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CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE IN EDMONTON

通讯
(Tōngxùn- newsletter)

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May, 2018

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Cultural Night in May: Asian Heritage Month

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton Hosted the Gala of Martial Arts, Singing and Dancing at Eva O' Howard Theatre on May 9, 2019.

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Gala of Martial Arts, Singing & Dancing

The 12th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition for School Students

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton hosted a gala of martial arts, singing and dancing at the Eva O' Howard Theater on May 9, 2019. A special martial arts team was invited from the Beijing Institute of Technology. Students and teachers from several Confucius Classrooms also performed, along with various artists from the local communities. The dance group of the Confucius Institute at Saskatchewan University was also invited to perform at the gala.

The gala was attended by approximately 700 people including several special guests. Trustee Trisha Estabrooks and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lorne Parker attended from Edmonton Public Schools. Other guests included: Ms. Wendy Boje, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Education; Dr. Tian Liang, Special Chinese Advisor, Alberta Education; and Dr. Zong Li and Dr. Liu Ning, Directors from the Confucius Institute at Saskatchewan University, in addition to representatives from other communities.

The 12th Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition for School Students was held on May 25, 2019. More than 130 students registered for the competition including 12 students from Calgary. Due to the large number of participants, there were two competition sites - one at the Confucius Institute in Edmonton and the second at Dovercourt School.

The theme for the competition this year was "My Story of Learning Chinese". The contestants shared their personal Chinese learning experiences in a two-minute speech and some of the stories were quite moving and exciting.
In addition to the speech competition, the contestants also competed on their talents, displayed through a variety of performances related to Chinese culture. These performances included dancing, singing, Gongfu, musical instruments and Chinese calligraphy. The contestants also competed in a written test on their knowledge of China and Chinese culture.

Through this competition, the students not only

The gala offered a variety of performance genres including group and individual martial arts, tai chi, tai chi fan and different kinds of group dances and singing. The audiences cheered the beautiful performances enthusiastically, and provided very positive feedback. Some audience members commented that the Confucius Institute in Edmonton has organized similar galas for many years, and the level of performances is continually increasing in quality.

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Martial Arts Performance to the Schools

The Martial Arts Team from Beijing Institute of Technology spent their whole time in Edmonton

improved their Chinese language speaking ability, they also built their confidence and enhanced their talent skills.

After the competition, an award ceremony took place at the Confucius Institute. More than 400 people attended. Guests included Edmonton Public School Board Trustee Nathan Ip; Councillor Guo Jun and Consul Fu from the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver; Managing Director Christopher Wright from Edmonton Public Schools; ECBEA President Dr. Heather-Jane Au; and also Mr. Waldemar Riemer and Dr. Liang Tian from Alberta Education. Some of the guests participated in the ceremony by bringing greetings and presenting awards to the winners. This year's competition was another success and many parents expressed their appreciation to CIE for organizing such a wonderful event for the students.

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2019 YCT/HSK Tests

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton is one of the largest Chinese language proficiency test centers in North America. On April 30 and May 1,

bringing wonderful performances to three Edmonton Public Schools - Parkallen Elementary, Ottewell Junior High and Ross Sheppard Senior High School.

Although the time at each school was very limited, their dedicated and phenomenal performances won big applause from the students. Some students mentioned that this was the first time they had seen such performances.

During the demonstrations, students were given opportunities to learn some of the actions. More than 1200 students and teachers enjoyed these demonstrative performances and learned a little about Chinese martial arts culture.

The team was warmly welcomed by the three schools. At Ottewell School they went so far as to prepare a lunch for their guests.

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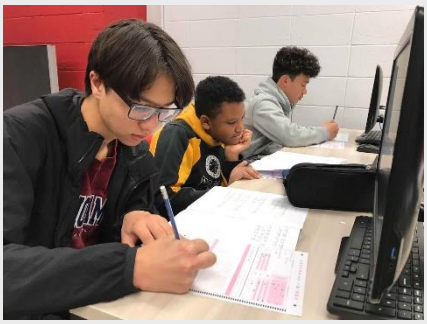
CIE organized the 2019 Spring Tests. More than 1300 students from 15 schools, including elementary, junior and senior high schools, wrote the tests. These tests included YCT Levels 1 - 4 and HSK Levels 1 - 6.

