



孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2015

North Syracuse Central School District

The Chinese New Year celebration was still going on during the first school-week after the February recess. Teachers from CIAU, Yao (Lucy) Zhang and Daqian (Eric) Yang, developed and prepared some amusing lessons on lunar New Year for the 6th grade students of Roxboro Road Middle School and Gillette Road Middle. Yao introduced her students to the traditional lunar New Year custom of paper cutting. The students adored this kind of art, and they also made their own works after demonstration and explanation of the technique. Meanwhile, Daqian's lessons helped his students to understand spring festival customs such as hongbao (red packets), chunlian (spring couplets), bainian (paying New Year visits), etc.



Lucy Zhang's students were showing their paper-cutting.

Geneva City School District

In January and February at Geneva North Street School, CIAU staff Jeff Yin taught his 4th and 5th grade students how to say the names of some fruits and animals in Chinese by playing smart board games and bingo games. Before Chinese New Year came, the students practiced writing Chinese calligraphy, drawing Ming vases, and acting out the poetry of Chinese New Year customs,

through which the students understood the Chinese New Year better. Students also learned how to say different body parts in Chinese by singing a body parts song with the same rhythm as the song, “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes”. Students were asked to point out the correct body parts on pictures of famous people from Chinese history. Meanwhile, they were also told some stories about these people. Rose Hu taught her 3rd graders the Five-Animal Tai Chi Form, Chinese New Year customs, and two Chinese songs, “Happy Clapping Song” and “Happy New Year Song”.



Jeff Yin and his students at Geneva West Street School

In January, CIAU faculty Hui Liu taught the 1st and 2nd grade students at West Street School how to say

colors in Chinese, and read the book *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See* in Chinese. The students felt excited when they saw the Chinese version of the book. Hui Liu's Kindergarteners learned how to say the five senses in Chinese to match what they were learning in their ELA class, and they read a Chinese version of the book, *My Five Senses*.

In February, Hui Liu shared many things about Chinese New Year with all the students at WSS. Students learned how Chinese people celebrate the big festival by viewing a short video and reading a book called *Chelsey's Chinese New Year*. Hui Liu also showed them the red lanterns, Chinese couplets, red envelopes with lucky money, etc.



Hui Liu and Jeff Yin with the kids in Happiness House

In February, Hui Liu, Jeff Yin, and Rose Hu visited the blue room at

Happiness House in Geneva, and introduced the Chinese New Year to the preschool children there.

The Chinese Immersion Program at Geneva West Elementary School introduced the concept of Chinese characters. Elyn Song demonstrated in many different ways the historical evolution and the meaning of some typical Chinese characters, which were well accepted by the students.



Works of the Immersion class at West Street School

Romulus Central School District

In January and February, the Chinese class at Romulus Central School hosted a series of activities on the theme, “Experience Chinese New Year”, which unveiled the celebration season of the Chinese Year of the Goat. Students took part in such activities as making traditional handicrafts, cooking Chinese dumplings, and enjoying Chinese

songs, as well as stories and games based on the Chinese Zodiac.

Michelle showed the young friends how to make Chinese lanterns and firecrackers, which helped local students decorate their houses in the traditional Chinese way. Her students are very proud of their work. Additionally, Michelle guided her students to play the Zodiac Fortune Wheel with their family members, who all enjoyed learning about the Chinese Zodiac.

Michelle also showed how to make and cook Chinese dumplings and prepared elaborately designed red envelopes with pictures of Chinese money in them for the participants, providing the children with a chance to get closer to the culture of the Chinese New Year celebration. Some students said they love Chinese culture so much that they will go to China when they grow up.



Students learning how to make dumplings

Northstar Christian Academy

After the Christmas season, students at Northstar Christian Academy of Rochester celebrated their first Chinese Lunar New Year in their Chinese culture and language class. Students learned about the traditions for celebration of Chinese Lunar New Year and the story of the Chinese zodiac. Students learned to do traditional paper cutting. Students in higher grades of elementary school cut 3-dimensional Chinese characters such as “春”- spring; younger students cut “羊”-sheep. The 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders learned to design and draw their first Qinghua plates (blue and white Chinese porcelain). They also learned facts about the Great Wall of China and the history of Confucius. The students were very excited by the splendid Chinese culture.

Students in high school started their second book. They have learned:

“喜欢，去，会，打，有……”
and other important function verbs and grasped the function structure. They can make a simple self-

introduction, and can also talk about their families, hobbies, classes, school, and daily life in Chinese. Two students signed up to take the AP Chinese examination this coming April. Let's pray and wait for their good news.



