



華仁中文學校 Chinese Heritage School

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

www.CHSnj2000.org

CHS Experience 成長於華仁

by Katie (CHS TA)



Walking through the familiar doors of the Chinese Heritage School, I am once again met by the same two clean and white pillars guarding the entrance of the school. I can still picture clearly, in my mind, of my first encounter with these pillars thirteen years ago. As a young child with a stature that barely reached the base of the pillars on my first day at CHS, I was consumed with mixed emotions of mystery and curiosity yet being allowed to immerse in a sea of friendly students in the kindergarten class. Never would I have imagined that my journey with



the CHS family would grow into the bittersweet memories that define me today.

Moving past the pillars, I make a quick turn to the left, where I eventually stop at the entrance to the auditorium. Memories flash before my eyes as I enter the room. This auditorium has witnessed my countless experience and growth here at CHS both as a student and teacher assistant.

I can picture the annual Quiz Competitions, where nervousness and excitement filled the air as students who fight to press their buzzers in time. Question after question, students would chatter among their teammates before proudly voicing their final answers, then cheer as they watch their hard work pay off as they inch towards victory. As the Quiz Competition is one of the most

thrilling events that I have experienced here at CHS, it pleases me to see that such an educational and timeless tradition has now integrated as a weekly activity in the classroom, hence adding a facet of liveliness to the academic experience at CHS.

As I walk up towards the stage, I reminisce, as this was where I hosted my first show, the Chinese New Year celebration. Prior to my first hosting event, I had always been a part of the audience, enjoying the spectacular performances along with the rest of the crowd; now, being granted the opportunity to be the one running the show was a rather unique endeavor. Although it was nerve-racking, the experience made me a much more comfortable presenter. Most importantly, it allowed me to understand what teamwork truly meant in the CHS

community while helping me develop the courage to embrace new challenges.

It was on this very same stage that I coordinated my first show as a member of the stage crew. While normally not a morning person, I did not mind coming in earlier and putting in the extra effort to help set up the upcoming performance for that day. From lighting to sound technology to prop placement, ensuring the smoothness of the performance until the very end was the most satisfying objective for me. Learning much about not only stage productions and techniques, but also leadership and the ability to make decisions quickly, was invaluable. Working from being a stage crew member to now a stage manager of the

school, I understand that being attentive to every intricate detail, such as functionality of every switch of the lighting equipment and pull of the curtains has only shaped me into a better-prepared leader inside and outside the CHS community.

Pushing open the great auditorium doors, I walk down the quiet hallway, where it leads me to the cafeteria entrance at the end. Once inside the cafeteria, long rows of empty tables and chairs greeted me with familiarity. It was at these tables that I sat with my classmates year after year from kindergarten to ninth grade. At the sound of the aged, hand-rung bell, we would excitedly rush out of the classroom for snack break, which was when I could bond with my friends and truly

understand how our Chinese culture and language commonality brought us together.

After making my way out of the cafeteria and down to the short hallway, I once again face the same two white pillars that greeted me every Saturday morning for the past thirteen years. I brush its cool surface as a thin layer of dust gathers on my fingertips, reminding me of its age. As I step out of the doors, I look back as I promise myself that I will never forget the impact that this environment has had on shaping me into the leader and student that I am today: One who will always belong to the CHS family that has been a part of my life from the very beginning. ◆



Weidel Community Partners Program

Big thanks to Robert Au-Yang and family; CHS has received \$1,300 donation via Weidel Community Partners Program from their recent purchase. For more information on how you can help support CHS via Weidel Community Partners Program, please visit: <http://www.chsnj2000.org/community-page/weidel/>

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TV Interview with Lady Tea

Conversations with Lady Tea, a local TV show, attended our CNY celebration this year and spoke with Ann, a founder and former Principal of CHS. Stay tuned for the airtime!

Mandarin One Self-paced Online Module

CHS will offer our parents an option to buy the "Mandarin One Online Module" which aims to give our younger students an early exposure to Mandarin pinyin pronunciation. This module consists of a 12-page-booklet that includes all twelve chapters from the CSL1 textbook with the addition of pinyin annotations. In addition to the booklet, students will also have access to various games and exercises on Quizlet and get themselves familiar with the pinyin pronunciation of words and vocabulary from the booklet. Since this module is based on the CSL 1 textbook, our students should be pretty familiar with most of the words and vocabulary and that should allow them to focus more on learning the pinyin pronunciation.

The "Mandarin One Online Module" is suitable for students from both C and CSL track. Please note that this module does not teach the tone and pinyin system the same way we do in the upper Mandarin classes from 7th to 9th grade. However, our students can interact virtually with our Mandarin class teacher and are entitled to a certain level of support and feedback with the purchase of this module. This "Mandarin One Online Module" will provide our students a fun-filled and enriching learning experience, especially during the summer months.

