

# CHINA BREEZE (中国风)

Issue 1

December 2008

*China Breeze* is produced quarterly. It is with great enthusiasm that we publish this first edition of our Chinese newspaper. This publication provides exposure for our outstanding Chinese program which is currently offered at 6 schools in the District. Chinese instruction is available at Stanton College Preparatory School, Mandarin High School, Ribault Middle School Team Up Program, Mandarin Middle School, Rufus Payne Elementary School and Mandarin Oaks Elementary School. Our newspaper will highlight the students' work as well as the teachers' impressions of American culture. We hope to share the unique aspects of this program as we prepare our students for the global world of the future. I wish to recognize the gracious generosity of Nichelle Stone for guiding us through the process of producing an electronic publication. We sincerely appreciate her expertise which made this endeavor possible. ----- Dr. Joanne Davis, Supervisor of World Languages

More information on *China Breeze*, including past issues can be accessed on the DCPS website at [www.duvalschools.org](http://www.duvalschools.org).

## Major Milestones

1. **Jan, 2007** The first Chinese Guest Teacher, Lei Yang landed at Jacksonville, started his fresh new experience as a Chinese Language Teacher in Mandarin High School.
2. **Aug, 2007** Another four teachers, namely, Guibo Miao, Zhijuan Liu, Ying Qian, Lei Xu arrived and four other schools at Duval County initiated their Chinese language program.
3. **Aug, 2008** Three new teachers, Zhiyan Shu, Yuanyuan Xiang, Xiaoyang Guo began to make their contributions to this program in Mandarin High School, Mandarin Middle School and Rufus Payne Elementary respectively.
4. **Nov, 2008** Under the co-sponsorship of Duval County and their schools, the Chinese teachers attended the ACTFL in Orlando. They reviewed the standards for Chinese Language learning together with the peer teachers coming across from America nationwide and gained the ability to develop their own curriculum and assessment programs aligned with the standards.



## Highlight

Mandarin Oaks Elementary School hosted the First Celebration of Chinese Language and Culture on Saturday, December 6, 2008. All of the 6 schools offering Chinese participated in the program as well as the musicians from the Chinese Youth String Ensemble. Students performed poetry, songs, skits and dialogues. The achievement in the mastery of the Chinese language was impressive. Each guest teacher prepared an exhibit which presented an aspect of Chinese culture. The Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools, Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Ms. Myrna Amos, Executive Director of School Programs-Academic Division and Director of The Jacksonville Chinese Association and the Principal of JCA Chinese School Dr. Zuorui Song shared remarks with the audience. At the conclusion of the program guests toured the exhibits and enjoyed refreshments provided by Dr. Hui Tang of First Primary Care & Family Medicine, Inc. and Bamboo Creek Restaurant.



## Why Do You Enjoy Learning Mandarin Chinese?

I enjoy Mandarin Chinese because I learn what I need to say when I go to China. If people ask me questions and I can answer them in Chinese. I also like Mandarin Chinese because it is fun to learn from a wonderful teacher.

-----Jessica Delson,  
(Rufus E. Payne Elementary School)

I am always looking forward to Chinese class. Ever since we started learning Chinese I have been interested in getting to know more about China's history, culture and its people. I LOVE CHINESE CLASS!

-----Melissa Berrio,  
(Mandarin Oaks Elementary School)

When you are in Chinese class you get to learn a lot of information. Like yesterday, we learned how to say dad, mom, sister and brother. I like this class because we learn a new language and it's going to help us with our future.

-----Esteban Guzman,  
(Mandarin Middle School)

I like Chinese class and think it's cool and should stay at Mandarin High, because it's an exciting language to learn and it's an out-of-the-ordinary type language. In Chinese you get to write cool-looking drawings called "characters". And learn how to write them properly so they look good.

