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**CONFUCIUS
INSTITUTE**
IN EDMONTON

通讯
(Tōngxùn- newsletter)

08/01/2016
issue 01

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**Chinese Language Proficiency Test
Scholarship Award Night**

Upcoming Events

The 3rd Global Confucius Institute Day Open House

Time: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm, September 24, 2016

Place: Confucius Institute in Edmonton, 13750 Woodcroft Avenue

Activities

Performances

Chinese Traditional Art & Handcraft

Chinese Traditional Acupuncture & Massage

Chinese Medicine Seminar

Taste of Chinese Traditional Food

Chinese Traditional Games

Lucky Draw

Movie Night

Free Admission & Everyone Welcome!

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2016 YCT/HSK Scholarship Award Night

Every year, the Confucius Institute in Edmonton recognizes the achievements of our students in their YCT & HSK tests and their efforts in Chinese language learning. On June 16, the CIE hosted the 2016 YCT/HSK Award Night at MaCauley Chambers in the Centre for Education. More than 70 students from 14 elementary, junior and senior high schools received the scholarship awards.

Trustee Sherry Adams, Trustee Orville Chubb and Trustee Nathan Ip attended the ceremony and Trustee Sherry Adams delivered a greeting on behalf of the Edmonton Public School Board.



CIE Summer Camp

From July 4th to 8th, the Confucius Institute in Edmonton again organized a one-week summer camp. Sixty students from elementary schools registered and attended the camp. This camp is specially designed for those students who received the 2016 YCT scholarship award and also the winners of 2016 Chinese Bridge Competition.

During that week of the camp, CIE teachers worked diligently to enable the students to experience a variety of Chinese culture activities, as well as to enrich their Chinese language. The culture activities included Chinese painting, dough art,

The special guests for this event also included Dr. Lorne Parker, executive director of Edmonton Public Schools and Angie Loo, the representative of ECBEA, as well as many principals and teachers from the 14 schools involved. Dr. Sandra Stoddard, executive director of Edmonton Public Schools sent written greetings to all the award recipients. More than 250 people attended the ceremony. A student, Thai Best, from Ross Sheppard School performed a Chinese traditional dance.

A reception was held after the award ceremony that provided the opportunity for the students and parents to express their appreciation to their teachers and take some photos. Many parents also expressed their gratefulness to CIE to provide the awards to their children to encourage them to learn more Chinese and culture.

All the winners from elementary schools were provided the eligibility to attend one week summer camp free of charge.

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Chinese knots, paper cutting, calligraphy, Chinese dance, Tai Chi, Beijing Opera and Chinese musical instruments. In the language sessions, the students were able to learn additional Chinese songs, poems, raps and practice public speaking in Chinese. Students were also able to play some Chinese games, such as Chinese pulling bells, shuttlecock, long rope jump, rubber band jump, Chinese checkers, etc.

On the last day, the CIE provided a Chinese hot lunch for the students. After that a closing ceremony was held, with the attendance of more than 200 people. The students performed and showcased what they learned in the camp.

Within a week, the students learned a great deal and they all were sad when the camp was over. Many of them expressed that they would work harder learning Chinese language and culture and try to come back again to the camp next year.

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Meeting with Senator

Celebration of Multicultural Day in Fort Saskatchewan

The Confucius Institute was invited by the Multicultural Association of Fort Saskatchewan to provide support for their celebration of Canada Multicultural Day. The mayor of the city of Fort Saskatchewan greeted all the CIE teachers and staff and expressed her appreciation for the support.

CIE teachers provided workshops and displays of Chinese traditional art such as Chinese dough art, Chinese paper cutting and calligraphy.



In addition, the CIE also organized half hour performances, such as Chinese traditional dances and Tai Chi.

All the activities from the CIE were well received. The president of the association hoped to receive ongoing support from the CIE to better promote Chinese culture and multiculturalism.

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In June, the CIE had the opportunity to meet with Canadian Senator Douglas Black, together with a few other organizations in Edmonton.

At the meeting, each organization introduced themselves to the senator in terms of the nature of the organizations and the contributions to the communities. The senator appreciated all the work these organizations provide to help build a strong community. He also listened to the challenges all these organizations face as they strive to do their work.



Senator Black praised the work the Confucius Institute is doing to support Chinese language education and to promote Chinese culture to enhance the multiculturalism in Canada

Mr. Stephen Tsang from Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association was at the meeting as well.

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Visit from Confucius Institute of the University of Saskatchewan

On July 26, a delegation of 6 people lead by Dr. Zong, the director and Dr. Liu, the Chinese director, from the Confucius Institute of Saskatoon.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the opportunities for both CIs to share and exchange their work and experiences, as well as to seek potential partnership projects that may be done together. This was a great learning opportunity for both CIs.



The teachers from both CIs worked to perfect their skills at Chinese dough art.

Although the visit was not that long, all the participants were pleased to talk and learn from one another, and to enhance the relationship between the CI's.



CIE Scholarships

Every year, the Confucius Institute offers 10 scholarships to those grade 6 students who have achieved excellence in their Chinese language studies and who will continue to study Chinese language in junior high school.

The scholarship presentation was organized by Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA) and held at Edmonton City Hall.



The ECBEA provides many different kinds of scholarships to students who are studying Chinese in the Chinese bilingual program. This year more than 130 scholarships offered to the students with the total value of more than \$25000.

The purpose of these scholarships is to recognize the achievements of our students in their Chinese language and culture

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Canada Day

Canada is a country with many different cultures and peoples from many countries, July 1 is Canada Day, the anniversary of the Confederation of separate provinces into the beginning of the Canadian nation. Many different ethnic organizations held the different activities to celebrate the Canada Day, as well as multiculturalism of Canada.

The Confucius Institute was invited to join other organization to promote Chinese culture.



