

SOUTH COAST CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL INC.

南岸中文學校

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Dear Parents, Caregivers & Students,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and old students joining our Chinese School. We have kicked off the year 2023 with a wonderful start and students have also settled very well into their respective language classrooms.

Teaching staff for this year are as follows:

Background class (Primary): Ms. Chen; Stage K&1: Ms. Sun; Stage 2&3 Ms. Tan; High School class: Ms. Yeh. Substitute teacher: Ms. Ramsay

We ushered in the 2023 new school term with the celebration of the most important Chinese traditional festival, the Spring Festival (春节 *Chūnjié*). Students, old and new alike, revisited or experienced for the first time some of the customs and practices observed by the Chinese community during this 15-day festive season. For example, students received red envelopes (cash gifts) from the school principal which symbolises the giver's wish of good luck and warding off evil spirits for the recipient. Students also each received a rabbit Chinese New Year decorative since this is the Year of the Rabbit according to the Chinese animal zodiac signs. Although this year we did not have our usual exhilarating lion dance performance which always had been the top crowd pleaser among students and parents, they were still treated to a high-quality *Pipa* (Chinese lute), a traditional Chinese musical instrument, performance by Tiana. We hope that with students' exposure to some of the most popular and well-known traditional Chinese classical music through this performance, they are given the opportunity to appreciate different aspects of the broad and profound Chinese culture.



DO NOT

Share
Food



ATTENTION ~ A gentle reminder that everyone needs to comply with this requirement while at school, especially during recess time.



The *South Coast Chinese Language School's* Code of Conduct requires all students to behave appropriately and be respectful to each other. The Chinese school imparts to students not only the knowledge of Chinese language and culture, but also the most basic social etiquette which plays an important role in maintaining harmonious human interactions. Whether it's your homeroom teacher, substitute teacher, or a parent you meet, a simple greeting word like "Hello" is a courteous acknowledgement of their presence. I hope all our students will be polite anywhere at any time.

School FEES

Term 2 school fees ~ Please refer to the payment receipt of term 1 which detailed the fees you need to pay for the terms. Alternatively, you might want to contact the school admin for more information.

School Fees are \$120 per student per term. School fees are *non-refundable* and *non-transferable* after attending the first lesson. Payment methods include Cash and Bank Transfer. A *penalty fee* of \$10 will be charged for delayed payment made later than Week 3 of each school term.

Pay your fees using the options below:

- (1) Cash in a clearly indicated envelop
- (2) Direct deposit to school account - BSB: 802 249

Account Number: 24990 5547

Account Name: South Coast Chinese Language School



Our school is officially registered and approved as the Creative Kids Provider. We welcome the voucher to be used for school fees.

- Please provide (1) student's Name (2) voucher number (3) date of birth



Class Teachers' Report

Stage K&1 Ms. Sun

First, I would like to thank all parents & caregivers for all your help and support this term.

Our theme this term was *Celebrations*. We had fun learning all about *Luna New Year and Harmony Day*. Students learnt about the origins of the festival, and some of the important traditions and customs through sharing the story about *Nian* Beast, the New year monster. They also learnt about the language related to these celebrations, such as describing festival food and traditional activities.

We also created the new *12 Zodiac Animals race*, where students learnt to talk about Australia animals, and ways to describe their appearances. Using the theme of animals, we learnt ways to express some basic feelings and expressions, such as I think (我觉得), as well as things that scare us, that can also be used in everyday life.

Our last topic was *Harmony Day*, in which we used the vocabulary we learnt before to describe ourselves and other people and learn to respect different cultures. The main aims for this term have been for students using Chinese, familiar language in and to be able to Chinese characters.



Generally, our students attitude in class, and through active

sometimes the course is disrupted by the behaviour of a small number of students. Nonetheless, after communicating with these students, they also become more aware that they need to respect other students who are keen interest to learn Chinese.

to become comfortable responding to simple and story and cartoon video, recognise and write basic

have a very good learning also enjoy the lessons participation. However,

See you next term.

Stage 2&3 Ms. Tan

As Term 1 drew to a close which coincided with the *Harmony Week* in late March, we incorporated class activities to observe the event. Students learnt some vocabulary and phrases associated with the concept of harmony, e.g., we are different, but we all belong. Students were also encouraged to demonstrate how they could express their appreciation of multiculturalism and inclusiveness by either doing some creative drawings or looking for some Chinese expressions associated with the theme on four selfie phone templates. Students had fun learning from each other as they presented their finished product to the class.

Since the theme for this term is *Celebrations*, we have built the lesson unit around the topic of *Chinese New Year* and learnt in greater depth aspects relating to the festival. Students were introduced to the symbolisms of popular Chinese New Year food, e.g., fish which symbolises abundance, etc. We also revisited the twelve Chinese zodiac animals, and students did activities such as coming up with their own twelve animal zodiac signs incorporating Australian animals. We had a lesson discussing the characteristics of rabbit, and personality traits believed to be associated with people born in the Year of the Rabbit.

As this is a mixed level class which combined lower high school and upper primary school students, it becomes necessary to plan lesson that caters to the different learning need of both groups of students. I'm glad to see that the positivity of most of the primary school students have contributed much to the positive vibes of the class, and the high school students' higher maturity and critical thinking level helps the younger students to understand more difficult language concepts. I hope that some of the less motivated students will be encouraged to participate more actively in class activities and make greater efforts to complete their homework. This will inadvertently translate to a more fruitful and meaningful learning experience when they spend two hours every week in the Chinese class.

