

Hao Xiao Xi

Our “Good News” Bi-Monthly Newsletter

January 22, 2009

Jog-A-Thon Results

By MS. NOLL

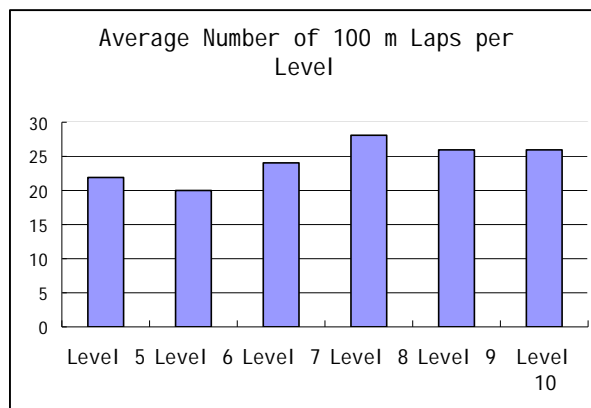
WOW! What an enormous success this event was! I can hardly believe the amount of money we raised! It is truly amazing to see the power behind a community coming together and contributing to make the world a better place. I know, I’m getting sentimental but seeing **our little school raise 32,760 RMB (\$4,680) is absolutely incredible!** All this happened through our children running as many laps as they could, and family and friends rewarding them for their efforts by donating to charity. I don’t think fundraising gets any better.

The Roots and Shoots students have decided that some of the money should go to help the desperate people in Haiti. We will donate through the Red Cross or GHESKIO so we are sure the money will be spent appropriately. In addition, there are many poor people living in the area around QSI who have been relocated here after losing their farms. We will donate food vouchers to help them over the New Year holiday. Finally, some money will go to orphans at the Yellow House Orphanage to buy new coats, food and bedding for the upcoming holiday. The orphanage closes for a month during the Chinese New Year and those children without any family at all are sent to “their house” to live for the month with neighbors to help look after them. The oldest children are 13 and are in charge of cooking, cleaning, etc. We will help them out by providing food and warm bedding for them while they are at “home”.

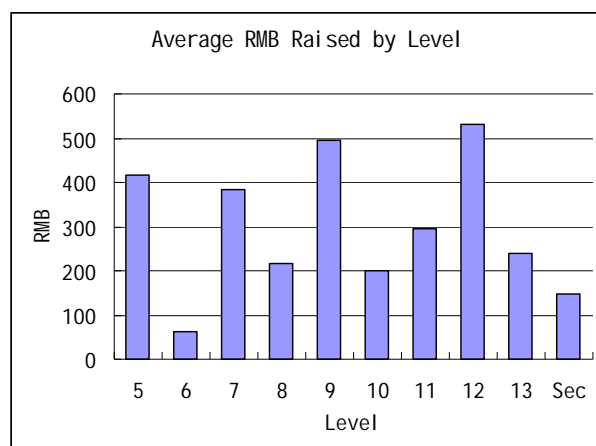
Take a look at the hard data from the fundraiser:

- 74 students donated money for the Jog-a-thon!
- Four classes donated over 4000RMB; they are level 5, level 7, level 9 and level 12.
- The classes with the most spirit on Jog-a-thon day were Levels 7 and 11. Popcorn party!
- The winning classes for the Highest Average RMB Raised per Student were Levels 9 and 12. Pizza party soon!

Secondary Total Kilometers	
Level 11	43.5
Level 12	47.4
Level 13	19.8
Secondary	23.7



Graph created by Mrs. vanOort's IT class.



Parent Helpers were a must for counting laps and yelling encouragement as students ran by. As usual we had great parent support! Thank you to: Debra Chandler, Ping Go, Selina Lu, Kim Dallas, Minu Rastogi, Xiaohong Zhou, Kattis Appelquist, Emelyn Oortwijn, Isabelle Dupont, Rebecca Nachtrieb, Patricia McCue, and Gerda van Oort. (I'm sorry if I missed a name.)

Throughout the year the students in Roots and Shoots have shown their commitment to helping others. Commitment to helping others comes through families and schools who look at how they can make the world a better place. Roots and Shoots is so proud to be a part of this community. Thank you for your continued support of our projects!

Good job everyone! What a great community we have.



Danny is sprinting to the finish!



Yue Yin just kept on going...



Tjeard is rockin' QSI pants and colors.



Patrick (after scraping his knee in the first 10 m) and Charles were awesome!



Running for charity brings teenage siblings together!

