



南康中文学校校刊

Southern Connecticut Chinese School Newsletter

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Class of 2015 Graduation



SCCS Graduation and the Annual Awards Ceremony was held on last Sunday, May 10, 2015. This year's guest speaker was Dr. William Howe, an expert from the Connecticut Department of Education for multicultural education.

In six years, a total of 60 students have officially graduated from SCCS. 14 graduates from this year set a new record on the number of graduates per year. These students in their everyday schools are ninth to twelfth graders and usually bear heavy loads of work and live stressful lives. Nevertheless, they have overcome all of the barriers and finally made it to their graduation ceremony.

Henry Hu gave a speech on behalf of his classmates. Six students performed three playlets based on ancient stories from the textbook they learned. Two of these students also recited a farewell poem. Eight other students played music pieces of "Farewell" and "The Same Song" which were familiar to their teachers and parents. (by Jack He)



Southern Connecticut Chinese School is committed to fulfilling its mission without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation of disabilities.

Editors: Sarina Sun (孙圆圆) Jack He (和雨)

Southern Connecticut Chinese School 2014-2015 Academic Year Overview

Dr. Henan Cheng, Deputy Principal



Southern Connecticut Chinese School has kept on growing bigger and stronger during the 2014-2015 Academic Year. This year we have a total of 547 students from 44 towns, a record high since the School was established almost 20 years ago. High teaching quality, a wide range of courses, nurturing and safe environment, and convenient location are the main factors to attract more students and parents from both heritage and non-heritage background. This year, the non-heritage families account for approximately 15% of total families, which is also a record high. Needless to say, diverse and multi-cultural environment makes our community more vibrant, and provides a greater opportunity for our students to broaden their horizons and open their minds. We hope that more and more students and parents with diverse backgrounds can join our School and enrich the community.

We would like to highlight some of the priorities and achievements of the School over the past year:

At the beginning of the new school year, the school admin team worked very hard to streamline school management and to allocate resources to areas that can increase school overall quality and efficiency. Building upon the work done during the previous year, we put in place more detailed regulations regarding recruitment, personnel management, and school finance.

Teaching and learning quality is always our top priority. The School continues to improve teaching quality by establishing higher standards and offering stronger support to teachers through professional development, mentoring, and peer-learning. This year we conducted two formal, off-site teacher workshops in New Haven. We invited experienced Yale faculty members to train our teachers on important topics related to Chinese language teaching. In addition, we also sponsored our teachers to attend professional conferences at Columbia University and Confucius Institute at Pace University. In the future, we would like to provide more internal and external professional development opportunities for our teachers and staff. (Continued on page 6)



卞乐乐 Helen (LeLe) Bian

My name is Helen Bian. I lived in Branford, CT until I moved to Cheshire when I was thirteen years old. I am currently fifteen years old, and I am a sophomore at Cheshire High School. I am involved in several extracurricular activities. I have been playing piano for eight years and violin for seven years. Although I stopped taking piano lessons a year ago, I still enjoy playing in my free time. I have also been doing gymnastics since I was six years old, and I have been on the competitive team for five years. I started Chinese School in first grade and will be graduating this year after ten years of study. Although learning Chinese was challenging, I discovered a lot about the culture and language. Not only did I expand intellectually, but I also developed several friendships with fellow peers. Being in Chinese School will allow me to communicate with relatives and friends in China with more ease.



蔡明安 Andre Cai

My name Andre Ming Cai, but most people know me by my nickname Ming. I've been learning Chinese since the age of 2, but I started my first class at SCCS at age 7. During my journey, I mastered *pinyin* and hundreds of *hān yǔ*. I was a slow learner at first, because I had to individually memorize and write each character, but with more and more practice, I picked up my learning pace. I was able to pick up and learn new words so fast that I was allowed to skip 9th grade and jump into 10th.



