



Newsletter

Issue #2 January 18, 2008



Welcome to the second issue of your Sarasota Chinese Academy (SCA) E-mail Newsletter! I look forward to providing information about our Chinese Academy community. Feel free to email me special announcements and honors you or a family member have received. You can email me at ClearlyCreative@aol.com. Happy reading! Have a safe and relaxing long weekend.

Sincerely, Nancy Milholland, Parent Teacher Organization President



Sunday Jan. 13th Game Planning for New Year Carnival a Success!

PARENT VOLUNTEERS CALL OR EMAIL

This past Sunday the game planning committee met at Starbucks to discuss our upcoming Chinese New Year Celebration in coordination with the Gulf Coast Chinese American Association (GCAA). The event is to take place Sunday February 10th at the Venice Community Center 326 Nokomis Avenue South in Venice Florida. During this enthusiastic and lively meeting we planned our kick off fundraiser for 2008. During the GCAA Chinese New Year Celebration at the Venice Community Center our school will be offering a KIDS CARNIVAL complete with games, prizes, Chinese calligraphy and paper cutting, as well as cookie decorating! **BUT WE NEED THE HELP OF OUR DEDICATED PARENTS!** Below please find a list of games. **We need at least one a parent volunteer to man each game station. Please email Irene Leung at irene.morningstar@gmail.com to sign up:**



SIGN UP BY Email: Irene.morningstar@gmail.com

- 1) Mini Golf
- 2) Ring on Soda Bottle Toss
- 3) Bean Bag Toss
- 4) Floating Ducks in Pond
- 5) Pitch a Penny Polka Dot
- 6) Ball in a Bucket

CARNIVAL BOOTH WORK DAY

We will also be having a special project work day at the Faith Presbyterian Church On Sunday January 27th from 1:15 to 4pm. Please join us for game making, decorating and painting our carnival booths, and gathering up our carnival supplies. We will also finalize plans during this time for our new year's carnival. Even if you don't plan to participate in the carnival itself, we would sure appreciate your input with creating our carnival booths. Older SCA students with parent's permission may join us for this work day from 3-4pm following their Chinese class participation.

Other ways to help...



BOTTLES

If you have empty 48 ounce soda bottles we can use some for our ring toss. Bring them on Sunday January 27th and give them to Irene Leung or Nancy Milholland. Thanks.



PRIZES = MARKETING

Does your business want special recognition for donating some carnival prizes? Do you work for a business owner who might benefit from this marketing opportunity? For example, Global Kecci LLC (Irene's biz) will be donating prizes, and Fine Home Inspections, Inc. (Jamie and Nancy Milholland's home inspection biz) will be donating carnival prizes. Some ideas are key chains, rubber balls,

kid's sunglasses, mini stuffed animals, sheets of stickers, mini party favor games etc. Join us! All you do is purchase \$20 or more in little prizes from any party or dollar store, donate them to us for the event, and your business will be listed in our power point presentation at the new year's celebration, on our fliers and in upcoming SCA and hopefully GCAA newsletters. This is a great way to get your business recognized in your community!



Yummy Dumpling Making and Contest Honoring our Ancestors Sharing Chinese New Year Traditions

Sunday February 3rd Sarasota Chinese Academy Celebrates Chinese New Year! Look for more information in upcoming emails!

Parent Teacher Organization Meeting December 9th—Notes to Follow:

Agenda items included the following: 1. parent feedback of this school year to teachers/board, 2. plans for Chinese New Year Celebration/Fundraising, and 3. Upcoming PTO needs/SCA events.

Thanks to the following who signed up to bring refreshments for our end of semester celebration: Ya Jia, Irene Leung, Anna Piascik, Lyle Bullock, Adrienne Chaney, Herlina Saputera, John Thomas, Maureen Alberton, Yen Dong, Mary, Charlyn Gauthier, Jeff Harris. (Please let me know if your name is spelled incorrectly, and my apologies for leaving any one out.)

FEEDBACK FOR TEACHERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

1. It was recommended that we prepare kids who are moving up to the next level/class of study by providing a review sheet to the parents. This way students can be ready for their first day of class. The new teacher should also have information on what the student previously learned/studied.
2. We discussed the importance of audio files from teachers, including a vocabulary CD of words for that semester at the start of the semester/school year. And weekly audio files, as some are already providing, are recommended. Perhaps we could have downloadable lessons from the website.
3. Irene Leung volunteered to share DVDs and do tutoring as necessary.