Chinese Week February 8-12

Once again, the Chinese teachers have planned a wonderful week for us to learn more about the culture of China and celebrate the fact that we live in Chengdu! **Please see the schedule attached to this newsletter for more detailed information.**

Each year our “Temple Fair” gets better. This year our Temple Fair day, Thursday February 11th, will be kicked off with a Lion Dance on the playground. If you have not seen this in person, please come and join us at 8 am! From 8 to 11, students in levels 3 - 10 and teachers will visit stations where they can experience and learn more about Chinese culture including Dough Art, Traditional Instruments, Crafts, Painting, Tea, making dumplings and more! Parents are more than welcome. The Chinese Assembly will be held from 11-12 noon in the MPR. Three to 11 YO students will be performing with their Chinese classes. Everyone is invited.

The Chinese Assembly for 12 YO – Secondary will be held the following day, Friday, January 12th . at 9:30. Again, parents are welcome to attend.

Secondary English – Past, Present, and Future

By MR. HOKE

After a successful autumn and early winter of fun with language, including short fiction, novels, poetry, and even children’s picture books, the serious work of late winter and spring is beginning in Secondary English classes. Gone are the halcyon days of old - sharing original poetry, puzzling over strange characters, and coloring illustrations. We have arrived, finally, at persuasion, argument, and research. Dreaded, dreaded research.

Despair not! Indeed, through the dungeon dusk of Chengdu’s January and February will come bursting rays of knowledge, a dawn of debate, from the third floor windows at QSI! Skills of critical analysis, evaluating source material, and synthesizing personal positions on issues of all sorts will bloom in the newfound light. However, there are many kilometers to go before we sleep. So how can families support these intrepid Secondary students in their daunting tasks?

Talk about stuff. Really! Discuss what is on your mind with your student. Students, carve out a few minutes and talk to ol’ Dad about his opinion on climate change, global warming, or heatin’ up (which, by any other name, smells thus). Ask Mum about economics. Get Grandma on Skype and explore her opinions on global trade and employment in wherever you call home. For a lifelong learner, nothing in life is divorced from the classroom. To successfully argue, we must know something and value something. So, please, talk about stuff and enjoy the exchanges!

International Week

March 15-19



The PSG is hard at work all ready preparing for International Week! During this exciting week students will present information about their own countries, learn about the countries of their peers and experience all the countries represented at QSI during our special International Day. Parents will work with “country managers” to determine what they would like to share about their country on International Day. If you don’t hear from a country manager, please call Cyndi Pill or Berenice Hernandez and they will get you in touch!



The 6 Traits of Writing

By MRS. NOLL

All teachers and students at QSI use the 6 Traits of Writing to evaluate and improve their writing. The 6 Traits, IDEAS, ORGANIZATION, VOICE, WORD CHOICE, SENTENCE FLUENCY and CONVENTIONS are posted in every classroom and specifically taught through the Language Arts program. Read the excerpt below from the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (a great source for teachers and parents) to find out how to look at your child's writing and help them review the traits to improve in a specific area.

"In the early 1980's, creative teachers in school districts across the country decided there must be a better way to gather useful information about student writing performance rather than with single scores or standardized tests.

Teachers wanted an instrument that would

provide accurate, reliable feedback to students and teachers, a tool that would help guide instruction. When an exhaustive search didn't produce such a tool, they rolled up their sleeves and began the difficult process of creating an analytic scoring system that would be valid, honest, and practical.

After evaluating thousands of papers at all grade levels, the teachers identified common characteristics of good writing. These qualities became the framework for the 6-trait analytical model, which has now grown to include a seventh, +1 trait. The model uses common language to identify the traits year to year as we refine our idea of what 'good' writing looks like by using the scoring guides.

Not everyone uses the 6+1 Trait model : ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. Some use four; some use more. These same six or seven characteristics show up on everyone's list in one form or another. The 6+1 Trait components are the foundation for the NWREL's writing assessment



model and the basis for the descriptive criteria we use to define the qualities of good writing at different levels of achievement. Once teachers know the traits well and have good consistency between rates and amongst groups, the link to instruction becomes clear. This is where the real fun begins.

The 6+1 Trait Writing model is now used in virtually every state in the country not to mention American Samoa, Amsterdam, France, Great Britain, South America, Saudia Arabia, China, Venezuela, Australia, Turkey, Bahrain, and other countries in the Middle East. It's the model or the source of the model used to score student papers in numerous state assessments and district assessments in virtually every state. Teachers from primary through college have embraced the 6+1 Trait model and not just English teachers, either. The traits are used by teachers of mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language, art, music; anyone for whom writing is an important part of instruction.

The link to instruction has become so real and so powerful that master teachers continue to utilize and refine the model after years of application while other educators are just beginning to discover it for themselves. We continue this good work by updating scoring criteria, developing new instructional materials, and attending to staff development needs of educators across the globe."

From educationnorthwest.org.