Mrs. Wu and the students cut Chinese characters

Binghamton City School District

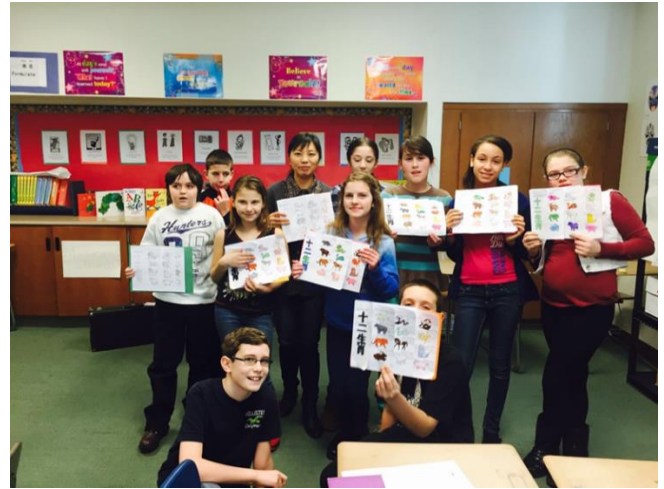
In January, CIAU faculty Zhaoyun Zhai and Yunchuan Jing continued teaching at West Middle School and tried different methods to enrich their classes. The students learned colors, how to make Chinese Peking Opera masks, and how to use the sentence structures, “I want to buy...”, “I like...”, “I do not like...”, followed by the names of some foods and drinks in Chinese. During this unit course, students learned and reviewed

some words about foods and drinks, role-playing to practice shopping and using chopsticks.

Zhaoyun Zhai taught her 6th graders the names of some animals, introduced the Chinese zodiac, and made a little book, “My Chinese Zodiac Book”, which all the students enjoyed. What’s more, she also designed a series of programs to introduce the students to traditional Chinese New Year customs and the story of “Nian”. Yunchuan Jing introduced traditional Chinese painting. The children tried the different style of painting and had great fun with it. At the end of the 10-week course at West Middle School, both of the teachers gave the students a comprehensive Chinese examination, including listening, speaking, and writing.

In February, Zhaoyun Zhai and Yunchuan Jing went back to East Middle School for another 10-week Chinese course. They highlighted course design, review, and interesting and effective language practice. Sixth graders can greet others, introduce themselves and their families, and make simple conversations in

Chinese. They developed confidence and interest in learning the Chinese language.



Zhaoyun Zhai and her students made little books “My Chinese Zodiac Book”



Yunchuan Jing taught students traditional Chinese painting.

2015 Chinese New Year Gala at AU

On February 21, the Confucius Institute at Alfred University sponsored its annual Chinese New Year Gala in the Knight Club in Powell Campus Center, with the

theme, “Chinese New Year Customs”. About 200 people from Alfred University and surrounding communities attended the gala, gaining understanding and celebrating the Chinese New Year in a festive and joyful atmosphere.

Many different customs were demonstrated, including writing spring couplets, decorating windows with paper cutting, dragon dancing, Tai Chi performance, guzheng performance, firecrackers, and traditional ways of wishing others a Happy New Year. Each custom was introduced by a student from a Chinese class. Also, delicious Chinese dishes were served, brought from Canton House Restaurant in the city of Rochester.



Emcee Susan Steere introducing spring couplets



Older guests were invited to give red packets to the children

The 2015 Chinese New Year Gala turned out to be a successful gathering under the cooperation of teachers and students from CIAU and Alfred University. It was not only a feast of new culture for our American guests, but also a “family reunion” for our Chinese guests.



The audience at the celebration at Alfred

Chinese New Year Family Night in Geneva

On February 25, a grand Chinese New Year Celebration Gala was held at Geneva North Street Elementary School. The gala featured all kinds of interesting and exciting cultural experiences, such as a chopsticks competition, lantern riddles, and a shuttlecock competition; students' project displays in the big gym; Kung Fu fan and martial arts in the small gym; making dumplings and food tasting in the cafeteria; story-telling in the library; shows and programs in the auditorium; and other popular activities including calligraphy, Chinese painting, and paper cutting. More than 300 students and their families participated and spent a delightful evening.



Children playing a game with chopsticks



A student showing her exhibit about China



Students at West Street School showing their calligraphy

The event was supported and attended by the Superintendent, Ms. Trina Newton; Director of Innovative Programs, Mrs. Tracy Marchionda; NSS principal, Danielle Ouillette; WSS principal, Mrs. Nina McCarty; and representatives of many other communities and organizations.

Daisy Visits *New York Lounge*

On February 6th, Zhongbei (Daisy) Wu, CIAU associate professor of music and guzheng teacher, was invited by SinoVision to be interviewed about her teaching experience in Alfred University.

Daisy discussed her courses “Guzheng: Music of China” and “Guzheng Ensemble” with Lin Tan, the emcee of *New York Lounge*. Since 2010, Daisy has had more than 100 touring performances and cultural activities in different school districts with her colleagues in CIAU. She has also been invited to give lectures about guzheng and Chinese music in a dozen universities in America. She is loved by her students and has received high praise from local residents.



Daisy on *New York Lounge*

Daisy said: “The process of cultural transmission should also be the process of sharing. Our traditional culture is a valuable spiritual wealth that should be shared with people around the world. The identity from culture sharing will bring us mutual respect among different cultures.”