In my free time, I like to read nonfiction textbooks, manga, and play video games. I also enjoy playing the piano, which I have been learning longer than I have been in Chinese school. In the future, I plan on becoming an accomplished programmer and pianist, and my dream goal is to create a successful anime series.

丁浩 Howard Ding

Hi, my name is Howard

Ding and I am 14 years old. I am a freshman at Amity Regional High School. In the future, I would like to become a computer scientist or an engineer due to my interest in STEM. My many extracurricular activities include playing piano, Ultimate Frisbee, Math Team, etc., but my longest extracurricular commitment has always been learning Chinese for the past 10 years.



I grew up with SCCS. After teaching me Chinese at home for one year, my parents decided to send me to Chinese school. Principal Mu let me skip 1st grade and go straight into 2nd grade. My teacher was Yang Jianxin Laoshi. In that class, I made many friends. Yang Laoshi designed a lot of classroom activities that involved teaching us Chinese through Chinese culture that we enjoyed learning. Chinese school was more fun and wasn't as boring as learning at home because I could be with my peers. This is how I progressively started to like going to Chinese school.

Time went by so fast, before I knew it, I was in 10th grade. Throughout the years, I have observed the total number of students in Chinese school growing from about 200 to probably more than 500 now. Our school name was also changed from Yale-New Haven Chinese School to SCCS. We created a school website, allowing for online registration, and a new logo. Also, the selection of extracurricular classes that we could choose increased. I attended a choir class taught by He Ning Laoshi and I liked the course very much. Contrary to the music course, I attended the math classes and took the Math Olympiad contests and learned a lot of math tricks. I remember that I was very excited to find out that I won the Math Olympiad E contest.

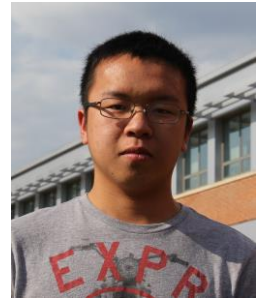
The highlights of my Chinese School life were always the Chinese New Year celebrations through years. The venues of the Gala changed every year, but the excitement and fun is always the same. I have performed at these celebrations throughout the years. In recent years, I have performed

the Chinese folk instrument called the *hulushi*. With the *hulushi*, I have helped SCCS spread Chinese culture by performing for both Chinese New Year and the Mid-Autumn Festival. I also have sang and done class performances as well.

Learning Chinese has really affected me, and Chinese is very useful to me in many ways. I have used it to communicate fluently with my grandparents and to even host Chinese guests, such as principals from sister schools in China who are here to visit my school. Going to Chinese school and learning Chinese is only one step of a thousand mile journey, a step that will benefit you for the rest of your life.

郭智泓 Andy Guo

Hi, my name is Andy Guo. I am 16 years old and live in North Haven. I am currently a junior at North Haven High School. I like to run, watch TV, and hang out with my friends whenever I get the chance. I do cross country and ultimate Frisbee at school. After high school, I want to become a software engineer or anything that involves computers. I started Southern Connecticut Chinese School as a second grader, and now after what seems like only a couple years, I am about to graduate from SCCS. Going to SCCS was an experience that I will never forget, from the learning to the friends I made while there. Not only that, after going there my Chinese has improve significantly, allowing me to converse in Chinese with others that speak Chinese as well. Ten years of Chinese school was definitely worth the while.



郝临风 Brian Hao

Chinese is perhaps the most beautiful language in existence. Ever since I was a child, I could not simply not let myself learn something so amazing; especially with the opportunities I was presented with. The moment I began the journey of learning, from the first syllable I spoke, the first symbol I wrote down, I knew that Chinese would be something that stayed with me for the rest of my life.



