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**CONFUCIUS  
INSTITUTE**  
IN EDMONTON

**通讯**  
( Tōngxùn- newsletter )

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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**The 10th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition  
was held at CIE on May 27, 2017**



## The 10th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition for School Students

On May 27, the CIE successfully hosted the 10th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition for School Students with 139 participants from Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer as well as Fort McMurray (who sent students to participate for the first time). Due to the large number of the participants, the competition was scheduled at two locations: The CIE and Dovercourt School.

The award ceremony was held after the competition. About 400 people attended the ceremony, including students, parents and teachers, principals, judges and volunteers.



Our special guests were Trustee Nathan Ip, EPSB Executive Director Dr. Lorne Parker, EPSB Acting Executive Director Mrs. Nancy Petersen, Consul Chief Yu Changxue and Consul Xiao Jun from the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver, Mr. Waldemar



## 2017 Beijing Opera Festival Gala

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton worked together with Edmonton Beijing Opera Association to organize the 2017 Beijing Opera Festival. The formal performance was the capstone event. On June 1 of 2017, Mei Lanfang Beijing Opera Troupe artists put up a fabulous show at Myer Horowitz Theater of University of Alberta. Some local artists and dancers from Confucius Institute in Edmonton and Confucius Institute of Saskatchewan University also participated in the performance.

The 700 seat theater was packed and the world class performances, with beautiful singing, costumes and wonderful martial art action, had a lot of cheers from the audiences.

Among the audience were some special guests, Consul General Wang Xinping from Chinese Consulate in Calgary, Chair Michelle Draper of Edmonton Public School Board and Trustee Nathan Ip.



Riemer, Director of International Education Services of Alberta Education. Mr. Stephen Tsang, the president of ECBEA, was also invited to the ceremony. All of the special guests brought a greeting to congratulate all the participants for their excellent performance during the competition. Dr. Tian Liang also provided the comments and feedback on behalf of all the judges.



All the competition participants were very excited about this opportunity to show their Chinese language skills and knowledge of Chinese culture. Their performances impressed all the audiences.

The Mei Lanfang Beijing Opera Troupe toured a number of locations in Alberta including Fort McMurray, Calgary, Edmonton, as well as a stop in Vancouver. It was a very special opportunity for Canadian people to enjoy this top Beijing Opera Performance.

The Confucius Institute will provide a free summer camp to the winners from the elementary schools. The annual Chinese Bridge Competition has become a very important opportunity for students to share their Chinese language and culture learning experience.



## Beijing Opera Workshop at CIE

On May 31, the Mei Lanfang Peking Opera Troupe held a workshop at CIE.

During the workshop, Mr. Mei Wei, the grandson of Beijing Opera master Mei Baojiu, introduced the traditions and features of Beijing Opera, including the development of Beijing Opera, different characters, costumes, accessories, music instruments, and



## 2017 Spring YCT/HSK Tests

On May 2 and 3, the Confucius Institute in Edmonton organized the 2017 Spring HSK/YCT tests in Chinese language proficiency. Close to 1300 students from grade 3 to 12, from fifteen schools sat for the tests.

In order to ensure a successful administration, the

movements. Following the artists' demonstrations, some audience members were invited to the stage to learn some key movements and to see some of the musical instruments of Beijing Opera. The most famous Beijing Opera artist of Mei style, Mr. Hu Wenge, also spoke at the workshop and expressed his hope that Beijing Opera, as a treasure of China, can continue to be promoted and shared in Canada, as well as throughout the world.

The workshop was well received by more than 100 attendees. Some people expressed that they learned a lot and really enjoyed the presentation. After the workshop, audience members had their pictures taken with the artists from Beijing, China.



After the workshop, eight Mei Lanfang Beijing Opera Troupe artists toured the CIE and were impressed with all its achievements. Before their departure, they took a photo with all the CIE teachers and staff. It was an unforgettable night.

CIE and teachers and administrators from the participating schools put a lot of time and effort in preparation. With all the support and help from 15 school administrators and teachers as well as CIE visiting teachers, the two days of testing ran successfully and smoothly.

On May 20, more than 40 students also took the HSK test for university students and community members, including some students from neighbouring school districts like St. Albert, Red Deer and Lethbridge.

The YCT & HSK assessments are international standard tests on Chinese language proficiency, just like English TOEFL. Students can use this credential to apply for scholarships to study in China and to support a resume seeking employment, where a language skill is valued. It will also help the students to build their confidence and motivation to learn Chinese.



After 10 years of offering the YCT and HSK, this test has become very popular and an important part of the Chinese language learning in our Chinese programs. The testing center of Confucius Institute has become one of the largest testing center in North America.





