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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**The 4th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition
for University Students
Was Successfully Held at U of A**



Chinese New Year Reception

On March 18, the CIE was invited to attend the Chinese New Year Reception at Alberta Government House. The Hon. Teresa Woo-Paw, associate minister of Asia Pacific Relations, hosted the reception and Alberta Premier, Jim Prentice, attended the reception and addressed the audience of about 200 special guests.

During the speech, the premier emphasized the importance of establishing a positive relationship between Canada and Asia Pacific countries, especially China. He spoke of the huge potential for business and trade with China. In order to prepare for future development, language and culture learning will be an important piece as a part of Alberta's strategic plan.

Therefore, the Confucius Institute in Edmonton will play an increasing role in enhancing future relationships between Alberta and China.



Chinese Bridge Competition for University Students

On March 22, the 4th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition for University Students was successfully held at the campus of the University of Alberta.

The Chinese Consulate in Vancouver and the Confucius Institute in Edmonton were major organizers for this event. The involved partners were many post secondary institutes in Alberta, including the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, MacEwan University, Concordia University and China Institute of the University of Alberta.

Twenty-five students from the aforementioned universities participated in the competition and more than 80 people coming to observe. All participants displayed excellent Chinese language competency and cultural talent. Their excellent performances very much impressed the audience and judges. The associate minister of Alberta Pacific Relations, Hon. Teresa Woo Paw, sent a letter to congratulate those who were responsible for the event.

The intension of this competition is to encourage students to learn Chinese language and culture as well as to become more familiar with contemporary China.

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers and professors from the involved universities for their strong support. Without them the event would not have been the success it was.



2015 China Trip

Last year, two EPSB schools organized a trip to China involving a total of more than 50 students. The visits were extremely successful and well received by students and parents. This year, five schools from Edmonton Public are organizing similar trips to China, which will involve more than 80 students and 15 teachers and administrators. By now, all the schools' groups have returned safely with great experiences for the participated students, teachers and administrators.

The purpose of these visits is to enable students to experience Chinese culture and Chinese language and to augment and reinforce what they have learned at their schools. Students will also benefit from seeing modern China and thus develop a better understanding of China's development and contemporary challenges. Most of the schools

Support to Parkallen School Open House

On March 4, Parkallen School of Edmonton Public Schools had a special open house as this was the first time that the school would be speaking with parents interested in registering students in their new Chinese bilingual program.

Earlier this year, Edmonton Public Schools announced the expansion of its Chinese Bilingual Program and identifying Parkallen as the site for that expansion, starting in the fall of 2015. This was due to the increase in demand from parents for access to a Chinese bilingual education. This will be the sixth elementary school in Edmonton now offering the Chinese bilingual program.

The CIE will provide strong support to the new program at Parkallen School through donations of hundreds of Chinese resources

will visit their partner schools in Shandong as well as seeing historical sites in Beijing. Two groups will also visit Shanghai and Xian.

The trips have received the strong support and help from Shandong Education Department as well as their partner schools. Hanban has provided financial sponsorship for all the groups covering all costs in China. All these supports are much appreciated and are crucial for the success of these trips.



Chinese Language and Culture Course at Concordia University

Invited by the Chinese Club of Concordia University, the CIE provided support in offering a 5 week Chinese language and culture courses for the interested students, professors and administrators.

CIE teacher, Mr. Robert Kong, delivered the courses. This first 5 week session finished at the end of March and will resume in the fall.

The students were able to learn some very basic Chinese language skills and Pinyin, as well as some Chinese culture arts, such as Tai Chi, Calligraphy, Paper Cutting and Chinese Dough Art.

and cultural materials to their library and classrooms. At their open house, the CIE sent two teachers to display some Chinese culture crafts and samples of the language resources that will be available for the program.

Best wishes for the success of the Chinese Bilingual Program at Parkallen School.



Parent Mandarin Classes at Meadowlark School

Parents at the Meadowlark Chinese Bilingual Program showed great interest in learning Mandarin. With the support and organization of the Meadowlark School, the Confucius Institute provided the course to about 20 parents.

During the 10 weeks of classes, parents learned some basic Chinese language skills enabling them to engage in some basic communication with their children who are also learning Mandarin in the Chinese bilingual program.

When the ten week session was completed, parents requested that the sessions be extended for another five weeks. This spoke to the success of the project. It is wonderful to see parents wanting to learn the language alongside of their children. The results can only be positive for both.

Although the session was very short, the courses were well received and welcomed. More than 15 people took their time off from their busy schedules to attend the classes.

The CIE has offered similar parent classes at other schools. These classes were well received by the parents and teachers, since this program would be able to enhance their students and children to learn Chinese at schools as well as at home.



Bilingual Education Conference

Dr. Wei Li was invited to give a presentation on the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Program at the National Bilingual Education Conference held in Las Vegas, USA in early March. The conference was organized by the national Association of Bilingual Education and was attended by more than 2000 delegates.

Dr. Li's presentation provided an overview of the more than 30 years of history of the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Program, its organization within Edmonton Public Schools, curriculum as well as both the success and challenges.

The audience showed a great deal of interest in the model and were most impressed with the achievement of students in terms of both language and culture acquisition, as well as the successful parent - school division partnership.



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