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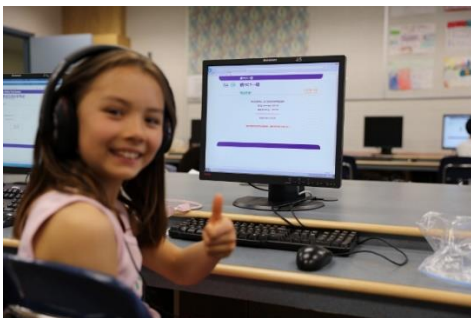
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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**The 9th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition
for Elementary and Junior & Senior High
School Students**



2016 YCT/HSK Test

The Confucius Institute hosted the 2016 Spring YCT/HSK tests on May 3 and 4. This is the 9th year that the CIE organizes such tests. This year, more than 1300 students from 16 different schools wrote this language assessment. About 1000 students wrote the test on line and the rest wrote the paper version. Some students from a Red Deer high school wrote the test as well.

On May 21, the CIE ran another HSK test for the students from universities and individuals from the community. There were 25 community members who challenged the written exam and some also sat for the oral assessment.

The YCT/HSK is the international standard for determining Chinese language proficiency. This assessment has become more and more popular around the world with business and post secondary institutions. Students can use the test results to apply for scholarships for study in Chinese universities and also to apply for jobs requiring Chinese language skills. These credentials are valued by students and those who need to be assured of a person's Chinese language skill. It is a great confidence builder for the student and demonstrates the success of schools teaching Chinese language.

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton has become one of the largest Chinese testing centers in North America. Every year, the CIE organizes three administrations, two in the spring and one in the fall.



The 9th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition for School Students

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton hosted the 9th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition for school students on May 28. The Chinese

Support to Fort McMurray Fire Disaster

The disastrous fire that recently occurred in Fort McMurray caught the attention of people in all parts of Canada and around the world. It also raised concerns on the part of the Chinese visiting teachers in the CIE. In order to show our support to the evacuees from Fort McMurray who lost their homes, the Confucius Institute in Edmonton joined the local community to provide assistance to those impacted by this tragic fire.

On May 14, all the CIE visiting teachers spent the whole day as volunteers at the Edmonton Evacuee Center for Fort McMurray residents located at Kingsway Mall. Some of the visiting teachers' family members also came to help. They helped the evacuees by providing material support as well as spending time speaking with them and encouraging those they came in contact with. The efforts of the visiting teachers were well received by the evacuees and other volunteers at the center.

The CIE staff and visiting teachers also donated about \$500 to Canada Red Cross for the Fort McMurray fund. In addition, the CIE donated some silent auction items to one fund raising event raising another \$300.



Presentation on Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Program at New Brunswick

Dr. Wei Li and Mrs. Karen Patterson were invited by the Confucius Institute in New Brunswick at Fredericton to do a presentation on the Edmonton Chinese bilingual program for a group of principals and teachers, as well as the officials from Education Ministry of New Brunswick, including the deputy education minister.

Bridge language and culture competition has become a very important opportunity for students to share their Chinese language and culture learning experience. This year the number of the participants reached a new high of 135 who registered for this event. The competition was divided into 10 categories with 3 competing categories: Knowledge about China and Chinese Culture, Chinese speech and Chinese Cultural Talent.



In the afternoon, the CIE hosted the award ceremony. Some special guests attended the ceremony including Consul Chief Yu and Consul Du from Chinese Consulate in Vancouver and also Dr. Sandra Stoddard, executive director of EPSB and several school principals. More than 70 volunteer teachers, judges and students came to help with the competition.

All the winners from elementary schools are eligible to attend a one week summer camp organized by the CIE free of charge. The winners from senior high school will have the opportunities to go to China to participate in the global competition.



Visit from Jining Institute Affiliated School of China

A group of 12 students and 3 teachers from Jining Institute Affiliated School of China paid



All the attendees were impressed by the Chinese bilingual program in Edmonton and the achievements in language proficiency the students have displayed. One school in Brunswick has shown interest in starting a Chinese bilingual program in the fall of this year.



