



孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2013

Geneva North Street Elementary School -During the month of January, CIAU faculty member Hui Liu taught students to write the sinogram “Fu” (blessing, bounty) using maobi, the traditional Chinese brush. Students also made paper-cut lanterns, learned vocabulary for traditional foods, and practiced singing “Happy New Year.” The following month, students decorated their classroom with New Year motifs and studied the animals of the Chinese zodiac. The school superintendent along with many parents came to Hui Liu’s classes; all were surprised and delighted with the amount of vocabulary and sentence structures the students have learned.



Hui Liu with her class

North Syracuse - CIAU faculty members Katie Wang and Emma Wang have begun to introduce Gillette Road Middle School students to sinograms, i.e., Chinese characters or ideograms. Students have learned to the proper stroke order and spacing by using the traditional graph tracing paper divided into squares. Katie and Emma were invited into 5th grade classes to teach numbers in Mandarin. The teachers and students were fascinated by the logic and graphic depiction of each number. In addition, Katie and Emma joined Mrs. Burti’s class where everyone enjoyed making Chinese lanterns in celebration of the New Year.



Haley Imbesi, 6th grader at GRMS, with her calligraphy work



Students with their lanterns



Rosa Luo and Lisa Zhang with their class

North Hornell Elementary School - CIAU faculty members Rosa Luo and Lisa Zhang taught all the kindergarten classes about animals by means of the popular children's story "Kitty, Go Fishing". The youngsters also made panda bear paper cuts and tiger and dragon head-dresses. New Year traditions were introduced through a coloring brochure which showed how the Spring Festival is celebrated in China. The 1st grade students expanded their animal vocabulary and learned how to express "I like" wishes in Mandarin. The song "Two Tigers" and the game of musical chairs both helped reinforce the new words and motivate active participation. The children decorated a dragon boat they had built. For a 3-week unit, the Rosa and Lisa introduced Spring Festival traditions, including paper cuts of pandas and window pane flowers. In addition, Li Huiyang (Lee) came to class to perform traditional tai chi ritual movements.

Naples Elementary School -During the first two weeks of January, CIAU faculty member Jeff Yin taught students many words for food and drink in Mandarin and also ways to express which their favorites are. Games as well as realia facilitated quick memorization. Money was the focus of week 3 with mastery of numbers 1 to 100. Toward the end of the month and the first half of February, Jeff taught students to use the traditional Chinese maobi brush in order to write the sinogram "Fu" and to create paper-cut Chinese lanterns. Red packets were distributed for the Spring Festival, and its customs were taught along with the vocabulary and characteristics for the animals of the Chinese zodiac.



Jeff Yin with his class

Spring Festival at Alfred University-On February 9th, CIAU sponsored the annual Spring Festival celebration enjoyed by faculty, students, and members from the surrounding community at Susan Howell Hall. Guests participated in a variety of interactive cultural activities on the 2nd floor: writing down New Year's wishes in Chinese, learning their zodiac animal sign, trying their hand at paper-cutting, kicking a shuttlecock, and enjoying the guzheng performance. Before dinner downstairs, Provost Bill Hall gave a welcoming speech. Then host Margret Wilson introduced Garrett Borden, Gillian Guizzotti, and Richard Lopez, who gave a presentation about the Year of the Snake. Shannon Cirulnick, Jordana Carlson, and Jennifer Rhoades showed both talent and skill with songs in Mandarin from pop and folk traditions. Everyone enjoyed the bountiful and delicious food brought from Rochester by CIAU directors Wilfred Huang and Peng Tao.



Interactive cultural activity: Chinese paper-cutting



Provost Bill Hall (third one from right on first row) with CIAU faculty

CIAU Meeting -On February 10th, all members of CIAU met to discuss the Chinese textbook project which is overseen by the Hanban in Beijing. The textbooks are based on the HSK proficiency exam syllabus which uses Smart board applications. Last year, the HSK Level 1 text was completed, and now HSK Levels 11, 111, and 1V are in preparation. The series is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Spring Festival in Corning, NY -On February 19th, CIAU faculty members Rosa Luo, Lisa Zhang, and Rose Hu sang "May Love Last Forever" in Sullivan Park as part of the Corning Chinese Association-sponsored celebration of the New Year.



