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CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE IN EDMONTON

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Chinese Ambassador Visited the Confucius Institute in Edmonton

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Chinese Ambassador Visits the Confucius Institute in Edmonton

On October 26, the Chinese Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Lu Shaye, and Minister Consul, Yang Xinyu, paid a visit to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton.

Trustee Nathan Ip and Dr. Lorne Parker, Executive Director respectively, represented Edmonton Public School Board and the superintendent to host the visit from the ambassador. Dr. Wei Li, the director of CIE, toured the ambassador and the other visitors around CIE library, offices, culture center and teaching classrooms, as well as the photo hallway that describes the CIE's development and a variety of past CIE activities and events. After the tour, Ambassador Lu and visitors had a meeting with EPSB leaders and CIE teachers and staff. The ambassador Lu was very impressed with what has been achieved by CIE and emphasized the important role that the CIE plays in the Canada-China relationship and cross-cultural understanding. He also expressed his appreciation for the support from the local governments and EPSB to the CIE.
On behalf of Chinese Embassy, Ambassador Lu presented 100 book donation to the CIE library.

2017 Joint Conference for Canadian Confucius Institutes

The 2017 Joint Conference for all Canadian Confucius Institutes was held on October 30, 2017 in Regina. This conference was sponsored by Hanban and hosted by University of Regina and Confucius Institute of Regina University.

More than 40 people attended this conference, including directors and Chinese directors from different Canadian Confucius Institutes and education consuls. Hanban also sent representatives to attend the conference as well. The CIE was represented by Director, Dr. Wei Li, and Mr. Stuart Wachowicz.

The minister of Advanced Education and the president of the University of Regina attended the opening ceremony of the conference and also brought greetings. The Vice President of Regina University chaired the conference and also provided a presentation.

Ambassador Lu and Minister Consul Yang also visited Dovercourt School which is one of Edmonton Chinese bilingual schools. The principal, Leanne Moncrieff, provided a short introduction about the school and Chinese program to the guests and then showed a few Chinese classes to the visitors. All the Chinese learning activities in the classrooms left deep the impression on the ambassador and the guests.

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The conference discussed a number of topics that relate to the development of Canadian Confucius Institutes, such as innovation, challenges and special features of the Canadian Confucius Institutes as well as the local Chinese teacher training.

During the conference, the University of Regina and its Confucius Institute invited all the conference participants to tour the university and the Confucius Institute offices, as well as the Legislature of the province of Saskatchewan.

The conference was very successful and it provided an opportunity for all Canadian Confucius Institutes to share and enhance their partnership and cooperation.

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Book Donation from Trustee Nathan Ip

Recently, Trustee Nathan Ip donated a number of books to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton library. The donation is much appreciated and it will add valuable resources to the library's collection.

The Chinese library of the Confucius Institute is one of the biggest Chinese libraries in the country, holding more than 50,000 books and variety of Chinese language learning resources both in hard copies and video and audio items.

The library is open to teachers, students, parents and the general public. The resources of the library can be used as the reference books for learning Chinese language and culture.

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CIE Hosts 2017 Fall HSK Test

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton hosted the 2017 fall HSK test on October 28. Nine students from U of A, community and schools of EPSB registered for writing the tests which included HSK Level 2 through 6.

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton offers YCT and HSK testing 4 times each year. The frequency of the assessments depends to some extent on the needs of students.

In 2017, more than 1300 students wrote the YCT and HSK tests and the CIE has become the third largest testing centre in North America.

The YCT and HSK are the internationally recognized Chinese language proficiency tests. All the students are required to write the tests if they want to study in China or apply for scholarships to study in China.

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CIE Provides Cultural Sessions to Schools outside of Edmonton

In September and October, CIE teachers were invited to three schools outside of Edmonton to

CIE Principal Delegation Trip to China

In the beginning of November, the CIE organized a visit to China for a delegation of principals. The

offer the Chinese culture workshops in dough art to more than 450 students. These schools are St. John XXIII Catholic School in Fort Saskatchewan, Landing Trail Intermediate School in Athabasca and Boyle School in Boyle. Caslan school also sent 30 students to Boyle School to learn dough art. Most students experienced dough art for the first time. They were fascinated to see how dough can be turned into beautiful representations of bees, snakes, parrots and roses in different colors.

Since its establishment in 2007, CIE has provided cultural support to local schools and schools in other regions of Alberta. On one hand, the CIE teachers go to different schools, offering a variety of Chinese traditional cultural workshops and sessions, such as Chinese dough art, paper cutting, Chinese knots, calligraphy, Chinese painting and Tai Chi. On the other hand, all schools are welcome to come to the CIE to enjoy a Chinese Culture Experience Day, providing the students with a series of cultural activities. The CIE has received the visits from schools in St. Albert, Calgary, Red Deer and the Yukon, as well as providing primary support to many schools in Edmonton Public. The CIE will continue to be devoted to developing a cultural platform that provides an opportunity for the students to learn more Chinese culture.

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main purpose of this visit was to enable principals to visit their partner schools in Shandong, build stronger relationships with their partner schools and develop their exchange programs. It also provides the opportunities for the principals to experience Chinese culture and to learn more about modern China.

During the visit, the delegation visited the Hanban/Headquarters of Confucius Institutes and was welcomed by Hanban leaders and officers. The principals experienced the culture display center and were very impressed. The delegates also had the opportunity to visit the Great Wall and Forbidden City.

The delegation spent two days visiting their partner schools. During the visits, the partner schools gave a warm welcome, toured their facilities and as well, had a good discussion with the Canadian principals in regard to the development of exchange program and activities.

