



Sarasota Chinese Academy

a place for Chinese language and culture

Newsletter 2010 Issue 3

October 2010

Welcome Back, Students and Parents

The school year is off to a great start! We are happy to announce that we added more than 20 new students for the fall semester, for a total of 55 students in 7 classes. This year, our students range in age from as young as 3 all the way up to adults, with Chinese language experience varying from first-time learners to advanced levels.

Our adult class has been well-attended, with many new parents joining Junhong Shi's Adult Conversation Class. Remember, if your child is enrolled at Sarasota Chinese Academy, you are invited to attend our adult class *free*. It's fun, informal, and a great way to learn some basic conversational Chinese as well as help your children practice and do their homework.



Doris Ju talks to May Thomas as May registers new and returning SCA students, and makes sure everyone has the books and CDs they need for a productive school year.

New This Year

We've implemented some improvements to our curriculum and procedures this year as well.



First, we've given each student their own SCA folder to keep coursework and homework organized. Every week, the teacher will fill in important information so parents know what was taught in class that day, how their student behaved, and what homework is assigned for the following week. Please take a few moments to review your child's folder with him or her, and be sure to sign off when homework is completed.

To make homework easier for non-Chinese-speaking families, this year we are also offering a companion CD that goes along with the student textbooks. The CDs are an interactive, educational tool that engages children while providing an audio-visual accompaniment to language learning. If you have not yet purchased your CD, please see Principal Barry Zhang.

Thank You, Teachers and Staff!

Did you know that all of the teachers and staff at Sarasota Chinese Academy volunteer their time to teach our students? It's true! The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers and staff, all of whom give of their talents so generously. They are vital in making Sarasota Chinese Academy a thriving and enriching environment for our students.

Mommy & Me: Ms. Crystal Zhang
Pre-K A: Ms. Wang Rui and Crystal Zhang
Pre-K B: Ms. Yuan Fang
Class 1A: Ms. Minghua Zhang
Class 2A: Ms. Hui Liu
Class 2B: Ms. Mingyi Guo
Class 3A: Dr. Qinghong Han
Adult Class: Ms. Junhong Shi
Chinese Arts and Crafts: Ms. May Thomas

Principal: Mr. Barry Zhang
Vice Principal: Ms. Junhong Shi
Treasurer: Ms. May Thomas
Registrar: Ms. Jenny Lin
PTO President: Ms. Nancy Milholland

New Mommy & Me Class Starts



NEW! Mommy & Me Class

(Babies and toddlers attend with a parent)

Sundays: October 3 – November 21, 2010, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

\$95 tuition (no registration fee, no refunds)

Join us for laughter, songs, crafts, dance, and learning in a baby and toddler-friendly format. This brand-new class serves as an introduction to Sarasota Chinese Academy and prepares our youngest students for the beginning Chinese class curriculum. Each class is just one hour long, and parents and toddlers (ages 18 months to 3 years old) stay and learn together. For details, contact Crystal Zhang at xiacrystalzhang@yahoo.com. To sign up, go to www.sarasotachineseacademy.org for registration forms.

SCA and GCAA Celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival

On Saturday, September 18, Sarasota Chinese Academy families participated in the Gulfcoast Chinese American Association's Mid-Autumn Festival at Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota. Special thanks go to Hui Min Wen and May Thomas for organizing the children's games.



The kids enjoyed playing with hula hoops, doing the limbo, and many other games, and everyone enjoyed watching the Tai Chi demonstration.



The Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋節), also known as the Moon Festival, is one of the most important holidays in the Chinese calendar and dates back over 3,000 years. This celebration is held on the 15th day of the 8th month in the Chinese calendar, on a date that coincides with the Autumn Equinox, when the moon is at its fullest and roundest. Traditionally, Chinese family members and friends gather on this day to admire the bright harvest moon and eat moon cakes.

Thank you to everyone who gathered with us this year to create an enjoyable celebration for the extended SCA family!

Parent Teacher Organization Meets

On Sunday, September 26, the Parent Teacher Organization of SCA met to discuss volunteer opportunities, upcoming events for the school year, and how we can all work together to make Sarasota Chinese Academy great. Everyone agreed the school is off to a strong start this year.

Nancy Milholland, president of the PTO, started off the meeting with snacks and introductions, as well as special thanks to some of the school's volunteers. Of course, we can still use more help. For the Fall semester we need some parents to pitch in and help with our cleanup committee, fundraising, curriculum development, assisting teachers with special projects, special event planning, and so on. If you have not yet volunteered, please email Nancy with any dates when you are available to help out at ClearlyCreative@aol.com or call 362-4740.



The group also discussed plans for our upcoming Halloween party. Students will come to school in costumes on Sunday, October 31. Classes will let out at 2 p.m. and trick-or-treating to classrooms will begin, followed immediately by a party in the courtyard, which will end at 4pm. We will have a costume contest at the party with prizes. Each parent is asked to bring a dish to share (Nancy Milholland will email a sign-up sheet for food items needed as we get closer to the date). Please plan to join us!

Send in Snack Money with Your Child or Just Drop in a Dollar

As you know, the Parent Teacher Organization offers a snack table at the 2 p.m. break time. This provides a snack for kids who need a little boost. It's also something for kids to look forward to during their Sunday at Chinese School.

A drink and snack costs \$1. Volunteer parents take turns working the snack table. We encourage healthy snacks like fruit, veggies, cheese, pretzels, and discourage snacks with high fructose corn syrup or trans fats.



But you don't need to purchase a snack to contribute to the PTO fund. Feel free to drop a dollar or two into our money jar at any time. This fund is our only resource for many things, such as school parties, meetings and celebrations; special themed supplies and projects for teachers; and honoring teachers and volunteers who selflessly donate their time and keep things going smoothly at school. So drop in a dollar next time you see the snack table! We appreciate your support.

PTO President Nancy Milholland

School Safety for Your Child

It has been brought to our attention that sometimes students are running and playing rough in the hallways during break and at the end of classes. Although we want kids to be able to blow off some steam, connect with friends, and unwind during break time, it's also important to keep safety in mind. Please remind your child to refrain from running, screaming, or playing outside games in the hallways.

If you like, you are welcome to take your child outside to the playground for five minutes at break time (at your own risk and under your supervision). Please let the teacher know if you are doing this so all children are accounted for at all times. There is also some space outside the sanctuary where kids can gather with parental supervision when no church members are working there.

Thanks for your help with this. We appreciate your efforts.

Principal Barry Zhang and PTO President Nancy Milholland

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