## Graduation Ceremony for Spring Session of CIE Mandarin and Culture Classes

On May 29, the graduation ceremony of the 2017 CIE Winter Session was held at the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. More than 70 students and their families and friends attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, the students from each language and culture class demonstrated what they have learned in their course in a variety of forms, such as Chinese dance, singing, drama and comedy performance and poem recitation. The music classes also provided an Erhu ensemble and solo. Their excellent performances were well received by the audience.



The CIE offered different levels of Mandarin instruction, as well as cultures classes for 2017 winter session. About 100 students registered in all these classes that were well received. The



## Beijing Opera Workshop at Schools

During the 2017 Beijing Opera Festival, the Mei Lanfang Beijing Opera Troupe artists visited two of Edmonton high schools: Ross Sheppard and M. E. LaZerte, to provide workshops for the students and teachers. Many other schools also bused their students to these two high schools to attend the workshops. Almost one thousand students were able to participate in the workshops.



Mr. Mei Wei, the grant-grandson of the most famous Beijing Opera master Mei Lanfang, hosted the workshop and gave a brief introduction of the history of Beijing Opera and also its basic components, such as face painting, costumes, singing, martial art actions, movements and the music instruments.

students were not only learning the Chinese language and culture skills but also establishing good connections with others and building their confidence that will help enrich their life.

The CIE teachers have worked very hard to provide quality classes to meet the needs of the students as well as their personal interests, work and study. This is the 8th year that the CIE has offered such classes. We will continue to offer these classes in the fall.



After the demonstration, the students had the opportunity to try to learn and experience some of the movements and music instruments as well as some basic acting like crying and laughing. The students really enjoyed the workshop and learned a lot about Beijing Opera.



### Meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Canada

On May 18, the Confucius Institute in Edmonton was invited to meet the Chinese Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Lu Shaye, and Consul General Wang Xinping. More than 40 leaders from Edmonton community associations and organizations attended the meeting.

At the meeting, Consul General Wang Xinping gave the welcome remarks and Ambassador Lu delivered a speech. Many participants introduced their organizations and had good discussions on China's



### The Affiliated Middle School of Jining Institute Visited the CIE

On May 17th, a student delegation from the Affiliated Middle School of Jining Institute visited the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. This delegation consisted of 16 students and 4 teachers led by Mr. Yan Xunmin, the vice principal.

The delegation toured the CIE facilities and learned about the work and activities the CIE has been doing in promoting Chinese language and culture education here in Edmonton.

overseas policy, overseas Chinese education, trade between China and Canada and some other issues. Dr. Wei Li, the director of CIE, also provided a brief introduction on the development and work of CIE. Finally, Ambassador Lu encouraged the community leaders to support and enhance the friendship and partnership between China and Canada and also expressed his support to the communities and organizations.



### Red Deer Students Enjoyed Chinese Cultural Experience at CIE

On May 23, the CIE received a visit of a group of 29 high school students and 2 teachers from Hunting Hills High School in Red Deer for a half-day Chinese cultural experience.

After a brief introduction about the CIE, the CIE teachers provided the students with a series of culture activities, including Chinese dough art, Chinese painting and Tai Chi. All the students worked very hard to prepare a dough art fish, using the Chinese dough to make the roosters and flowers as well as learning some movements of Tai Chi.

Ottewell School Confucius Classroom has been the partner school of the Affiliated Middle School of Jining Institute since 2009. In March, Ottewell sent a group of 22 students and 3 teachers to China to visit their partner school and this was the return visit to Edmonton from China.

The schools have had this exchange program every year for the last 4 years and it provides a great opportunity for the students to experience other cultures.



### Confucius Institute of Saskatchewan University Visited CIE

A delegation of 7 people from the Confucius Institute of Saskatchewan University paid a visit to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. It was led by Dr. Zong Li, the director of the Saskatchewan CI, and Dr. Ning Liu, the Chinese director of the Saskatchewan CI.

The delegation was invited to participate in the Beijing Opera Festival 2017. The Confucius Institute of Saskatchewan University sent their dance group to perform at the Beijing Opera Gala. It was well received.



Although the visit was only in the morning, all the students and teachers enjoyed the sessions in Chinese culture and arts. They expressed their appreciation to the CIE for providing them such an excellent experience.



Although the schedule was tight, they wanted to take this opportunity to visit CIE, to share ideas and enable the two CIs to learn from one another.

During the visit, the teachers from the CIE and the CI of Saskatchewan University had a good discussion sharing their working experiences in Canada. The teachers from both Confucius Institutes shared some techniques of making the dough as well as the dough figures in the ancient Chinese dough art tradition.

Although the visit was short, it was a great visit.



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