-----Matt Stubbs  
(Mandarin High School)

When the bell rings after lunch, I get filled with happiness. I then realize that it is finally time for Chinese class. When I enter, I am ready to learn and the rest of the class is filled with enthusiasm. I am really glad that I have the opportunity to learn about other cultures other than my own. Overall this class has been a wonderful experience, and I cannot wait for Chinese 2 next year.

-----Geoffrey Finn  
(Stanton College Preparatory School)

## "I Have a Pen-Pal in China!"

*From Nov. 2007, Mandarin Oaks Elementary School(MOE) started its Pen-Pal program with Experimental School Attached to Capital Normal University in Beijing by Ms Lei Xu. So far over 600 letters have been exchanged between these two schools.*

### Letter from Yi Yang, a 10-year-old girl from Beijing



Dear Friend:

How are you? My name is Sunny, Yi Yang in Chinese. I live in Beijing, China. My school is called Experimental School Attached to Capital Normal University. I would like to introduce Beijing 2008 Olympic Games to you in this letter.

It is 29th Summer Olympics Games. It will begin on August 8th, 2008. Its slogan is: "One World, One Dream!" The Olympic torch has already been relayed in many countries, I am so proud to be a Chinese!

Wherever you go, you can see the Olympic Mascots, 他们是贝贝,晶晶,欢欢,迎迎和妮妮.

(They are called Beibei, Jingjing, Huanhuan, Yingying and Nini.) I think you will like them as I do. They carry a message of friendship and peace.

北京欢迎您! 欢迎你来参加奥运会!

(Welcome to Beijing! Welcome to visit Beijing Olympic Games!)

杨伊 (Yi Yang) written in June, 22rd, 2008

### Reply from Madoka Vaughn, MOE

你好:

很高兴收到你的来信!(Hello, It's very nice to hear from you!) My name is Madoka Vaughn, I am Japanese American. My dad is an American and my mom is Japanese. I am eleven years old 5<sup>th</sup> grader of Mandarin Oaks Elementary School in Jacksonville, FL, U.S.A. I am the only child, but I have a dog (Jack Russell Terrier) named "Pudding" who is like my little brother.

I am going to celebrate a holiday called Halloween on Nov. 31<sup>st</sup>. It is when you dress up like you are someone else (like a princess) and go around people's houses saying "TRICK OR TREAT!" Then people will give you candy.

Well that's all I want to tell you? Zaijian! (再见!)

Madoka Vaughn written in Nov. 12, 2008

## Voices of High School Students

### Chinese Essays (Stanton College Preparatory School)

我的中文课

By Jung Choi

我在 Stanton 学中文。我很喜欢学中文，因为中文很有意思。中文生词很多，语法也有点儿难。我每天晚上练习中文。我妈妈在家常常帮助我复习，练习写字。晚饭以后，我跟她一起练习中文。她觉得我中文说得很好，可是我中国字写得不太好。但是我觉得我中文说得不好，可是中国字写得不错。我的中文老师也常常帮助我。她帮助我说中文，也教我怎么写。因为妈妈和我的老师帮助我练习中文，所以我考试考得不错。(I am learning Chinese at Stanton. I like learning Chinese because it is very interesting. There are a lot of new words and the grammar is a little difficult. So, I practice Chinese every evening. At home, my mother often helps me review and write characters. After dinner, she and I practice Chinese together. She thinks that I speak Chinese very well, but do not write Chinese characters well. However, I think I don't speak Chinese very well, but write characters well. My Chinese teacher also often helps me. She helps me to speak Chinese and teaches me how to write characters. My mother and teacher help me practice Chinese, so I do very well on tests.)

### My Chinese Class

By Diane Lieu

In Chinese class we not only learn the Chinese language but also the Chinese culture. One way we learned about Chinese culture was a project on Chinese food. Every group chooses a province and a dish from that province. We also research how the surrounding environment affects the local cuisine. My group chose the Anhui province. Anhui province is home to many mountainous regions and bamboo groves, so one of the main dishes they have includes bamboo shoots. After having done this project, I feel that Chinese culture is as enriching as the Chinese food.

