

Beijing's essential international family resource

beijingkids

March 2017

Plus: a travel photographer visits Antarctica, city gardening programs, natural fixes for jet lag, and more

Summer Lovin'

One Beijing family takes camp fun into business

Crazy Heights

Dad and toddler hike Mt. Everest

Looking for Adventure

Make plans for summer camps near and far





SETTING THE BAR FOR BILINGUAL EXCELLENCE

Find out how your child can achieve bilingual excellence at our **OPEN HOUSE** for Daystar Beigao, or our **INFORMATION SESSION** Daystar Sanlitun

Daystar Beigao
(K-Middle School)
Wed. March 15th

Daystar Sanlitun*
(Elementary)
Sat. March 18th



010-56039446
admissions@daystarchina.cn
www.daystarchina.cn

Please scan QR code to register **TODAY!**

*Opening Sept. '17

Let Your Child's Bilingual Journey Begin With Daystar Academy!

Since 2002, Daystar Academy has been offering premier bilingual education to the Beijing community. As a 50/50 bilingual program, many often question whether Daystar Academy can truly achieve bilingual excellence in both English and Chinese. The most recent assessment data proves Daystar is delivering on its commitment.

Using student learning data to inform instructional practices is critical for any 21st century program, but is even more critical for bilingual programs. When students are learning content subjects through two languages, student learning outcomes must be monitored for not only content learning, but also language learning to ensure students graduate fluent in both languages.



ENGLISH READING

Ivy & Daystar KG

0.5 GRADE LEVELS
above peer kindergartens
in Beijing

ELEMENTARY

2 GRADE LEVELS
above U.S.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1.7 GRADE LEVELS
above U.S.

Assessment: US based MAP-Measures of Academic Progress
(Results from January 2017)



CHINESE LITERACY

Daystar Elementary

90

Average Score*

Dongcheng District Elementary Schools

90

Average Score

Assessment: Dongcheng District Exam* (Results from March 2016)



As one of the top bilingual schools in China, Daystar Academy is leading this important initiative to transparently collect and share student learning data from its program. Daystar Families want their children to be truly bilingual not only linguistically, but culturally as well in both Chinese and English. The only way to ensure that happens is by collecting, analyzing and sharing student learning data regularly with all stakeholders.

Based on three independent standardized assessments assessing student English reading and math, it is clear Daystar students outperform US and International Schools. For their Chinese literacy and math outcomes Daystar students are on par with Dongcheng District Public Schools. These facts hold true even though our students spend their instructional time split between two languages, English and Chinese.

Offering K-Middle School*, its current Beigao campus is located in Maquanying area. In September, Daystar will be offering its bilingual program for elementary students in the heart of the diplomatic area Sanlitun!

WOMEN OF CHINA



《中国妇女》英文刊 2017年3月(下半月)

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
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The beijingkids Board

AJ Warner

When AJ Warner is not with his two sons, he's coaching Chinese students on how to get admitted to the top 30 US universities. He also guides Chinese families through the process of sending their child to the US for high school and related homestays. Contact him at ajwarner@touchdown.org.cn.



Mike Signorelli

Mike Signorelli arrived in Beijing in 1994 as a student and has called China home ever since. He has held several senior management roles over the past 20+ years, including his last corporate job with NBA China. Mike is the founder of Signature Wine, China's first independent subscription wine club. Contact him at mike@sigwine.com.



Sara Wramner-Wang

Over the past 20 years, Sara Wramner-Wang has worked in various senior management positions at companies like Ericsson, Ikea, and Oriflame. She is currently the director of sales and marketing and head of admissions for EF Academy International Boarding Schools' Asia operations. Contact her at sarawramner@hotmail.com.



Eyee Hsu

When former CGTN talk show host and mom-preneur Eyee Hsu is not chasing after her two kids or the family dog, you might catch her at a Pilates studio or on TV. She formerly owned Counting Sheep boutiques and will be returning to the US this year. We'll miss her but wish her well!



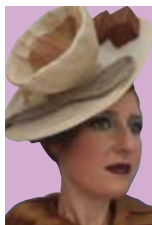
Caroline Nath

Caroline Nath moved to Beijing as a teenager after having grown up in the US, Canada, France, and India. She is a filmmaker, radio host, Parent Effectiveness Training teacher, founder of Bonne Nani Jams, and an organic food promoter. She has two multi-ethnic and multi-lingual children. Contact her at kulfidoll@gmail.com.