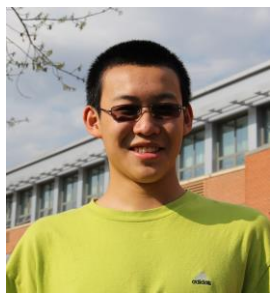
I can still remember learning the basics of Chinese, building up my foundation. These years were hard, grinding work, raw memorization and adaptation of the language. But it was all worth it. It was all worth it because now, having such a powerful foothold in the mechanics, I can see that Chinese is a

language unlike any other, a language that lets a person express himself with more emotion, more power, than any other language in the world, a language with such capacity for beautiful poetry, prose, verse, and literature, a language truly made to be the best. I have always been in awe of those with a master grasp on the language, and I myself am still only beginning the life-long journey of learning this language. A person does not simply stop learning Chinese. The language is so deeply rooted in history that there is never a person whom truly has the language mastered.

I myself have started to understand how Chinese works, and I am eager to continue learning more and more about the language and the history surrounding it. I remember going to China just a few years ago to visit my family. I remember the seemingly effortless flow of words that everyone was able to communicate with. I remember reading emotional, deep poetry that could never have conveyed the same message in any other language, seeing masterful paintings, an image captured in but a few strokes, hearing deep, haunting melodies that chilled me to my soul, for Chinese is not a language of just words, but of a culture. Art, music, and history all connect through Chinese, and I am proud that I am a part of it. Experiencing this culture has made me the person I am today. Hiking up the Great Wall of China, seeing the world from the top of Hua Shan, and visiting the terracotta warriors have given me new perspective on life. From interacting with this culture, I have experienced the deepest, most profound things humans have done and made. It is this that drives me to keep learning all that I can, because I truly can appreciate the simple extent of human potential. This makes me who I am, a person driven, a person with an appreciation for this world we live on, and ultimately a person who is proud to be Chinese, proud to be a part of something so beautiful.

胡恒瑞 Henry Hu

My name is Henry Hu and I am 15 years old this year. I live in Southbury, CT, and I am a sophomore at



Pomperaug High School. What is central to my student identity is my laziness and weakness; I embrace my little capacity for work, and always strive

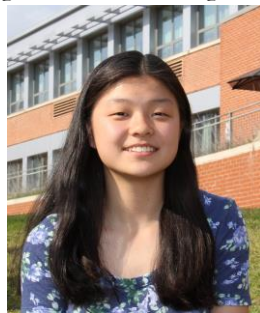
for efficiency. Form confuses me and cliché disgusts me; I always believe there's a better way, and that I can find it. This personality is important in doing math, piano, and swimming, which are the three hobbies that I claim for my own, along with half the other Chinese in America...

My character has posed an obstacle, however, in Chinese school. Writing essays has always been my greatest enemy. Daily use of the Chinese language is quite unique in that it is not unique: cliché is encouraged as “成语,” and everyone has faith that the most efficient form for a topic must have already been found some time in the extensive history of Chinese literature.

So in composition, my ego and I faced a huge problem. But with many years of practice at Chinese school, I've definitely made some improvement with this. SCCS has immersed me in hordes of 成语 stories, essays, dialogues of 小云 and 大卫, etc. and I look back with nostalgia at all these things I've learned, knowing that it not only has improved my character in the past, but also that it will prop doors open for me in my future.

雷浩宜 Haoyi Lei

My name is Haoyi Lei, and I am in ninth grade at Guilford High School. I was born in



Beijing, China, and some of my hobbies are reading, playing the violin and piano, fencing, and playing soccer. I have always been interested in science, and I hope to become

a doctor when I get older. I started Chinese school at SCCSU when I was in second grade.

Chinese school used to just be something my parents made to do, but as I grew older, I started to love coming here. This year, I finally grasped how much of an impact Chinese school has had on me. I love learning about Chinese culture, history, and geography. China has so much history, and it is so fun and interesting to learn about all of it. Chinese school has strengthened my language skills, making it easier for me to communicate with my family members on the phone and when I go back to China. I have made everlasting friends here, and I will be sad to leave them this year, but we will definitely all keep in touch. Chinese school has gone by so fast; it seems like forever ago when I first started. I will truly miss coming here every Sunday, and I am so grateful for all the teachers I have had.

