attended by many provincial and community leaders, as well as many representatives from organizations, companies and educational institutions.

Consul General Mr. Wang Xinping brought the Chinese New Year greetings wishing all the participants a Happy New Year. The Honorable Teresa Woo-Paw, Associate Minister of Asia Pacific Relations of Alberta also gave the best wishes to all the people at the event from the Government of Alberta.



The CIE Visits the University of Saskatchewan

The CIE was invited by the Confucius Institute of the University of Saskatchewan to attend



University of Saskatchewan CI Delegation Visits the CIE

A delegation from the Confucius Institute of the University of Saskatchewan paid a

their Chinese New Year celebration in Saskatoon. Robert Kong and Dr. Wei Li participated in the celebration on behalf of the CIE.

This event was the largest Chinese New Year celebration in Saskatoon with more than 600 people attending the banquet. The President of the University of Saskatoon, along with the mayor of Saskatoon brought greetings. Many community leaders and deans of different faculties were in attendance. A wonderful gala performance followed the banquet. Two of the artists were from China, while most performers were from the local community and the Confucius Institute at the University of Saskatoon.

Robert Kong and Wei Li also had the opportunity to visit the facilities of the Saskatoon CI, and to meet its teachers and staff. At a meeting the teachers shared many experiences of Chinese language teaching and culture promotion. Some teachers also displayed culture talents like Hulusi and Tai Chi.

three day visit to the CIE (February 17 to 19). It was led by Dr. Zong Li, the director of the Saskatchewan CI. The purpose of the visit was to create an opportunity for teachers and staff from both Confucius Institutes to share and learn from one other.

The delegation also visited Meyonohk School and Ottewell School to learn more about Chinese language programs and Chinese cultural education in the classrooms.

They spent the day of February 19 at CIE in a training session with their CIE counterparts. The CIE teachers demonstrated Chinese Dough Art from making of the material to the creation of artistic figures. All agreed it was a profitable learning experience. Since that day was the occasion of Chinese New Year, everyone worked together to make the dumplings that are an integral part of the food used to celebrate Chinese New Year. After lunch, teachers from both Confucius Institutes displayed their culture talents like Chinese dance, Yangqin, Guzhen and calligraphy.



Assistant Superintendent, Diana Bolan, with 16 CIE Visiting Teachers

On February 24, Mrs. Diana Bolan, assistant superintendent of EPSB, met all the CIE visiting teachers, to get to know them and to hear their reflections about their work in EPSB schools. She expressed great appreciation for their work in support of the Chinese programs of EPSB. Each of the visiting teachers shared their stories and thoughts as a result of their work in district and



Edmonton Business Community Invites the CIE to its Chinese New Year Event

The CIE was invited to participate in a Chinese New Year celebration at Chateau Lacombe Hotel. This event was organized by Edmonton Business Association. More than 250 people attended the celebration and banquet. During the banquet,

other schools. The CIE teachers were very grateful for the opportunity and the time taken to meet and discuss matters with them.

The CIE now has 16 visiting teachers from China and ten of them are working at 10 different schools offering the Chinese program (Confucius Classrooms). Another six visiting teachers work at CIE providing the language and culture support to schools and Community. An additional CIE visiting teacher is working to support a new and growing Chinese program in Lethbridge at Ecole La Verendrye and supports Chinese language and culture learning in the Lethbridge community

The CIE organizes a one day meeting for all the visiting teachers every month to provide professional training and to discuss issues and concerns occurring during their work. In this way, it will be ensured that all our visiting teachers will be successful working both at schools and the CIE.



Chinese New Year Celebration at City Center Mall

The CIE was again invited by the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association to participate in its annual Chinese New Year celebration at the City Center Mall on February 21. This is an annual celebration and usually attracted many people, and is a major opportunity to have the public become familiar with Chinese culture and also service to promote the large Chinese Bilingual Program supported by the parent group and Edmonton Public Schools.

The centerpiece of the celebration were the performances by the students from different Confucius Classrooms bringing the lion dance,

performances depicting Chinese culture were impressive and appreciated by the audience.

The purpose of this event is to promote Chinese New Year culture to people who have no Chinese background, thus allowing main stream society to understand and appreciate the main Chinese traditional festivals.

The CIE participated by displaying Chinese cultural arts to the audience, including Chinese knots and Chinese dough art as well as providing an introduction of services provided to the community by a Confucius Institute.



Visit from Fort McMurray Public School District

The principal and vice principal of Walter and Gladys Hill Public School, Mrs. Annalee Nutter and Mr. David Parsons, paid a visit to the CIE on February 9. Their school is located in Fort McMurray and has an active plan for the development of a Chinese language program. The purpose of their visit was to learn more about Edmonton Chinese programs and the role and support that might be provided by the Confucius Institute in Edmonton.

Mrs. Nutter and Mr. David Parsons took time as well to visit Kildare School and Londonderry

Chinese folk dance, drum show and Chinese traditional music instruments to a huge crowd at this beautiful mall.

The mayor, city councilors, trustees of EPSB as well as the consul from Chinese consulate in Calgary attended the event. The CIE cultural workshops in Chinese dough art and Chinese knots were very popular for many people at the event.

School. They listened to a description of the Chinese programs of these two schools and had a good discussion with the respective principals. The visitors also had the opportunity to visit and observe some Chinese language classrooms. They were very impressed with the achievements of the students and their proficiency Chinese language.



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