Modified by Ying Qian

## Voices of High School Students

### Collection of Poems (Mandarin High School)

暴风

By 翰林 Alex Wright

天有大暴风 Storm clouds in the sky  
我做白日梦 I am day dreaming  
促使我忧郁 This brings me sadness  
自然有和风 Nature is gentle breeze

我的猫

By 和平 K.I

我有一只猫 I have a cat  
它不是小豹 It is not a small leopard  
今早它睡觉 This morning, it sleeps  
它找梦很好 It is looking for good dreams

我的狗

By 和平

我有一只狗 I have a dog  
它喜欢吃肉 It like to eat meat  
它住在我家 It lives at my house  
它与我握手 It shakes my hand

Modified by Zhijuan Liu



## A Teacher's Impression



By Xiaoyang Guo of Rufus E. Payne Elementary School

Before my aircraft to Jacksonville landed at the airport, I still had some doubts about my new life here in the South. I spent one year teaching Mandarin Chinese in a middle school in Boston. I experienced a lot there: making friends with some teachers and students, meeting some kind American families who invited me to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and other holidays with them, sharing those merry moments with my students when they were attracted to Chinese and got involved in the games in my class, feeling blue after some “tough students” gave me a hard time in the class and crying a lot at the thought of my own home far away in China. There in Boston Winter seemed to be longer than I had expected. Most of the time I took care of myself: taking a subway or bus downtown for shopping or touring around, taking a taxi back to my apartment. I walked to the nearby beach for a bit exercise. That winter was the longest one in my life.

Since I stepped off my aircraft at Jacksonville airport I experienced many surprises. 1<sup>st</sup> surprise: I was met by a welcoming group composed of Dr. Davis, Mr. McDonald, Ms. Russ, Ms. Culpepper, Mr. Feagins, Miss Smith and Ms. Russ’s son and Mr. Feagins’ daughter (all the teachers were from Rufus E. Payne School except Dr. Davis and Mr. Donald). And I even got a lovely flower from Dr. Davis.

2<sup>nd</sup> surprise: Dr. Davis bought three of us new Chinese guest teachers Chinese dishes for dinner the first night upon our arrival.

3<sup>rd</sup> surprise: Dr. Davis tries to spare some of her weekend time to take us to do shopping, or she arranges some entertainment activities like watching American Football, going to the concert or musical plays, driving us to the bookstores and so on, which is beyond my expectation on basis of my previous living experience.

(To be continued )

## A Teacher's Impression

By Lei Xu, Mandarin Oaks Elementary School



### *Home, Sweet Home*

Holidays always bring us joy and memories. This is my second Thanksgiving in America. Time flies like an arrow! It has been one year and a half since my flight from Beijing first took me to Jacksonville. At that moment my imagination went wild about this beautiful coastal city which boasts to be NO.1 in US in terms of its geographical area.

It is so incredible to count how many lifetime experiences that I have encountered now. It was so exciting to learn how to drive in America and be a real driver on the road. It was so much fun to do shopping in The Town Center and get to know the big sales on Black Friday. It was unbelievable to witness the 2007 Macy’s Parade in NYC myself. It was almost like a dream to walk down the streets in Washington D.C. and see the amazing Smithsonian Museums during The Cherry Blossom Festival in May, 2008. It was so wonderful to realize my childhood dreams when Beautiful Snow-white and Cinderella came to life in Magic Kingdom. The Pajama Game made me laugh and the singing part was so amazing. I will never forget my Thanksgiving dinner at Ms Carson’s, I would always cherish Dr. Davis, our supervisor’s mother-like care to us and our strong team spirit brought by her artistic leadership. It was so precious to have a mentor like Mr. Lively who is always there for me wherever there’s a need.

I treasure these beautiful memories deeply in my heart. Jacksonville is not simply a city where I worked as a language teacher for a while. I know by the time I have to bid farewell, I will feel as if leaving my second home, a sweet home that I will miss forever and ever.