Elisabeth Koch

China's milliner, Elisabeth Koch, arrived in 2007 and hit the ground running with her hats. This TCK has two children who were born in Beijing. While her creations adorn famous heads on the covers of international glossies, Koch gives hat-making workshops in her studio and is kept busy by the kids. Find out more information at www.ElisabethKoch.net



Samantha Zhang

Samantha spent the past decade working for international corporations but in 2015 she founded JZ-Atelier Jewelry studio. The studio focuses on teaching systematic skills training so students are able to design, select materials, and fabricate their very own artistic jewelry from beading necklaces to handcrafting silver jewelry. When Samantha is not working, she enjoys spending time outdoors with her family. You can reach her at legendaryzhang@yahoo.com.



Camilla Simoni

Originally from Denmark, Camilla Simoni has lived in Beijing for the last 4 years with her husband and their 3 boys (4, 10 and 12 years old). Before moving to China, she worked as a health visitor, conducting in-house check ups, breastfeeding counseling, and other issues related to having a newborn. After she moved to Beijing, she finished her Master's in Sociology and took part in the start up business "Challet Baby."



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ON THE COVER:

The younger of the Warner brothers, Trey, graced us with his presence. He is currently a student at Daystar Academy. He is fun and free-spirited without a worry about social pressure. He's currently working on a database library as his programming project. Read more about him and his family on page 48.

Photography by Dave's Studio



BEIJING, CHINA

Keystone Education Salon Series

WHERE WORDS FAIL MUSIC SPEAKS

A DIALOGUE WITH
XI CHEN AND WENBIN JIN
ABOUT NURTURING
CLASSICAL MUSIC APPRECIATION
WITHIN OURSELVES AND
IN OUR CHILDREN.

6:30-8pm, 20 March (Monday)
Performing Arts Center

To register for this event, call 80496008 ext 2037
or email event@keystoneacademy.cn

Smart Summers

This isn't meant to embarrass my parents, but as I got older, I started hating summers more and more until I moved on to college. I love my parents very much, but when it comes to summers, I've decided to break away from the pattern my parents set.

When I was young, summers were easy as all I wanted to do was play in the yard and hang out with my friends. Since my older brother and sister were both teens, it was easy for my parents to facilitate that even when they needed to work. Once I moved into middle school years though, we often defaulted to watching TV or playing video games after my summer reading list was completed. Even the one summer we went on a typical family road trip, was largely spent, well, on the road, listening to music and trying not to get carsick (though I admit Crazy Horse Monument was worth the trip). All my summers, as an older child and in retrospect, were wasted on mindnumbing "entertainment" I can't even recall, except for bits of scenes from *Final Fantasy 7* and *Morrowind*.

Now don't get me wrong, educational games are cool and worth the time if they accomplish their purpose. The point of this note is not to knock the amazing advances happening in gaming and tech industries, but why limit the child to just playing the games? Why not encourage a place and space where the child can make a game?

Summer is a precious time for children and students where they can explore their own interests in ways they never have before. For older students, it's a chance to intern to start learning more about potential future careers. Here at beijingkids we had a fantastic intern this past summer who was only 13 years old at the time she was with us.

So, to help make plans for an awesome summer, we packed this issue full of summer camp options that are available overseas (p 53) and in Beijing (p 32). The Warner brothers, featured on our cover, shared with us their passion for one overseas camp in particular, and how they have turned their love into an entrepreneurial pursuit (p 48). We rounded up the gear that kids would need to make a trip overseas (p 18) and asked Dr. Melissa Rodriguez to give us a few home remedies for jet lag and tummy aches which are safe for kids (p 26). We asked Chris Lentner at Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) how students can cope with shyness or "trouble fitting in" and when it's more serious (p 40).

In addition to this summer topic, Stefen Chow talked with us in Dynamic Dad about his bonding moment with his toddler as they climbed up part of Mt. Everest together (p 42). Tristan Macquet shared with us the benefits of gardening and how Nurseries for Nurseries reaches out to Beijing schools in *Playing Outside* (p 28). Dan Sandoval spoke with Year 7 students at the British School of Beijing, Shunyi about his trip to Antarctica to photograph the wilderness and wildlife for *When I Grow Up* (p 36).

We hope you enjoy this issue, and that planning is a bit easier this season.