4. SCA should develop and keep perhaps on website a list of Chinese language tutors for parents who want their student to have additional support and help with language study.
5. Some parents want 4-5 year old students (and other ages too?) to have specific take home assignments/home work to do with parents.
6. Parents should be able to look at the textbooks prior to their child entering the next class level.
7. Rosetta Stone and other such language programs were suggested. Irene Leung volunteered to research these and provide information in our next newsletter.
8. Changing the day and/or time of class was discussed. Some would like to see class during the school week in the evening.

It was agreed that overall teachers are doing a great job and we appreciate their hard work and dedication.

We also talked about **KEEPING OUR SCHOOL CLEAN AND ORDERLY:**

There have been several complaints from the Faith Presbyterian preschool staff regarding toys and other things left out, and disturbed private spaces—like cupboards and closets. This was discussed at our meeting—it was agreed that parents, students and teachers need to work together to ensure that we leave things the way we find them. One suggestion was institute a clean up time at the last few minutes of class time for students. Also, teachers may need an orientation as to where our supplies are versus cabinets that are off limits. We can also have a sign up for parents to take responsibility for a particular week or month—staying after school a bit to make sure things are clean and orderly. Also, parents agreed that students should depart within 10-15 minutes of the end of their class. Kids waiting for their parent teachers at the end of class should be designated to “hang out” in one room with clearly identified rules. Hui Min has agreed to write a nice letter or apology to the church for past transgressions—assuring them that we are on top of the problem. A positive working relationship with the church is critical in our school success. A sign up will be provided next week.

GCAA/SCA CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION:

Hui Min and I shared with the parents about our plan to offer games of chance/carnival games at the Chinese New Year Celebration as a fundraiser for our school. I did not have the date and details then, but here it is:

GCAA Chinese New Year

Venice Community Center

326 Nokomis Avenue South

Sunday February 10th 1-5:30pm

Approximate timeline: 1-2:30pm registration/refreshments

2:30-4:30 performances with seated audience

4:0-5:30 Dancing

5:30-8pm, Separate Dinner at Marco Polo Buffet

Questions? Helen Pollak, GCAA Secretary hwpollak@comcast.net

The following parents have volunteered to assist with the game fundraiser as their schedule allows: Lyle Bullock, Anna Pascik, Agnes Jaskolski, Mary O. and Jen K. We could use about 4 more volunteers, so please step up the plate and let me know. Thanks! There will be more on this in future emails/newsletters in January.

(WE HAD) Additionally, OUR KICK OFF CHINESE NEW YEAR FUNDRAISING GAME PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING PLANNED FOR:

Date: Sunday January 13th 1:15pm to 2:30pm

Location: Starbucks at Honore and Fruitville (publix shopping center)

Bring your ideas and enthusiasm for fun!

OTHER FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Parents enthusiastically shared ideas for fundraising. Irene Leung has graciously offered to give a percentage of her profits from her sale of stylish child care bags in lovely Chinese fabrics to SCA. Irene will provide more information on her business in the upcoming SCA newsletter. Irene also offered to organize and participate in selling traditional Chinese snacks or simply fruit as kids and parents leave SCA classes—this money could also go to support our school. Please see Irene or Nancy regarding the food fundraising. This was a lively discussion, so please let me know if I missed any details on this topic.

SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER: Hui Min Wen said she will be getting us a school phone number, but for now, if you need to reach the school (especially while your students are in class) you can call her cell phone: 209-0359. I suggest you also get the cell phone number for your child's teacher and keep it accessible.

Please let me know if I missed anything important. Note taking during meetings is not my strong suit. Perhaps next meeting I will ask for a note taker volunteer. I would like to make any necessary modifications prior to printing this in the newsletter, so please call me or email me with any changes or additions.

Respectfully Submitted:
Nancy Milholland
PTO President

Chinese New Year Kid's Carnival Sunday February 10th



REGISTER TODAY!

AT GULF COAST CHINESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION WEBSITE:
www.gulfcoastchineseamerican.org

Look for upcoming emails for more information on the above events and programs. Thanks for your participation!

Sarasota Chinese Academy