Rose Hu, Lisa Zhang and Rosa Luo sing at celebration

Chinese Corner -Beginning on February 22nd, students in Chinese 102 and 202 at AU have participated in a Chinese Corner for one hour each week. The conversation events take place at the Confucius House (102 students) and Pearlman 218 (202 students).

Montessori Multicultural Event -On February 23rd, the Alfred Montessori School held its 2nd annual Multicultural Event. Daisy Wu performed on the guzheng, and Huiyang Li performed tai chi with people from the community who have been studying the ancient practice for over a year under the guidance of Master Fang (I forget Daisy's mom's full name). The group went through the "Yijingjing" warm-up exercises, charmingly portrayed the "Five Animals", and finished with the more complicated "Swimming Dragon." Finally, Daisy and her daughter Candy taught the audience "You and Me", the theme song of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.



Huiyang li with his Tai-chi mates



Daisy Wu, with her daughter Candy at guzheng performance

Chinese Bridge Competition -Two AU students, Richard Lopez and Shannon Cirulnick, will participate in the Chinese Bridge proficiency competition, which takes place at Pace University in March. For the speech and talent components, both students are receiving preparation help from CIAU faculty members Daisy Wu, Huiyang Li, and Rose Hu.



Contestants Richard Lopez and Shannon Cirulnick

Upcoming Events

March 29-31 – CIAU 2nd meeting for Chinese textbook project will be held at Confucius House.

April 4 – Dr. Ning Yang from Confucius Institute at George Mason University will deliver a lecture on “From Mahjong to Chinese philosophy of life” at Nevins Theater at 6:30 pm.

April 7-9 – CIAU faculty Wilfred Huang and Peng Tao will attend National Chinese Language Conference held in Boston

April 19- Rochester Early College International School visit to CIAU.

April 20 – The HSK Proficiency Test is to be given at AU.

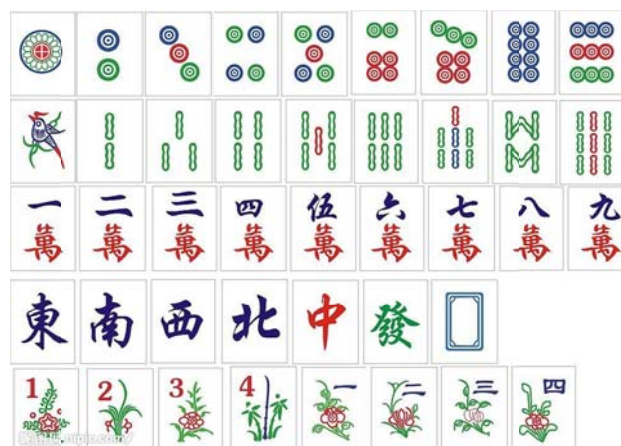
April 23- Confucius Institute Partnership with K-12 Schools Conference will be held at AU.

Learn the Chinese word and know its culture

Mahjong is a game that originated in China, commonly played by four players (with some three-player variations found in Korea and Japan). While the single-player tile-matching game mahjong solitaire is familiar in the West, the four-player table version is predominant in Asia. The solitaire version of the game has little in common with traditional

mahjong, other than using the same tiles. Similar to the Western card game rummy, mahjong is a game of skill, strategy and calculation and involves a certain degree of chance.

The game is played with a set of 136 tiles based on Chinese characters and symbols, although some regional variations use a different number of tiles. In most variations, each player begins by receiving thirteen tiles. In turn players draw and discard tiles until they complete a legal hand using the fourteenth drawn tile to form four groups (melds) and a pair (head). There are fairly standard rules about how a piece is drawn, stolen from another player and thus melded, the use of simples (numbered tiles) and honors (winds and dragons), the kinds of melds, and the order of dealing and play. However there are many regional variations in the rules; in addition, the scoring system and the minimum hand necessary to win varies significantly based on the local rules being used.



Source:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahjong>

<http://www.nipic.com/show/3/92/8cdfFeb3a48308fa.html>

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