连汝佳 Lucia Lian

Hi everyone, my name is Lucia Lian. I live in Cheshire. I've been involved with Chinese my whole life. After All, I was born in China and spent my childhood there. In fact, all I knew back then was China; no other countries existed for me. I took the Chinese language and culture for granted as a kid. Chinese was easy to me since it was all around me. The diverse food culture, customs, and practices that are unique to China seemed routine and typical to me. Then everything changed after my 7th birthday when I moved to

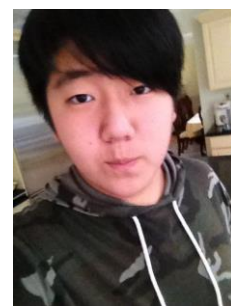


America, where English replaced Chinese and the entire culture flipped upside down. I was so infatuated with learning the English language and gaining the American culture that Chinese

started to drift away. The culture became distant memories and recollections. The language stopped progressing beyond first grade level and started to become less and less second nature. With the blink of an eye, I was no longer able to take Chinese for granted. I entered Chinese school when I was 8 in the 4th grade class, not too long after moving to the U.S. Being a kid who didn't place as much value in the Chinese language then, I found it simple yet boring and failed to continue the next year. I realized too late how flawed my thinking was at that time. Years later I entered Chinese school again and vowed that I will continue on and grow my understanding of Chinese no matter what. Through my journey in Chinese school, I have discovered the joys and values of China as a language and a culture. Furthermore, learning as a part of a community amongst the people whom I share a culture with makes me feel closer to where I grew up. It made learning meaningful and enjoyable. Along this memorable road of Chinese school, I have learned so much and have grown as a person. Thank you SCCS for these memorable and meaningful years.

王在克 Zachary Wang

Hello, my name is Zachary Wang and I am fifteen years old. My favorite food is dumplings and I'm a freshman from Guilford



High School. I love to play soccer, basketball, and converse with friends and play video games. I like to play the cello and the bass as well. As a high school student, I dream of going to some type of well known

university to proceed in studying some type of engineering-related profession. As a Chinese descent, I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to learn Chinese every Sunday at the SCCS. Even though my Chinese isn't the greatest, I was fortunate enough to be able to come to this school and learn Chinese from some amazing teachers. Not to mention, I met some amazing friends that were able to help me proceed in studying at this school for about a decade. I'd like to thank all of my past teachers from the past ten years and all the friends I've made at Chinese school from those past years, you've all been amazing and created some of the

most cherishing moments I would have from my childhood. Thank you.

夏昱普 Eric Xia

My name is Eric Xia and I am currently a sophomore at Daniel Hand High School in Madison. At school, my favorite classes are science and math although I have developed an ardent fascination of global history. Specifically, I enjoy biology and chemistry the most and find it to be the most interesting. Even outside of school, I read scientific articles and magazines to familiarize myself with the recent happenings in the scientific world. I have also volunteered at Yale-New Haven Hospital over the summer. I will continue to work hard to pursue my goals and my dream.

Extracurricular, I like to play sports and am in a variety of clubs such as Science Olympiad, Math Team, Student Council, Student Leadership Team, Peer Advocates, Newspaper, and Debate Team. I also like to play basketball and run cross-country and track. Additionally, I enjoy reading editorials such as *Popular Science* or *New Yorker* and watching basketball or shows on television like *Game of Thrones* in my spare time.

I was born in Beijing and spent a portion of my childhood in China so I am fluent with the language. However, when I moved to the United States, my reading and writing was still subpar. To add to my dilemma was my dwindling familiarity of Chinese culture. In my five years of studying at SCCS, I have improved my Chinese ability both academically and culturally with the help of my parents and teachers. It is inspiring how the teachers take the time out of their lives to educate Chinese-Americans. I cannot thank them enough for all that they have taught me. I know that Chinese will be more and more important in use and in practicality, and I am so thankful that I am able to communicate in Chinese. Undoubtedly, I will continue to immerse myself, develop, and expand on my invaluable knowledge of Chinese culture and language.