Family Yearbook Pages

For the past four years we have invited families to take out a page in our yearbook. Families submit a photo and sometimes a message to their children or to the community. These are submitted to Mr. Lambert and placed in the yearbook. He will be happy to help you with your page, please contact him by e-mail david-lambert@qsi.org. If you would like to create your own page, please make sure it is size A4 and saved as a Photoshop compatible file. The families who take out a page in the yearbook pay for the page, but also get a free yearbook. The cost for a family page is 300 RMB. The cost for a yearbook will be 200 RMB. All photos and family messages should be into Mr. Lambert by April 2.

The Counselor's Corner

By RON NOLL



Organization

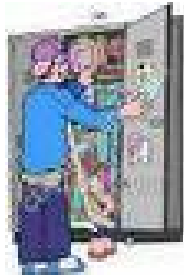
Is there an “organizational gene”? Levels of organization vary from being unable to find “anything”, to a clothes closet that is sorted by color, type, hangars with equidistant separation, tee shirts and even underwear that are folded and placed with the precision of a NASA flight plan.

Homework, class assignments, long and short-term projects are all thrust at our children and are dealt with in an infinite variety of ways. Some lockers are spilling toxic waste by mid-September while others are models of neatness with organizational logic that Intel craves. Jackets, sweaters and hats overflow the lost and found box. Why do some of our children have so much difficulty “getting organized” while others seem to come by it almost “naturally”??

So far, no one knows for certain. Our human personalities come from the “independent assortment” and “crossing over” of chromosomes during the process of cell division called “meiosis”. This genetic recombination is the main reason for the infinite variety of personality traits that appear. It is why we often hear these statements from parents and teachers: “the nut doesn’t fall far from the tree”, and “my child has been taken over by aliens”. For my parents the words, “He’s the milkman’s son”, reverberated in my house whenever they could not fathom the what, where or why of my behaviors!

Of course we see everyday the similarities between parents and their children and among siblings, as well as the differences. Many studies have been completed and much data analyzed concerning the nature/nurture controversy. But the fact remains that it is quite unnerving as a parent when your child throws that tantrum, brings a note home from the teacher describing some behavior that is in need of change, or causes us as parents to be reminded of ourselves or how our parents described us. Do we really have no idea from where our child’s particular behavior arose? Think again!

So is there an “organizational gene”? Perhaps,



but the organizational environment in which a child develops provides a foundational model for how one can gain some sense of control and piece together the complex world of growing up. The next time he/she forgets something important at school or loses something of value, step back and remember what you were like at that age. It may surprise you to see a great similarity or possibly a vast difference between the two of you. Either way, the frustration of being a parent exists.

When it seems that your child is beyond comprehension and out of your control, it may be something in his/her genetic mix that drives the tendency to be the way they are. You or your spouse, or a distant relative, could have passed on that little bit of DNA and or provided a perfect model, or both, to your child. It’s just the way “the ball bounces”, the chromosomes recombine and the brain reacts and adapts.

Can you help at all? You bet. Relax, get yourself organized and provide some basic role modeling. Also, enjoy both how similar to you, and how unique as well, your child is, while gazing with wonder at the marvel of nature and the amazing changes that take place each day due to the nurturing environment that you, your family, and the community provide for your child. You can help even from a very early age by helping keep track of toys, books, allowing your child to make that mess, but also to allow him/her to clean up and put those toys, books and games on the shelf. Later on, this type of organizational training looks like getting ready for school on time, keeping track of assignments and meeting deadlines at work. It all starts with a little genetic mix and some thoughtful modeling!

Dates to remember:

Jan 29: Level 7 Assembly, 8:15 am in MPR

Feb 5: Roots & Shoots babysitters, 6-10 pm at QSI

Feb 8- 12: Chinese Week

Feb 11: Temple Day with 3-11 YO assembly at 11 am

Feb 12: 12 YO-Secondary assembly, 9:35 in MPR

Feb 12: Q3 ASA end

Feb 13- 21: Chinese New Year holiday (February 12th is a full day of school)

March 3: Q3 ends

March 3: PSG meeting; 11 am

March 10: Q3 reports go home

March 15-19: International Week

Early Valentine Evening Planned?

QSI Roots & Shoots Students Will Babysit!

Give your children a fun evening with friends at school while you go out and enjoy yourselves!



When: Friday, February 5th

Where: QSI School

Time: 6:00 – 10:00 pm

Who's invited? 3-10 year old children

Who does the sitting: QSI students ages 11 to 16, Katherine Noll and others.

Activities: Outdoor games, stories, board games, bingo, art and a movie

Cost: 20 RMB per hour (Other donations will be accepted.)

Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 3rd!

Snacks will be available but NO dinner is provided.

- Please email Katherine Noll (katie_noll@yahoo.com) if you would like us to entertain your children for the evening.
- In your email, please include the name(s) of your child(ren), ages and approximate time they will be attending.
- Arrangements for the evening (Roots & Shoots babysitters, games, snacks, etc) will be based on the number of children attending and their ages.