After the morning presentation, the Confucius Institute in New Brunswick put on a performance. It included a variety of items such as Tai Chi, Chinese Opera and performances on Chinese music instruments. Among them was the Canadian king of piano, Mr. Roger Lord and famous Chinese Opera performers, Pei Yan and Yang Jian.



Teacher Training on the Critical Thinking Strategy "VETAE" at the CIE

The Confucius Institute was working with

a visit to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton on May 17. The delegation toured the facilities of the CIE and also learned some basic history and information about its development and programs. After the visit, the students and teachers expressed their appreciation to the CIE for hosting their visit.



Ottewell School Confucius Classroom is the partner of this school. They have conducted exchanges of students every year, visiting each other and organizing joint activities to enhance their language and culture learning.

Ottewell School sent a student delegation to visit Jining this past spring and Jining Institute Affiliated School was paying a return visit to Ottewell School.



The CIE Hosted a Visit from Quzhou Municipal Education Bureau

On May 25th, Mr. Lan Shuigao, the deputy director of the Quzhou Municipal Education Bureau of China visited the CIE.

Mr. Lan came to Canada on an education trip organized by Alberta Education to learn about Alberta's education system. Although his schedule was very tight, he wanted to pay a short visit to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton, since he heard much about the Confucius Institutes and he wanted to take

Professor Wen Xiaodong from Beijing Normal University to provide our Chinese teachers professional training in a thinking skills strategy named VETEA. Professor Wen is currently a visiting scholar at University of Alberta.

This is a series of three training sessions. Eight teachers and educators are registered for this innovative training opportunity.



The use of this strategy has enhanced our Chinese teachers through the development of enhanced thinking skill approaches that can be used in their Chinese language and culture teaching in their classroom. It can also be applied in daily life.

We do appreciate the efforts of Professor Wen to make this happen.



CIE attends Graduation Ceremonies at many Confucius Classrooms

During May and June every year, Confucius Classroom schools host Chinese graduation events for the students who are completing Chinese programs such as the Chinese bilingual program or Chinese language and culture program.

A number of the Confucius Classrooms invited the CIE to attend their Chinese graduation

Mr. Lan toured the CIE facilities including the library, the photo gallery in the hallway, and the visiting teachers' office. He expressed his appreciation and the fact he was impressed with the CIE's efforts to promote Chinese language and culture education.



Volunteer Appreciation Tea at Dovercourt School Confucius Classroom

All the CIE visiting teachers and staff were invited to attend the volunteer appreciation tea by Dovercourt School Confucius Classroom. The principal, Dr. Falk, expressed sincere thanks to all the volunteers for their support for many different programs to enhance the learning of their students. Dr. Falk particularly thanked all the support and help the CIE provided to Dovercourt to strengthen their Chinese program.

During the past 7 years, Dovercourt has also offered much help to the CIE, including offering the space for the Chinese Bridge Competition and teacher training programs.

ceremonies celebrating the achievements of their students in learning Chinese language and culture. The schools included McNally High School Confucius Classroom, M.E. LaZerte High School Confucius Classroom, Ross Sheppard High School Confucius Classroom, Londonderry High School Confucius Classroom and the Ottewell School Confucius Classroom. The CIE staff, as well as visiting teachers, were at different graduations and they joined the students to perform at the graduations.



Visit of 60 Students & Teachers from Calgary to CIE

On May 5, about 50 students and teachers from Colonel Irvine School from the Calgary Board of Education visited the Confucius Institute. They spent half a day learning and getting to know about the Confucius Institute. The CIE teachers prepared different Chinese culture activities for the visitors, such as Chinese Tai Chi, Chinese Dough Art and Chinese knots. All the students enjoyed the visit.



During their visit to Edmonton, they also had the opportunity to visit the Confucius Classroom at Londonderry School.



Shandong Education Commission
山东教育厅



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