Before leaving Shandong, Dr. Wang Tan, the deputy minister of Shandong Education Department, and other leaders met the delegates and had a good discussion, reviewing and exploring possible collaborations and partnerships between the parties. Dr. Wang Tan also hosted a banquet for the delegation.

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Consul General Lu Xu Visits the CIE

On November 26, Ms. Lu Xu, the Consul General from the Chinese Consulate in Calgary, paid a visited to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton.

Dr. Lorne Parker, the Assistant Superintendent of EPSB and Chair of CIE Board of Directors, hosted the visit. Dr. Wei Li, the Director of the CIE, toured the Consul General Lu and other visitors around the CIE facilities. Consul General Lu showed a great interest in the hallway gallery, which displays the development of CIE as well as the various activities and events of CIE. Consul general Lu also visited the office of CIE visiting teachers and had a nice talk to the teachers.

Edmonton's First Chinese Singing Contest

Edmonton's First Chinese Singing Contest was successfully held on November 19 and 26 at the Conservatory of Music of MacEwan University. This contest was organized by Confucius Institute in Edmonton along with many local organizations.

Thirty-two contestants competed in three categories. The award ceremony followed the competition. Dr. Lorne Parker, the Executive Director of EPSB and Chair of CIE Board of Directors, Consul Yunan Fu from the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver, and the representatives from co-organizers presented the medals and prizes to 32 winners. Mr. Hegang Dong summarized the entire contest on behalf of the judges. Chris Gallant also shared his feelings

During the meeting with all CIE staff and teachers, Dr. Wei Li discussed the development and achievements of the CIE in recent years. Consul General Lu was very impressed. Prior to departing, Consul General Lu expressed her best wishes to CIE for its further development.

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The 9th Chinese Writing Contest Award Ceremony

The 9th Chinese Writing Contest Award Ceremony was successfully held on November 24. This contest was organized by Edmonton Chinese Journal and the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. More than 250 people attended the award ceremony.

The ceremony began with the warm remarks from the President of Chinese Journal Vicki Lim and Dr. Wei Li, the Director of the CIE. Some special guests also delivered their greetings. Among them are Ms. Lu Xu, Consul General of Chinese Consulate in Calgary, Dr. Lorne Parker, Assistant Superintendent of EPSB and Chair of CIE Board of Directors, and Ms. Angie Loo, the President of ECBEA. Dr. Liang Tian, the Chinese Special Adviser of Alberta Education, spoke on behalf of the judges. Ms. Wenchi Ma and students from Ottewell Schools brought a Guzheng solo and a Chinese dance to the about the participation of the contest.

The purpose of the event is to encourage people to sing Chinese songs and to learn Chinese language and culture through songs as well as to build confidence of all the participants.

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Visit from the Delegation of University of Alberta

On November 28, a group of 50 visitors from the University of Alberta paid a visit to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. These visitors are all the administrators of 48 China universities who are attending a three-month special training program at the University of Alberta.

The main purpose of this visit was to learn about the Confucius Institute in Edmonton and to have a better understanding of the Confucius Institutes. Most of these visitors heard about and know about Confucius Institutes.

ceremony.

The highlight of the ceremony was the medal presentation to 12 winners from four categories: elementary, junior high, senior high and adults, along with 9 organization awards.

The Chinese Writing Contest is an annual event. This year, the number of participants reached more than 300 which is record high in the past 9 years. In addition, the number of the schools participating in this contest is also the most this year.

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The visitors first toured the CIE facilities, including the Chinese library, offices, culture center, classrooms and meeting rooms as well as the office of the visiting teachers. They also saw the picture display in the hallway that exhibits the CIE development and also the activities and projects carried out support of Chinese language and culture programs.

After lunch, the delegation visited Meadowlark School to learn more about the Chinese bilingual program as well as the Canadian education system. The principal provided a brief introduction of the school and then the visitors were divided into 4 groups visiting some classrooms to see how the students perform in Chinese language and culture learning.

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Reunion of Previous CIE Visiting Teachers in Jinan

On November 8, the visiting teachers who had worked at one time at the Confucius Institute in Edmonton had a gathering in Jinan. With the support and help from Shandong Education Department, 10 former CIE visiting teachers were

Chinese Culture at Concordia University of Edmonton

Five CIE visiting teachers helped with a Chinese culture event 'Chinese Happy Hour' at Concordia University of Edmonton. The purpose of this event was to promote Chinese culture and to provide an opportunity to learn more about

able to travel from different places in the province to Jinan to meet Dr. Wei Li, the director of Confucius Institute in Edmonton.

The meeting was very successful. It was the first time for so many visiting teachers to gather together. All the teachers were very happy to see each other and to share their experiences and work after they returned back to China. Many of them expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to work in Edmonton and valued very much for the experience in Canada, which helped them enrich their current teaching.

Dr. Wei Li also updated them on recent developments of the CIE and thanked all the contribution these teachers made to help CIE. Although these teachers came back to China, they have still felt an attachment to the CIE and expressed their hopes for its ongoing success. At the meeting, many teachers shared suggestions and ideas for the future development of CIE.

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China and Chinese culture. Dr. Tim Loreman, the president of the university, gave welcome remarks and thanked the students and staff for their involvement in this event and also expressed the appreciation for the support from CIE.

CIE visiting teachers displayed a variety of Chinese culture activities and arts, such as Chinese calligraphy, Chinese knots, Chinese dough art, Chinese dance and Tai Chi.

Many students and staff showed the great interest in these activities and arts. some of them were trying to learn and had a great time.

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EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Shandong Education Commission 山东教育厅

Hanban

Confucius Institute in Edmonton
13750 Woodcroft Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5M 3M4
780-970-5233

Brenda Chan
Brenda.chan@confuciusedmonton.ca
Phone: 780-970-5233
www.confuciusedmonton.ca

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