Dumpling-Making Demonstration at Geneva High School

On February 12, CIAU faculty Rose Hu was invited to give a dumpling-making demonstration for the Food and Culture class at Geneva High School.



A student learning how to make dumplings
from Rose

Rose started with some Chinese cultural knowledge and then introduced six steps of the whole process, including making the dough, making fillings, forming wrappers, wrapping the dumplings, cooking the

dumplings, and serving the dumplings. The whole class ended with a delightful hands-on experience of the students' first attempts at dumpling-making.

Workshop on Teaching Material, *Explore Chinese*

On February 20th and 21st, all CIAU faculty and teachers from school districts came together in the Confucius House for a workshop led by Huiyang Li about the new teaching series, *Explore Chinese*. Huiyang Li first presented the revised issues of the textbook, reference book, and exercise book, which were independently produced by CIAU. Then, all the teachers had an intense discussion about how to revise the course book and how to add a series of teaching materials and audio-visual materials based on the smart-board system. Also, the CIAU teachers gave advice and suggestions according to their teaching situations in different school districts and feedback from their students. At the end of the workshop, Huiyang Li outlined several aspects of the next phase and introduced working

contents and related arrangements for everyone.



The scene of the workshop

Daisy's Lecture and Guzheng Concert in Buffalo

On February 26th, associate professor Zhongbei (Daisy) Wu was invited to give a lecture, "Traditional Chinese Music: Guzheng", to the teacher's seminar at Pausa Art Salon in Buffalo. During the 90-minute lecture, Zhongbei described the history and development of the guzheng, introduced traditional and modern guzheng music, and explained its impact on zither music in other Asian countries. After that, she also gave a concert, performing eight pieces for the audience. The event was very successful in that all the participants got a further understanding of guzheng, as well as

Chinese culture. Many of them hope Zhongbei can also perform guzheng in their classes.



Group photo with members of the audience

Chinese New Year Gala in Binghamton

On February 28th, the 2015 Chinese New Year Gala of Southern New York State was held at Binghamton West Middle School. CIAU faculty members Zhaoyun Zhai and Yunchuan Jing worked hard in preparation. Zhaoyun Zhai was responsible for teaching students paper cutting and providing logistical support for the activities. Yunchuan Jing was invited to be one of the hosts of the performance and also to make the background of the stage. In addition, Yunchuan Jing showed the

beauty of calligraphy in the form of Chinese classical dance, which gave the audience another way to understand Chinese calligraphy.



Group photo from the Southern New York State Chinese New Year Gala

Upcoming Events

March 11th: Confucius to School, Chautauqua Lake Central School.

March 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th:

A3 Diversity Program, Canisteo - Greenwood Central School District.

March 26th: Lecture on exploring Chinese Mountain and Water Painting Skills, Horton University.

April 16th - 18th: National Chinese Language Conference, Atlanta.

April 18th: HSK test, level 1 & 2, 9:30am -11:30am, Alfred.

Learn a Chinese Word and Know Its Culture

Chinese Lanterns

灯笼 dēng long

Chinese red lanterns have a long history. They started out as a practicality and evolved into elaborate status symbols, literally *riddled* with mystery.

The most common Chinese lanterns are red, oval in shape, and decorated with red or golden tassels, but they come in many forms; another common style is a square lantern.

Although there is no longer a practical need for Chinese lanterns, they are still made, used, and enjoyed by the Chinese people. They continue to be a means of artistic expression, both in terms of functionality, design, and decoration.



Source:

<http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/culture/la>

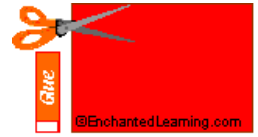
How to make a paper lantern for Chinese New Year:

Supplies:

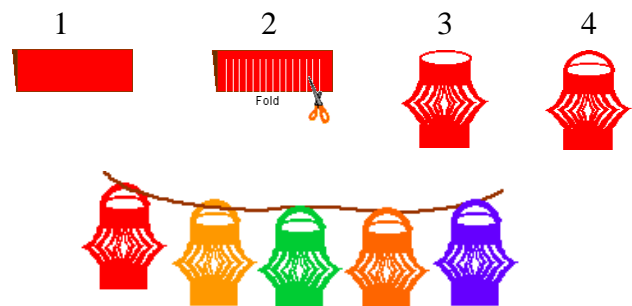
Colored paper (construction paper or gift wrap)

Scissors

Glue, tape, or a stapler



1. Fold a rectangular piece of paper in half, making a long, thin rectangle.
2. Make a series of cuts (about a dozen or more) along the fold line. Don't cut all the way to the edge of the paper.
3. Unfold the paper. Glue or staple the short edges of the paper together to make a circular lantern.
4. Cut a strip of paper 6 inches long and 1/2 inch wide. Glue or staple this strip of paper across one end of the lantern - this will be the handle of the lantern.
5. **Optional:** Make a lot of lanterns and string them along a length of yarn. Decorate your room!



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