Students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills were honed through a variety of language practice tasks and activities such as Questions & Answers (Q&A) speaking tasks, online games, YouTube video clips, oral presentations, as well as print and online worksheets.

I would like to encourage students to regularly review the Chinese words and expressions they learnt in class whenever they have time so that they can commit what they have learnt to their long-term memory. Students should also try to practice speaking Chinese if the opportunity arises, e.g., teaching some Chinese words to their classmates in the mainstream school during the Harmony Week, etc.

Last but not least, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday! I look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

"Language is the roadmap of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going." – Rita Mae Brown

High School Class ~ Ms. Yeh

As we kick off the first term of the year, I want to give a shoutout to all the high school students attending the after-school Chinese language class. Their dedication to expanding their language abilities is impressive, especially considering the demands of high school coursework and extracurricular activities.

This term we learn about celebrating birthday in the Chinese traditions. Students are to write and reply to a birthday invitation, talk about what presents to give, traditional and contemporary foods and customs in birthday celebrations. As our students continue with their language learning journey, I want to encourage them to use the class time productively by practicing their language skills with their classmates and teachers. It will not only improve your language abilities, but also help you to gain a deeper understanding of the Chinese culture and traditions.

Attending after-school activities is not only beneficial for students' language learning but also for their personal growth and development. These activities can help students build new friendships, develop leadership skills, and explore new interests outside of the classroom. So, to all the high school students, keep up the excellent work, and know that your hard work and dedication are truly admirable.

Background Class (Primary) Ms. Chen

We held a parents' information session on 3 March. This session is a great opportunity for more in-depth communication between the class teacher and parents, particularly allowing parents to gain a better understanding of the class routines and teaching/learning experiences. We would like to express our thanks to the parents for your helpful and valuable suggestions and we will do our best to fulfil them.

Groupings: As you might have noticed, our class is a mixture of students from year one to year five. All have different language proficiency levels in terms of their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Although we use the same teaching materials weekly, students should diligently follow the specific instructions and complete their tasks/homework according to their assigned group.

The main theme of this term is *Celebrations* which contains the sub-themes of *Chinese New Year*, *Valentine Day*, *Birthday* and *Harmony Day*. Students learnt vocabulary and phrases; characters writing and online games, which associated with the cultural background of each sub-theme. A mini quiz is also conducted. The students did well, and I am proud of them for setting high expectations for their work. Finally, we will finish the first term with the "Mini Book for Harmony Day".



Weekly *Take-Home Reader*: All students received a weekly take-home reader. This reader was taken from the reading materials of *iChineseReader*, a Chinese graded reading platform. In keeping with our themes, our students read between Level 2 and Level 3 this term. Readers were all accompanied by pinyin, and the pinyin will be gradually reduced from the second semester onwards. I would like to thank the parents for encouraging their children to read and complete their homework each week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10-31 June ~ Celebrating Community Languages Art Exhibition @ Wollongong Art Gallery (Details at P7)
- Dragon Boat Festival celebration / BBQ on 29 June (Wk10)
- Language & Cultural Camp @ Sinofield: 23/24 June (to be confirmed)



Term 2
Friday, 28 April @ 3.30pm

On behalf of staff, we wish you to have a wonderful term break and peaceful Easter!



Su-Lien Chen

Principal

31 March 2023

ACLS Celebrating Community Languages Art Exhibition 2023

Where: Wollongong Regional Art Gallery

When: 10 June to 31 June 2023

Opening Event: 10 June 2023, 1pm to 4pm

Theme: I Love.... My Community Language

Final date for submission: Friday 12 May 2023

The Association of Community Language Schools is organising an art exhibition titled, 'Celebrating Community Languages', at Wollongong Regional Art Gallery this June. The exhibition will showcase the work of community language school students by inviting them to create an artwork with a bilingual label that represents what they love about their community language and culture.

The aim of this exhibition is to celebrate the students' community languages, and the schools that support them, and to inspire and encourage other kids to learn their community language and connect with their cultural roots.

Examples of what students can represent in their artwork:

- a culturally significant object or symbol (such as a type of weaving, a religious symbol, an iconic building, an item of clothing or accessory);
- a cultural tradition, dance, song, celebration or story;
- a person from their heritage culture (this might be a famous historical person or a family member for example).

Your students are invited to think about and respond creatively to the statement: **'What I love about my community language and culture'**

- Artworks must be **A4 size or smaller size** and, because not everyone likes drawing and painting, can be the following mediums: painting, drawing, collage, poster, digital art, or an original photograph. 3D objects such as sculpture, ceramics, jewellery, weaving, clothing etcetera, are also acceptable, but these may need to be photographed for the art exhibition due to space limitations (please chat to Enya about this.)

- Students must write a bilingual label (a short description of their artwork) in their community language (with an English translation), starting with the words “**I love....**”. Depending on the ability and enthusiasm of the student, they can write a single word, a complete sentence, a short paragraph or a poem.
- Due to the number of schools participating, we can only guarantee 10 entries from each school will be included in the exhibition. We suggest you include as many students as would like to be involved in the project and then select 10 artworks with their written description to send to ACLS to be exhibited.