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton has organized these tests for the last 12 years. This year saw the largest number of students writing the tests than ever before. CIE worked closely with the schools to prepare for the tests, assisting with registration and test administration.



Approximately 1100 students wrote the test online and the remaining 200 students completed the tests on paper. Fifty of these students tested at HSK Level 6, the highest level achievable. Test results over the years have shown that our students do very well, demonstrating the high quality of our Chinese programs and the excellent achievements of our students.

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Graduation of CIE 2019 Winter Session of Chinese Language and Culture Classes

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton hosted the graduation of CIE's 2019 Winter Session of Chinese Language and Culture Classes on May 27, 2019. This is an annual event, and approximately 100 people attended the graduation to celebrate the students' achievements in the various Chinese language and culture classes.

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton has offered such classes for the past 11 years and the number of students is steadily growing. In 2019, approximately 80 students registered for Chinese language classes and 40 enrolled in the culture classes.

Visit from Colonel Irvine Junior High School in Calgary

On May 27, 2019, 38 students, two teachers and the principal from the Colonel Irvine Junior High School in Calgary paid a visit to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. All the students were from the Chinese bilingual program of the visiting school. This visit was their annual fieldtrip, designed for the
students to experience Chinese culture and to practice their Chinese language skills.

Through the hard work of all the teachers, the classes were received very well. A few students have attended classes for more than five years.

At the graduation, students from different classes demonstrated what they learned in singing, reciting poetry, drama, musical instruments or dance. All the shows received big applause from the audience.

At the end of the ceremony, CIE presented the students with their graduation certificates.

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The group first toured the CIE facilities and listened to a basic introduction to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. Then the group was divided into three small groups. Each group experienced three Chinese culture sessions, prepared and taught by CIE teachers, involving Chinese dough art, Chinese knots and the Handkerchief dance. All the students showed a great interest in these Chinese cultural activities. They used the dough to make little birds, used the color strings to make a butterfly and practiced turning a handkerchief with a finger.

The group also paid a visit to the Chinese bilingual program at Londonderry Junior High school the next day. There they learned about the Chinese bilingual program at Londonderry and had some exchange activities with the Londonderry students.

Their visit also included the opportunity to experience T&T - a Chinese superstore - where they could further practice their Chinese language skills.

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Visit from Jining Institute Affiliated Middle School

A Medical Delegation from University of Alberta Visited CIE

A delegation of four students, two teachers and an administrator from Jining Institute Affiliated Middle School visited their partner school - Ottewell Junior High - in mid May. This was a return visit as during spring break this year, a delegation of Ottewell students (involving 22 students and 2 teachers) paid a visit to their Chinese partner school.

On May 16, the group, who are rom the Confucius hometown, came to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton to learn more about it.

During the visit, they toured the facilities at CIE such as the library, culture center, the teachers and the administrators offices, and the classrooms. Dr. Wei Li, the Director of CIE, provided the visitors with a brief introduction to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton, followed by a discussion with them. The Chinese students asked questions about the Confucius Institute as well as some questions about the Canadian education system. At the conclusion of the visit, both sides exchanged gifts to express their best

On May 16, a medical delegation from the University of Alberta visited the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. The members of this delegation were medical doctors from China. The doctors were in Edmonton for a six-month leadership training program at the University's Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

The doctors had previously heard about the Confucius Institutes in China, but not in great detail. They showed a great interest in visiting CIE and learning more about the Confucius Institutes.

The delegation toured the facilities at CIE and viewed the photo display in the hallway which displays the development of the CIE and the major activities and programs the CIE is doing.

An introduction to the CIE was provided to the delegation which gave them an overview of the institute. A discussion followed and the delegation raised many questions about CIE.

At the end of the visit, all the delegates expressed that they had learned a lot about the Confucius Institutes. They were impressed that the Confucius Institute in Edmonton has done so much to support Chinese language and cultural programs at schools and in

wishes to each other.

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communities. The CIE has become a real and positive bridge to connect Canada and China.

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