

## 东南康州中文学校之窗

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### 社区新闻



- SCCS will hold its very first “Panda Cup” international chess tournament on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Who will win the cup? We will let you know in our next issue.
- SCCS recently provided scholarships to three local schools - East Lyme High School, Waterford High School, and Lyme-Old Lyme High School. These scholarships will be awarded to selected students who promote multicultural diversity in their schools and in our community.
- Students in Chinese 6I class recently had a Show and Tell in the classroom. All students stood to present their well-prepared collages to demonstrate a topic related to China or Chinese culture, and told the story in Chinese. This activity was organized by the teacher, Ms. Hu and had been demonstrated in other classes. Thank you, Ms. Hu!
- On March 26<sup>th</sup>, SCCS held its annual teacher’s training at East Lyme Community Center. In the session, several teachers assessed the Chinese textbooks we are using now and all teachers enthusiastically participated in discussion on what content overseas Chinese teaching should include in textbooks.
- On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Ally Wang returned to SCCS to give a seminar on how to prepare for the college application. She taught at SCCS as an Arts teacher in the past and currently is a student at University of Pennsylvania. Her seminar was based on her own experience and well received by the students and parents.



Above: Ms. Ally Wang in Seminar

Below: Chinese Class 6I Show and Tell



***Instructors Mr. Li and Ms. Zhai invited to La Grua Center in Stonington, CT for a workshop***

During the summer, instructors Mr. Li and Ms. Zhai were invited to La Grua Center in Stonington, CT for a workshop. They demonstrated bamboo drawings of names, paper cut-outs and glass print makings which attracted many kids on site and were highly praised by the organizer. Art is the common language of human beings without any boundaries.



Ms. Zhai is demonstrating paper cut-outs



***CMC  
Diner  
Class***



***2014 Talent Show  
Announcement***

The SCCS 2014 talent show will be held in ELHS auditorium on May 18th from 10 am to 1 pm.

Please register by filling an

[Online Registration Form](#)

The deadline is April 20th, 2014.

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## Let Overseas Chinese Teaching More Closely Represent Life Abroad

### A Discussion on Textbooks for Overseas Chinese Teaching

In recent years, teachers in our school have held repeated debates and discussions on the topic of overseas Chinese teaching. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, the whole teacher's training session was dedicated to the discussion again, specifically about the textbooks by Jinan University Press (the Jinan Textbooks) that we have been using since 2009.

The Jinan textbooks have comprehensive coverage in school life, fairy tales, set phrases, historical sites, scenic landscapes, scientific knowledge, ancient poems and anecdotes about famous people, etc. The Jinan textbooks emphasize basic language education and do so in a step-by-step way with purposeful repetition of newly learned words and phrases. The Jinan textbooks have colorful pictures and photos associated with each lesson. The new words and sentence patterns are in line with the levels of our students. There are online resources to support multimedia teaching and practicing.

The shortcomings of the Jinan textbooks include the following: The contexts are far detached from the American cultural background, in which our students are living. On the other hand, the books overly emphasize the Chinese values, for example, the heroism. Some of the dialogues and contexts have too much overlap. All of these shortcomings give one an impression that the Jinan textbooks are outdated, dull, and remote. For example, the editors selected and introduced several very important figures in Chinese history in the textbooks. However, students in general don't show much interest in learning about the people and associated events.

Many teachers made good suggestions on how to improve the overseas Chinese teaching. Some suggested that we should not only include knowledge on Chinese culture, but also include some American

content, specific daily life and entertainment.

Others said that we should introduce ordinary people as well as the famous ones; introduce stories of overseas Chinese people and their early survival in American as well as Chinese

history. Some teachers even suggested that we should include parallel contents in textbooks so teachers can pick and choose based on the specific needs of his or her students. For example, some students may need more practice in writing, while others may need more oral practice. There was a consensus that the teachers should select some outside and relevant materials to supplement their current teaching using the Jinan textbooks.

From these debates and discussions come out some thoughts on strategic directions for our teaching:

- (1) Is Chinese a foreign language or a mother tongue to those students of second Chinese generation?
- (2) Should the textbooks for overseas Chinese teaching be built around Chinese contents or overseas contents?
- (3) Which is more important - to expand student's knowledge of Chinese and Chinese culture, or to prepare students for their future continuous education and career?



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