杨琴 Kim Yeung

Hello! My name is Kim Yeung and I am 16 years old. Despite starting at SCCS in the third grade, I have become close with much of the teachers and the other students in the time I have been here. Although coming here every Sunday for about eight years seems like a long time, I have learned a great deal of



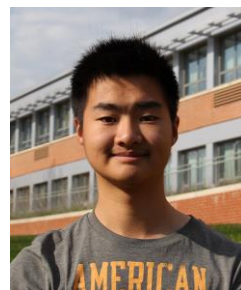
knowledge and life skills. Because of these interesting classes, I can understand Chinese culture a lot better now.

I am currently attending Metropolitan Business Academy of New Haven as a sophomore. My favorite classes are mostly science and health oriented, such as forensics, health science, and chemistry. Throughout my school years, I've always been a shy individual, but by raising my self-confidence, I realized how strong of a person I really was. As of right now in school, I hosted a bake sale and clothing drive along with some friends. Additionally, I plan on creating an after school music club for those that share the same interest as myself.

My extracurricular activities include: swimming, pottery, golf, and playing piano. I believe that everything that I do and learn now, will impact my future in a good way.

杨长麟 Steven Yeung

Hello everybody, my name is Steven Yeung. Seventeen, I was born in 1997. There are four people in my family: father, mother, sister, and me. This year I am a junior at Platt Tech high school. I am high honors and have good grades in every subject. Each season I play soccer, tennis, and run track. Every Saturday, my father's cousin and I go to our company to help clean up and learn how to design kitchens. It is very lively, and a lot of people work there. Sundays I go to Chinese school. I am currently in my tenth grade year. I have been in this Chinese school for eight years, having learned a lot of Chinese school history, fiction, and poetry. I also have made a lot of friends. Starting from the second year, I did not speak Chinese; I couldn't even write my own name! Slowly, year after year, I gradually learned how to write Chinese. Up to now, I know how to read some newspapers too! In this school, I learned a lot of Chinese. Some might say that this is the end, but I believe it is only a beginning.



张先智 Andrew Zhang

My name is Andrew Zhang. I am 16 years old and I am a sophomore in Amity High School. I have several hobbies, which among these are sports, playing the piano, and reading. I started to go to Chinese school in the 3rd grade in 2008, which was when I was in 4th grade in American school. Admittedly, I absolutely despised coming to Chinese school for those first few years since I didn't think taking time out of a Sunday



would be worth anything. However, now I am in 10th grade in SCCS and I can say that I'm enjoying it much more than I used to. SCCS has taught me that not only do I have to learn about the basics of Chinese; I also have to learn about the culture of the Chinese in order to truly be Chinese. I have learned to appreciate the Chinese culture and the Chinese language as a whole. This has been very important to me personally because it made me realize that throughout the years I have never really been a true Chinese person. I have never really read a Chinese classic in full since I have never understood enough Chinese before. However, now that I do have an arsenal of words at my disposal, I feel as if I really am able to completely read a Chinese novel and I plan to do so in the near future.

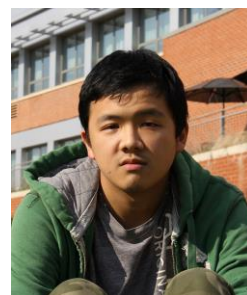
郑鸿宇 Jeff Zheng

Greetings, my name is Jeff. I am 17 years old. Recently I graduated from a Chinese program and that same day I had a concert at another program I was involved with. This year is also the year I graduate from Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School. In the four years of my high school career, I was a music major and my clarinet has been with me through the worse and the brightest times.

