



# 学 中 文

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林  
西  
北  
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校

校长: 曹简  
(847) 251- 4368  
[principal@xilinNUchinese.org](mailto:principal@xilinNUchinese.org)  
副校长: 章时  
(847) 853-0672  
[passociate@xilinNUchinese.org](mailto:passociate@xilinNUchinese.org)  
教务: 陈捷  
[passociate@xilinNUchinese.org](mailto:passociate@xilinNUchinese.org)  
会计: 严华  
[treasurer@xilinNUchinese.org](mailto:treasurer@xilinNUchinese.org)  
网站: 叶文奇  
[webmaster@xilinNUchinese.org](mailto:webmaster@xilinNUchinese.org)  
编辑: 曹景波  
[comm@xilinNUchinese.org](mailto:comm@xilinNUchinese.org)

School Wed Site:  
<http://www.xilinnuchinese.org>

## 校长之语

亲爱的同学们, 家长们和老师们:

新年好! 祝同学们在新的一年里, 学习进步, 更上一层楼! 祝老师和家长们在新的一年里身体健康, 万事如意!

本学期已于一月十三日开学, 将于六月一日结束, 其中 Spring Break (3/23) 和 Memorial Day (5/25) 周末没课, 一共十九周。中文课学费和上学期一样, 副课则又下降了9%左右, 以鼓励更多的学生来选修副课。

上学期我们执行家长值班制后, 效果非常好。在此衷心感谢所有为学校服务过的家长们。同时, 也希望有更多的家长们能为学校奉献。我们学校能有今天的成绩, 就是因为老师们, 工作人员和自愿者的多年辛勤耕耘。

我们中文学校将于二月十日举行春节联欢会, 详细情况请看内页。届时我们将通过email和在网站上通知大家, 请大家留意。

最后, 让我们大家一起再次祝贺陈捷老师和汤伟丽老师荣获海外优秀中文教师奖, 整个大芝加哥地区只有三位老师得到此殊荣。

感谢老师们和家长们对学校的大力支持, 我们一定会将学校办得越来越好!

校长 曹简



## 敲响春天的钟.....

为庆祝 2008 年中国农历新春佳节，西北大学中文学校将于 02 /10 上课时间，为全校师生家长举办形式轻松活泼的娱乐联欢活动。除全体集会学校领导致新春的问候及大家团拜之外，还有小型的舞台歌舞说唱乐器表演，有师生家长当场挥毫泼墨的书法作画演示；我们为学生精心准备了集娱乐智慧与中文相结合的有奖游戏；为家长准备了 CCTV 春节联欢会录相、棋牌室、交谊舞和 Kara OK；还有大家喜欢的丰盛的晚餐和幸运抽奖活动。您的幸运号码就在您的门票上。

真诚地邀请您，您的全家及您的朋友，让我们欢聚一堂，共渡欢乐时光；

热情地欢迎您，您的参与，将使我们的传统节日色彩纷呈，年味更浓；

热热闹闹过大年，让孩子们多一份认同感，多一份故乡情！

1. 为让孩子们玩得开心，各教室的游艺活动需要家长的帮忙，请与您孩子的老师联系，安排您服务的具体时间；
2. 便于学校做好充分的准备，请您提前买票。

To celebrate the traditional Chinese Spring Festival in 2008, Xilin Northwestern University Chinese School is going to hold a Chinese New Year Party on Feb 10, 2008 in our school building, which will be an entertainment gathering of relaxed and lively forms for teachers, students and parents. In addition to the school assembly of the Chinese New Year greetings, there will be a lot of fun games and many prizes in 5 game rooms and one art room, and a talent show from students and parents.

For students, there will be games, face painting and the art & craft; for parents, there will be CCTV Spring Festival gathering video as well as card games, chess games, dancing and Karaoke; and there will also be a dinner and a raffle. Your lucky number is on your ticket.

Students or parents who would like to share your talent(i.e., singing, dancing, music instruments, etc.) with the school community at the party, please e-mail names, program title and estimated minutes of your program to shi0zhang@gmail.com and yuelin@dellmail.com before Jan. 31, 2008.

You, your family and your friends are cordially invited to the Chinese New Year Celebration Party! We wish you a fun and memorable experience.

1. Volunteers are needed to help preparing games for children. Please contact your child's teachers for helping out the event;
2. To facilitate the preparation work of the school, please buy the tickets in advance.

