

东南康州中文学校之窗

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- ◆ On December 15th, SCCS held the eighth Chinese Speech Contest. More than 50 students participated in the contest. Please see more reporting of the events through the photos on page 4.
- ◆ This year's Chinese Speech Contest marked the first time SCCS started to use Web technology to provide real-time grading. This new technology enabled all Chinese teachers to be the judges, and in the meantime make the grading and ranking much faster and more accurate.
- ◆ On the evening of December 15th, SCCS held a Teacher's Appreciation night. Please see report on page 5.
- ◆ On January 5th, SCCS teachers and students started the new semester after a fresh snow of the new year.

- ◆ SECCCS has recently elected a new Board and a new chair, Mr. Wenhua Jiao. Congratulations, Mr. Jiao!
- ◆ Mr. Qing Chang has been elected as a new Board director of SCCS.
- ◆ At the evening of February 4th, Ms. Zongying Wang, President of the Ningbo Cheng Lu Corporation, China, held a dialogue with Connecticut College students and faculty. The topics discussed included how to set up new business in China and how to handle the relationship with Chinese Government.
- ◆ On February 9th, SCCS held a Lockdown drill in the guidance of ESPS Safety Director, Mr. Christopher Olsen. This drill enhanced safety awareness of our teachers and students, and assessed our readiness for emergency situation.
- ◆ On February 9th, a group of SCCS students and parents attended the Chinese New Year celebration organized by the Southeastern Connecticut Adoptive Families. The students performed for the adoptive families.

(By Yinyu Tu)

Community News



Christine Jahn was dancing on Chinese New Year Celebration 2/9/2014.



In My Podium with Enthusiasm

Bits and Pieces of My Teaching Experience

By Ms. Xiuying Tan— SCCS First Grade Teacher

Create language environment from the textbook: I edited the context of each lesson into rhymes for little kids, used smartphone to record and send them to parents for students to sing at home. Our class has a sheet for Chinese book borrowing records. My students can borrow Chinese books from me for reading at home.

Create dynamic language environment: My class has an activity called “Your Stage, You Decision!” Students can bring whatever they like most, being a toy, a book, or other thing. Each student has up to 5 minutes to describe his/her most beloved thing in Chinese. I usually arrange two to three students to do the activity in a class. All students will have their turns in a semester at least once. The selected student usually wears a paper-made crown, holds a microphone, and speaks in Chinese: they are the master on the stage. Please let your kids do the same kind of activity at home, so they can have more chance to speak Chinese.

Create homework for the parents too: In my weekly communication e-mails, I have homework for the students and the parents. The parent’s homework includes to tutor the

students and to listen the students singing the songs learned in the classes.

Create a suitable textbook, which is the most urgent and important thing for overseas Chinese teaching: Most of the current Chinese textbooks have contexts that are too far away from the environment, the lifestyle, and the way of thinking that our kids are living in and with. No wonder they don’t feel any affinity to the contexts in these textbooks, let alone to remember and retell any of them! The emphasis of teaching also needs re-thinking. For example, the radical “目” used in “眼睛 (eye)”. We need to ensure the students know how to speak and use the words -眼睛, not the radical 目.

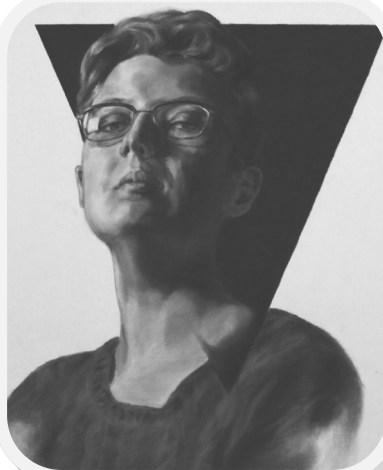


Horse Year Celebration

The year of the Horse is here! SECCCS (Southeastern Connecticut Chinese Culture Society) held a celebration on February 2nd. More than 350 people from local community attended the event, which set a record for attendance in recent years.



Two SCCS Students Win Art Awards



Two SCCS students, Catherine Peng and Heather Wu, are winners of 2014 Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards. One artwork by Heather Wu won a Gold Key and another one a Silver Key. Their artworks are eligible to compete for the 2014 All America Scholastic Art Awards. For the winners' list, please check via the link: www.caeaartawards.net.

(By Ms. Yujuan Zhai)



Snap Shots of Chinese Speech Contest



Chinese Class 4A — Simaguang Breaks the Vat



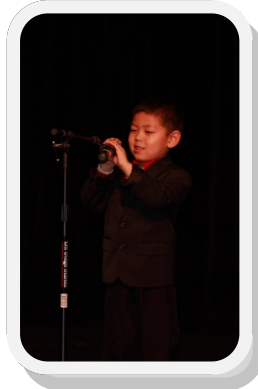
Derek Shen/Connor Sessions
Ride a Taxi in China



Katherine Zhang— Monkeys
Catch the Moon from the Water



Mingwen Duan/Jiarui Peng/Jason Jiao/Jacob Lin
Three and a Half Sentences



Kai Zhao—I Love My School



Summer Sit / Arianna Xie
I Am a Spoiled Child



Chinese Class 4A — Make A Guess



Chinese Class 1B — Little Bird Freely Fly



Chinese Class 1A
Nursery Rhymes Recitation



Paul Chang/Victoria Chen/Benjamin Xie/Ryan Xu /Christine Jahn
SCCS World News



Singing out the Old and Ringing in the New

On SCCS 2013 Teacher's Appreciation Night

On December 15th, SCCS 2013 Teacher's Appreciation Night started with the greeting to all the teachers. More than 100 people attended the event. They are SCCS teachers and their families, teacher assistants, members of SCCS PTA (Parent and Teacher Association) and their families, SCCS board members and their families, SCCS top donors and their families, and school staff and their families.

After a buffet dinner of delicious Chinese and American food, Mr. Raymond Chen, the Principal of SCCS, delivered a speech. He first thank all teachers, teaching assistants, PTA volunteers, board members, and staff members for their dedication and hard work throughout the year; and then used a series of slides to highlight the success of SCCS teachers and students in 2013. The meeting also made a farewell to Mrs. Lili Kessinger who recently left East Lyme Schools and SCCS for a new teaching position. Mrs. Kessinger spoke via Skype to all fellow SCCS teachers to wish them all the success in 2014.

In the middle of the night, a unique competition of speaking and writing Chinese Set Phrases was organized by Ms. Saihuan Zeng and Ms. Yinyu Tu, who are Vice Principals of SCCS. Teachers, parents, and friends volunteered to form groups to compete with each other. Ms. Yanyun Chen sang a nostalgic Chinese song called Rising Cooking Smoke in View Again. Ms. Jianmin Sun sang a popular song called Tibetan Plateau. All these performances brought waves of applause and laughter from the audience and pushed the celebratory tone to a climax.



Group Photo of Teacher's Appreciation Night

At the end of the event, Ms. Xiaoning Wang, SCCS Board Chair, gave thanks to top donors on behalf of all SCCS parents and students. After the memorable night, all SCCS teachers felt fully re-energized and ready for the year of the Horse.

(Ms. Lili Ma)

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