Talk about how growing up you have to make a tough choice on what benefits you most. In my lifetime up until now I have many times where I made a choice and look back if I choose the other way what or where would I be now.

Time flies by without even me noticing look back into freshman year was like yesterday I see myself walking into a huge building that I been only a few times. I remember the big fear that day was I had few friends from middle school but they all knew someone in that school already, and me I knew only my sister, and my greatest fear was that I'll get lost that day and be late to every class I had to go to...

Now my high school life is almost over I'm done with all of my advanced placement test and just looking forward to graduation and my farewells to my friends that I will truly most dare miss. In a few weeks I will be graduating, then another few weeks I will be heading to Central Connecticut State University for a few courses I have to take in order to go to that school. This upcoming summer is going to be difficult for me as I try to succeed in the college and yet be away from my family. Education to me has become more important than ever because I have thirst to succeed in my life and show my parents that I can be who I want to become.



THANK YOU TO SCCS FROM
CLASS OF 2015

Award for Excellence in Chinese Language Learning

10th Grade:

Henry Hu, Eric Xia, Howard Ding

9th Grade:

Audrey Ruan, Weixin Du, Emily Ji, Tina Hu

8th Grade:

Sophia Wang, Sienna Wang, Kevin Li, Cindy Guo, Jordan Song, Lauren Guo, Harvey Zhang, Berkley Fang, Bonnie Chen, Angela Ji, Jenny Wang, Christine Tong, Sydney Wang, Jason Gao, Rosie Du

Award for Diligence and Improvement in Chinese Language Learning

10th Grade:

Lucia Lian, LeLe Bian, Haoyi Lei, Kim Yeung, Steven Yeung, Andy Guo, Jeff Zheng, Zachary Wang, Andrew Zhang, Andre Cai, Brian Hao

9th Grade:

Sophia Cheng, Kailin Guo, Vince Li, Jenna Lu, Jason Zheng, George Liang, Andy Yu

8th Grade:

Nina Chang, Chris Wu, Steven Chen, Erin Wu, Bryan Gu, Aaron Xing, William Wei

Award for Excellence in Chinese Composition

10th Grade:

Howard Ding, Henry Hu, Brian Hao, Eric Xia

9th Grade:

Tina Hu, Jingzhao Liang, Audrey Ruan, Kailin Guo, Jenna Lu

8th Grade:

Sophia Wang, Sienna Wang, Kevin Li, Harvey Zhang, Jordan Song, Nina Chang, Cindy Guo, Jason Guo, Rosie Du

Award for Best Attendance

10th Grade:

Haoyi Lei, Andrew Zhang

9th Grade:

Emily Ji, Vince Li, Michelle Cheng, Kevin Zhao

8th Grade: Lauren Guo, Berkley Fang, Bonnie Chin, Erin Wu, Sydney Wang, William Wei



Outstanding Contribution Award

Dr. Junqi Ding

Community Service Award

Parent Volunteer

Qian Zhao, Xiaorong Wang, Minhei Wong

Student Volunteer

Elaine Cao, Sarina Sun



Mathematical Olympiad (E)

5th Grade Champion

Lauren Ji

6th Grade Champion

Ryan Yang, Katherine Mao



SCCS Math Olympiad Elementary Team is awarded

“Highest Achievement Team.”

We are top 10% among 3874 teams worldwide.