Contact Principal Sally Leung at sallymyhome@yahoo.com for more information.



Coffee Break 華仁咖啡茶聚

by Hannah (CHS TA)

Every second Saturday of each month, parents excitedly gather in the cafeteria, ready to fuel up for the day with coffee, milk tea, and an assortment of pastries. With what began as a remedy to an overall sentiment for CHS parents that the routine of dropping off kids, leaving the premise to get coffee, and returning back to the school, deemed as a costly hassle, the concept of Coffee Break has since transformed into a conduit of building a sense of belonging and connection among the CHS parent community.

When CHS Coffee Break 華仁咖啡茶聚 first began in January 2016, they consisted of little more than a table in the corner of the cafeteria offering parents cups of coffee prepared from a mix. However, thanks to the invaluable efforts of parent volunteers, as well as support through donations, Coffee Break has expanded to a fully decorated stand, stocked with Dunkin Donuts coffee, Hong Kong style milk tea, and home and bakery made goods. Through asking parents to bring their own cups (BYOC), and making the Coffee Break a give-back program, which all donations are used to cycle back as the ongoing operating costs of Coffee Break, CHS has been able to keep costs low and ensure that this monthly event remains free and inviting to all parents.

In addition to being cost-effective, Coffee Break provides opportunities for all parents to feel welcome to the school, as well as to foster a stronger CHS parent community, where parents can socialize with one another while enjoying warm drinks and snacks. Since its beginning, Coffee Break has been a success and continues to expand month after month. As the next CHS Coffee Break approaches, be sure not to miss out on this wonderful CHS tradition! ◆

五百次的回眸

Five Hundred Years of Retrospection

by 陳怡 Teresa

不久之前在一次聚會中，曾目睹兩個關係親密的人為了一點小事引發口角之爭，各執己見，爭持不清。一方乘勢將數十年來不滿對方的怨憤盡情發洩，另一方心有不甘，為求自保也極力還擊，出言不遜，情況激烈。在場人士嘗試勸說也不得要領，氣氛僵持。其間互相說了一些不應該說的，傷了人心的說話，弄至反目成仇，原本是難得一次的聚會，最後大家不歡而散。

有一次乘飛機回國途中，坐在我鄰座是一位中國太太，因彼此是講廣東話的緣故，大家交談起來。她是要到達下一站之後再轉機往目的地，而我們就不用轉機。交談之間，知道她原本是居住在我現居這市鎮，後來搬了去另一市鎮，再而搬去另一個州。她描述以前所居住地方的四周環境和特點，為甚麼一切都如此吻合？竟然就是和我現在所居住的地方一模一樣，是在同一街道上哩！大家再問名字，才知道原來我們是以前的鄰居，中間只相隔了一間屋吧！於是立刻相告身旁的丈夫，大家互相細細端詳，認出以往依稀模樣，高興地懷緬往事，傾談近況，就如親切的家人一樣。時光荏苒，三十年彈指而過，大家容貌已改變，一時間認不清楚，今次能在這時空之中重逢和相認，實在是一種奇妙的緣份啊！

很喜歡佛說的：「前世五百次的回眸，才換來今生的一次擦肩而過」。原來今生的一次擦肩而過，竟然是前世很多次的回眸換來的。那麼要多少生、多少世、多少次的回眸、擦肩，才能換來今世的相遇、相識、相知、以至相愛呢？

前世五百次的擦肩，換來今生的一次相遇。
前世五百次的相遇，換來今生的一次相識。
前世五百次的相識，換來今生的一次相知。
前世五百次的相知，換來今生的一次相愛。

是因果的循環，是偶然的巧合，還是冥冥中的註定？為甚麼在茫茫人海中你我偏偏會相遇、相識、相知、甚至相愛呢？原來是要經過千百世的回眸、擦肩才能彼此相遇上！有時遇到某人會有似曾相識的感覺，仿佛是前世已認識，而今生再相遇，彼此不需多說話，已是明瞭對方所想。這不就是經過了千百世所修來的緣份嗎？緣得來真是不易，無倫緣深緣淺，緣長緣短，都要好好珍惜。珍惜緣份就是要以真誠的心對待感情，喚起心靈的共鳴，互相感動吸引，感覺到無限溫暖。

其實緣是天意，份在人為！緣是前生的約定，今世的擁有；份是前世的恩賜，今生的幸福。緣不易得，份更是難求，有緣又有份，是人生的一場華麗恩典。有情眾生，都因為一個緣字，機緣巧合之下，邂逅相識，互相讚賞，分享悲歡哀樂，不僅是夫妻、親人、兄弟、姐妹、就是朋友、鄰居也是如此吧！總之，緣來要珍惜，需要把握面對；緣盡了就要坦然放手，不用黯然神傷！雖說曾存在過的將永遠存在，不能瀟灑地真正放開羈絆，但緣起緣落，乘風而聚，隨風而散，無論最後是得或是失，有緣或是無份，曾經擁有過一份情緣，終究都是幸福的！◆



華夏雅言—粵語 (廣東話)

by Akina N.