Your commitment and cooperation to any extent is sincerely appreciated.

The requirements and schedule arrangement are as follows:

On Jan. 27 and Feb 3. 12:30-4:20 we will have a pre-sale of tickets: Family members: \$5.00 per person; Others:\$7.00 per guest. Students, teachers and school staff are free to attend. Students in teachers Chen and Tang's classes will receive yellow tickets; in Guo, Jing and Hua's classes, will receive blue tickets; and in Cao and Cheng's classes and other students who are not taking any Chinese classes, will have green tickets. Tickets are color-coded according to the dinner schedule below.

### On Feb. 10.

- 2:30-3:00** Party rooms and game room decoration. (G02, G08, G29, G30, G31, G32, G01, G32, 101)
- 3:00-3:50** Special Chinese Class session (Chinese Spring Festival).(G01--Guo, G32--Cao, G22--Tang, G27--Hua, G29--Jing, G30--Cheng, G31--Chen)
- 3:00-4:00** Ticket Sale and change name tags (G28). Family members:\$8/p; Others:\$10/p.
- 3:00-4:30** Dancing (Ballroom, Disco, Chinese folk). (G02)
- 3:00-7:10** CCTV Video. (G21)
- 3:00-7:10** Parents card game.(G14)
- 3:50-4:00** Student break.
- 3:50-4:00** Game rooms and art room preparations. (G08, G29, G30, G31, G32 and G01)
- 4:00-5:30** Face Painting (G28)
- 4:00-6:15** Game rooms and art rooms open (G08, G29, G30, G31, G32 and G01)
- 3:00-6:30** Karaoke. (101)
- 4:00-6:30** Performance. (G15)
- 4:30-5:00** Dinner preparation.(G02)
- 5:00-6:30** Dinner (3 sessions).(G02)  
Yellow:5:00-5:30; Blue:5:30-6:00;Green:6:00-6:30.
- 5:00-6:40** Awards Distribution. (G28)
- 6:30-6:40** Break.
- 6:40-7:10** Closing ceremony + Raffle. (G15)
- 7:10-7:30** Cleaning up (All rooms + HW).

# 特大好消息

在 2007 年 11 月中国青岛结束的由中国侨办主办的第五届国际中文教育会议上，我校的陈捷老师，汤伟丽老师，双双被评为优秀海外中文教师。整个大芝加哥地区只有三位老师得到此殊荣，请祝贺她们！

Congratulations to Ms. Jie Chen and Ms. Weili Tang for receiving the Excellent Overseas Chinese Teachers Award! The award is to recognize outstanding Chinese teachers with over 10-year teaching experience for their continuous dedication and inspiration in promoting Chinese education oversea. Ms. Chen and Ms. Tang are two of the only three recipients in the Great Chicago area. Congratulations again!

## 家长如何配合

-- 解读马立平教材之二

无论什么教材，儿童在美国要学好中文仅靠周末 2 小时的上课时间是远远不够，家长在家必须得抓，这是不争的事实。马立平教材就是根据这一实际，在家庭作业的设计上融入了家长，简化了形式。阅读、听读练习须在家里完成，需要家长签字评分，这为家长了解、帮助、辅导孩子提供了切实可行的途径。可以说，这套教材如果没有家长的配合，是不会取得良好的教学效果的。那么家长怎么配合呢？

首先家长自己要树立起信心，帮助孩子拼它几年初步解决认读问题。百忙中抽点时间，关照孩子的学习情况；充分发挥华人家庭的优点，在家讲普通话，在车里听中文录音，有时间和孩子一起看中文音像，尽力地营造一个中文小环境。这是最有效简单的帮助；再就是要培养孩子自觉学习的习惯和能力，这会使他们受益终生。尤其是学习这套教材，需要家长扶上马，再送一程。等孩子摸着门道后，再逐渐放手。具体如下：

- 1 督促指导完成每周四次的规定作业，这样基础稍差一点的学生也不会拉下；
- 2 本教材可包容不同的需求学生。它避开了初学写字难这一关，强调认字阅读，只要求会写其中 40% 的字。这样即使基础差些的学生只要用心，都能达标，学有信心；对于“吃不饱”的

学生，家长不要只满足于达标，可以利用课本提供的材料，要求孩子多学。如：会写会用课本里出现的常用词汇和句式；甚至可对课文的内容和表达法做深层次的分析，或者进行基本的写作训练。对于多数学生来说，阅读是写作的准备，词汇量太少，写作十分吃力，不必急于求成；