The CIE prepared different kinds of Chinese

learning, as well as to encourage the students to continue their learning of Chinese language and culture.

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Canadian Multicultural Day

June 27 is Canadian Multicultural Day. The CIE was invited by the Canadian Multicultural Education Association to participate in the celebration of this special day on June 26 at the Churchill Square, the main square in the city of Edmonton.

The CIE teachers took this opportunity to display aspects of Chinese cultures with Edmonton local people, such as Chinese dough art, Chinese knots and paper cutting that drew a lot of the interest. The most popular activities were Chinese Chess, Chinese checkers and also the marble game using chock sticks.

games, such as Chinese chess, Chinese checkers, shuttlecock, Chinese pulling bells, etc.

Many people tried to play these games and for some it was their first experience in such a game. Great interest was shown in these traditional Chinese games.

The CIE teachers worked very hard from 12:00 to 9:00 pm in sharing Chinese culture with people from many different ethnic backgrounds.

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Although some people had never seen these games, they were very interested in learning them.

The minister of Infrastructure and Communities of Canada, Mr. Amajeet Sohi, also visited the CIE booth and showed interest of these games. He talked to the CIE teachers and also took a photo with them.

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Chinese Bridge Competition in China

The final International Chinese Bridge Competition for University Students was held in China in July. We are pleased that a local university student, Megan Tsang was one of the



Edmonton at 2016 Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreigners Across the Globe

Raymond Matthia from the University of Alberta was recently invited to attend the "2016 Chinese Proficiency Competition for

students selected to attend this international competition.

Megan Tsang is a second year university student, who originally graduated from Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Program. She always had a great passion for learning Chinese language and culture.

She attended the local Chinese Bridge Competition organized by the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver and the Confucius Institute in Edmonton for university students. She placed second in that level of the competition.

So far, the Confucius Institute in Edmonton has sent three groups of university students to China to compete. This presents a great learning experience for participants in enhancing their knowledge of Chinese language and culture, and offers a wonderful personal opportunity to experience modern China.

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Foreigners across the World". He went to Beijing at the end of June and will spend most of July in China participating in this contest.

This competition is sponsored by Hanban and hosted by CCTV 4. The competition will be videoed and broadcast on TV across the world.

Raymond Matthia was very excited about this opportunity because he knew that this would represent the chance of a lifetime to improve his Chinese language and open doors of opportunity.

Raymond Matthia took several Mandarin classes at the CIE, but mostly studied Chinese on his own. He took HSK test for many times and he passed HSK Level 6 which is the highest and most advanced level, including the HSKK advanced level (Oral Test).

We congratulate all the achievements Raymond has made in his Chinese language and culture learning.

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ACLTA Meeting

The Alberta Chinese Language Association (ACLTA) held a meeting jointly with the Confucius Institute on June 28.

About 25 teachers attended the meeting. Dr. Mian Mian Xie spoke at the meeting, thanking all the teachers for their support and help to the association in the school year of 2015 -2016. Some teachers shared their teaching practices and experiences at the meeting.



The ACLTA and the CIE also took this opportunity to congratulate Wai-Ling Lennon's retirement after serving the Chinese bilingual program for more than 15 years. All her contributions to the program have been much appreciated. We all wished her a happy retirement.

Dr. Wei Li, on behalf of CIE, also expressed the appreciation to all the teachers for all their support and help given to the CIE and the Chinese program.

At the meeting, all the teachers also expressed their appreciation to 8 CIE visiting teachers who were returning back to China.

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Support to Chinese National Women Basketball Team

The CIE was contacted by Basketball Alberta to provide support for translation services to Chinese National Women's' Basketball Team, during the time they were in Edmonton for Pre-Olympic Competition with Canadian National Women's Basketball Team at the beginning of July.

Susan Zhang, one of the CIE visiting teachers, was selected to help the Chinese Basketball Team. She spent almost 7 days assisting the team during their practices and games. All her effort and excellent work was very well received.



During that weeks, the Chinese National Womens' Basketball Team played 3 games with Canadian National Women Basketball Team in preparation for the 2016 Olympic Game in Brazil from August 5 to 21.

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Special Visits from China

An education delegation from Lixia District of Jinan City paid a visit to the Confucius Institute on July 25. This delegation included six people and was lead by Mr. Song Yongxiang, Chief Executive Director.

Although the visit was short, the CIE left a good impression. Dr. Wei Li toured the delegation around the CIE facilities and provided them with a brief introduction about the institute, its work and future direction.

During the visit, some discussions were held with to specific educational topics about which they were interested.



On July 22, Dr. Wei Li also met a delegation from Qingdao University and had a good meeting with the vice president and its delegation members.



Beijing Opera Gala to Memorize Beijing Opera Master Mei Baojiu

The Edmonton Beijing Opera Society organized a gala on July 3 in memory of one of the most influential Beijing Opera masters, Mr. Mei Baojiu, who passed away suddenly about two months ago.

Dr. Wei Li was invited by Mrs. Peggy Yu to deliver a speech at the gala recalling many memories of the time when Mr. Mei Baojiu visited the CIE and had his troupe provide a workshop for 2000 Edmonton Public School students in 2012. Mrs. Peggy Yu is the president of the Edmonton Beijing Opera Society and also the only student of Mr. Mei Baojiu in the Edmonton area.



One of the CIE visiting teachers, Kathy Guo, joined the performances at the gala, joining many performers from Calgary, Vancouver and United States.

Qingdao University has provided much support to the CIE in the past. Four Edmonton students have completed their master degrees at Qingdao University. In addition, they hosted a summer camp for our students and quite a few students also did a one year or six months language and culture program through that university.

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More than 300 people attended the gala and the excellent performances drew much applause from an appreciative audience.

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