粵語從來不是孤島方言，世界上以粵語為日常主要生活語言人口近一億，甚至較德語人口的九千五百萬更多，加上背後承傳而來的千年華夏文化，實在不應隨使用人口遷居他方而湮滅。

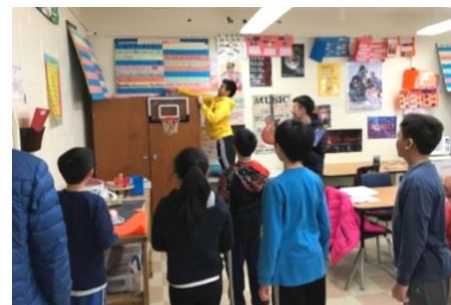
以粵語學習中文，好處不勝枚舉，其一在她的聲母、韻母和聲調比普通話多，因此同音的字詞少，有助大家一聽就能辨清語義，減少歧義。粵語音調多變，誦讀韻文時更鏗鏘悅耳。

其二，由於粵語同音字詞少，故廣東話詞彙多為單詞，毋須配字成詞辨義，這種習慣更貼近文雅的古文，熟練運用粵語有助理解古文書寫規則。

其三，粵語有很大部分來自華夏民族的中古漢語（大約是唐朝時代），不少字詞也直接承傳自古語及成語，古雅樸實，長期薰陶，更能領略華夏文化精妙之處。

其四，粵語讀音承傳自唐宋，因為粵語仍保留入聲字，而中文的入聲字都是用來表達孤絕、急速、抑壓的感情，這種特色在普通話中早已消亡，因此以誦讀詩詞為例，以粵語誦讀更能達到音義配合的境界，體會音義諧協。

學習中文，並不只是訓練語文，應該包括生活、文學欣賞、文史知識、情理交流、感性教育和道德教育。如果家中以粵語口語為溝通語言，孩子在沒有語言隔閡下學習坦誠交流，知書達禮，才能真正明白以理服人，以德服人，曉之以理，動之以情的溝通之道。◆



Classroom Games

by Samantha (CHS TA)

CHS has started to introduce classroom games to individual classrooms. The idea originated from the CHS's very own TAs as they were able to reflect back to their time spent as students and thought of ways to improve the learning experience. These 15-minute games incorporate materials from textbooks and help review vocabulary and concepts for students. It is a fun way to get the kids motivated to learn, as they will need to be equipped with the knowledge learned from the lessons to ensure answering the questions correctly. The first classroom game introduced to a class was the quiz competition. Students were able to have a friendly and fun-filled match with each other. The game also received a lot of positive feedback. These activities are very beneficial as they help aid in the team building process, improve knowledge, and increases memorization skills. ◆

Book Review: *The Great Wall of Lucy Wu* by Wendy Wan-Long Shang

by Sally L.

As children's and tween librarian, I get to know a lot of children books with Chinese Americans as the main characters. Reading those books about ABC's (American Born Chinese) helps me understand how our kids struggle between the values and culture established in their upbringing in America and those of their Chinese parents (i.e. us).

"The Great Wall of Lucy Wu" by Wendy Wan-Long Shang has a reading level for tweens. It's a book that you want to finish in one sitting without

putting it down. The author is an excellent story teller. The last sentence of each chapter is like a cliffhanger that captivates you to keep reading. Lucy Wu is an Americanized Chinese girl who loves basketball. She rejects the traditional Chinese culture.

This includes disliking Chinese cuisine and lacking the understanding of the importance of proper seating arrangement of when dining with her relatives in a Chinese restaurant, from a traditional Chinese perspective. She has two main conflicts in the story line: having had to give up her privacy for 6 months by sharing her bedroom with "Yi Po" from China and giving up basketball practice in order to attend Chinese school on Saturdays to meet her parents' wish. The journey that Lucy Wu takes to reconcile these conflicts and, eventually, appreciate both Chinese and American cultures is very funny and moving. You may even shed a few tears when you read about Lucy's mixed feelings upon the departure of "Yi Po".

For the 2018 Chinese New Year Celebration in my hometown library that I work at, I have compiled a list of Chinese American children books that I highly recommend for leisure reading. Take a look and happy reading! ◆