- 3 主课文后的阅读短文，是作为作业，要求要家里完成的。这是教学中必要的不可缺少的一环。阅读达不到一定的数量，就不能涵盖前面所学的生字，就不能强化识字，就不能温故知新，也就达不到教学目的，因此家长须在家监督帮助孩子读懂课后的短文，完成练习册上的作业；
- 4 CD 上的规定作业是听读、跟读课文和认字填字，希望家长听孩子朗读课文并教他们自己录音，给他们听写，然后评分签字；
- 5 实在没时间做 4 次作业的学生，家长要鼓励他们做 2 次。然而朗读课文，读懂阅读材料和听写是一定要完成的；
- 6 最好和孩子一起做每周的第一次作业，这样会降低难度，提高学生的兴趣，也就减轻了家长的负担；
- 7 课程设计得很紧，要让孩子从开头就跟上进度，因故缺课，一定要补上，否则拉得太多会丧失信心。要提前或准时到校，不然就会漏掉课堂第一环节的拼句/读词句/听写等练习；
- 8 提醒学生每次上课都要带好课本、黄 / 蓝作业本和白 / 蓝字卡；帮助孩子剪下和管理好白字卡和生字卡。按课分别捆好，放在盒子里或 Sandwich 袋中。
- 9 根据大脑的科学和记忆规律，作业不要一次做完，按要求四次完成。来中文学校前，家长要给予听写，帮助复习。以便让孩子能保持良好的心态在课堂上学习。孩子有成功感才会学得有劲，愿意学下去。

听起来这套教材似乎是个挑战，然而一旦深入下去，便会发现比想象的要容易。学生能接受也易上手，而且很快就可独立完成课后练习。如

果我们师生家长三方共同努力，孩子“学有所成”可望也可及的。（陈捷）

# To Speak or Not To Speak Chinese

By James Prendergast

Not long ago, Shi Zhang and I were engaged in a interesting conversation about Chinese families in the United States and the challenge they face integrating into the American cultural milieu while retaining their cultural identity. As I reflect upon our dinner conversation, I would like to discuss a small but important challenge facing the Chinese parents who have immigrated to the U.S. and wish to raise their children as American citizens.

Language presents an interesting challenge. Most readers of this article came to U.S. as adults, probably married adults. The English you learned was taught to you by Chinese teachers. Your knowledge of English grammar may be very good but in some cases your execution and your pronunciation are not. This can lead to a number of issues; not least among these is the issue of moving up the career ladder in American companies and integrating within the American culture. In this article, I would like to address another issue that is often overlooked, but may have some negative repercussions for your children. This is the issue of how to communicate at home within the family unit. Should you exclusively speak Chinese at home, English, or some combination of the two?

While I very strongly support acquiring and using fluent English in the workplace, I believe that in the home, you should speak your native language. Children are particularly apt at picking up phonetics at a very early age and, thus, would be more likely to pick up accents and language idiosyncrasies from their parents. If your language skills in English are not particularly fluent or you have a strong accent, it would be better to speak Chinese when you are with your children. In this way, your children will hear native English spoken by their peers and native Chinese spoken by their parents. As a consequence, they will naturally become fluent in both languages.

The second advantage of speaking Chinese within the family is that the children will not only acquire the oral communication skills within the

family but will be well positioned with fluency in the language of global economic powerhouse. This can lead to incredible future opportunities for careers in international studies and business. American and western European companies are making huge investments in China and need bilingual employees to help in these global initiatives.

Finally, the best way to learn about Chinese culture is through the language. So much has been written in Chinese that is still not translated or accessible to non-Chinese speaking and writing students. To take one example, I have been looking for historical records from China on the post Han dynasties and these records are not translated into English, leaving me with secondary and tertiary sources instead of the primary sources. This is a significant handicap for a student of Chinese history and culture. If you inculcate in your children a love for the spoken and written language of China, they will have ready access to oral and written documents in their original language, giving them a significant advantage over others.

## About the Author

James Prendergast is a former high school English and Speech Teacher. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from DePaul University and two Masters Degrees. In addition to owning an English language training company that offers advanced language instruction to adults, Mr. Prendergast is currently on staff at the Xilin Nu Chinese school where he teaches pre-SAT English.

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