Gold Pin

David Zhang, Steven Zhang

Silver Pin

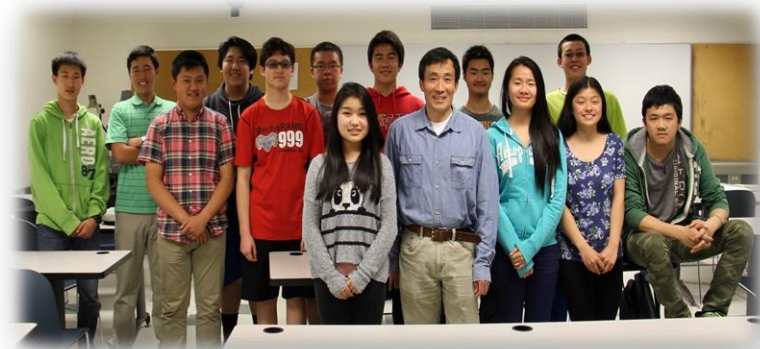
Grace Liu, Olivia Duan, Michele Connors, Aaron Kaiser, Jane Ding., Yanli Muhs, Adam Ma, Jonathan Wang, Lauren Guo, Charles Wang, Eric Song, Carolyn Yang



Mathematical Olympiad (M)

Silver Pin

Christopher Wu, Rosie Du



Message from PTA Chairmen

It is amazing another school year is almost over. We had kept our students busy with some entertaining and educational activities while they are busy learning pinyin and the rich history of Chinese culture. As in prior years, Spring gala was our marquee event held in mid-February at the Lyman performing center. Despite a colder-than-normal winter, the show went smoothly in the packed auditorium. The passion of our students made a strong impression on our parents and many guests in the 2.5 hours show. In December last year, we also held our first ever Talent Show. Due to the success of the first show, we are following up with a second Talent Show at the end of the Spring semester. The objective of these activities (Spring gala and Talent Shows) are to provide students with more opportunities to practice Chinese in front of an audience and build their leadership skills. In late April, many parents in the Baking Class showcased their culinary talent in a very successful bake sale. Most bakery items were sold in minutes as demand far exceeded supply! The proceeds of the sale will be used to support our second Talent Show. I know many parents are looking forward to take a much deserved summer break from Chinese school but you should not miss our annual picnic, a summer feast with great food and fun outdoor activities. We'll follow up with more details about the picnic in the coming weeks.

Despite the fact that we only met once a week, we managed to coordinate a plethora of events, none of which would be possible without the contribution of many passionate parents and school administration. We are not going to list the names of parent volunteers here (as the list will take pages) other than shouting a big THANKS to all parents who have pitched in. If you have any suggestions and ideas about future activities, please do not hesitate to share with us.

SCCS PTA

Peter Ho Lee Yashang Tony Fang



A Scene from Chinese Spring Gala in February, 2015



Award Time of the Talent Show in December, 2014

Southern Connecticut Chinese School 2014-2015 Academic Year Overview

(Continued from page 1) Strengthening our community is another top priority of the School this year. In order to spark students' interests in learning Chinese language and culture, we have organized a number of fun, hands-on, activities outside of the classroom such as: "My Summer Footprint Poster Session," "Talent Show," "Chinese Table." Through participation in these activities, the students are able to practice their oral and written language skills and apply their knowledge into daily life.

In the meantime, we have also worked closely with the PTA and organized a series of educational and social events for parents, including the Chinese New Year Gala, Prof. Amy Chua's talk on parenting, and talks on music education, public health, college application, bake sale. These events and activities greatly help parents share valuable information /resources and foster a stronger sense of community.

While our School strives to serve our members, we are also committed to reaching out to a broader community in the Greater New Haven area and beyond. In particular, we have actively participated in various cultural events by Southern Connecticut State University, Yale University, the Yale-China Association, and New Haven Public Library. Our programs have received a lot public attentions and reported by local and regional media outlets including FoxCT, New Haven Register, Hartford Courant. Most recently, we have helped Woodbridge's Beecher Road School launch its after school and summer Chinese programs. As one of the largest and oldest Chinese language and culture school, we hope to play a more active role in serving a greater community. In the meantime, we would also like to be a bridge between different cultures. We will establish more direct connections with schools and students in China and encourage our students to use their knowledge and skills to help disadvantaged groups in China such as migrant students and ethnic minorities. We believe that Chinese language and culture are resources and power especially in the Age of Globalization,. They will offer lifelong benefits to our students.