Vanessa Jencks

Vanessa Jencks
Managing Editor



Chicago still remains one of my favorite tourist spots



Week passes at a museum on our long cross-country trip



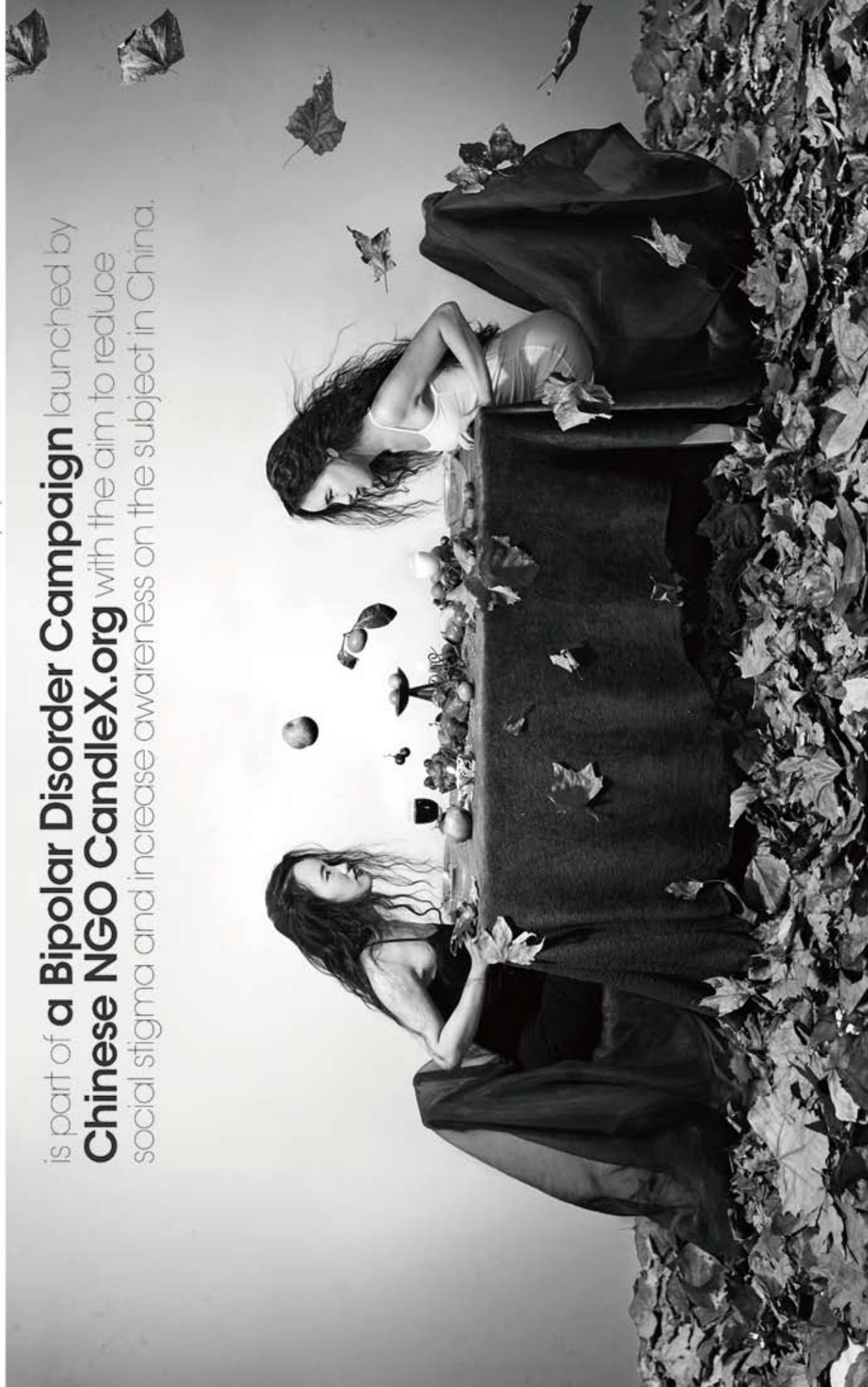
Though a road trip highlight, I didn't appreciate the bird too



"Behind Grey Walls"

by Spanish artist Pere Ibañez

is part of a **Bipolar Disorder Campaign** launched by **Chinese NGO CandleX.org** with the aim to reduce social stigma and increase awareness on the subject in China.



What's New

A Cautionary Tale

Anyone who lets their teenage son or daughter use their cellphone might think again, after hearing about the 13 year old from Shanghai who ran up a bill of a quarter of a million kuai on a "live-broadcast" app. These apps allow performers to stream their shows directly to the phones of their fans, and to receive payments from them. It appears the girl had developed an obsession with a karaoke singer who uses the name "Yang Guang." She was giving the singer gifts for two months before her mother realized what was happening. Tencent, which runs the app, have said that if she can show that the payments were made by a minor without consent, they will arrange a refund. Parents of teenagers, however, should take note.



Congrats to Jin and Jennifer

Congratulations to Jin Chan Yum Wai, who just got married! Jin is the genius artist behind our comic strip, Harmony and Steve. He and his beautiful wife Jennifer Li (李翔) got hitched in Jin's hometown of Canberra, Australia, and her family came over for the big day. They had a few days on the beach in Queensland before returning to Beijing, and tell us they're saving for a proper honeymoon. All of us here at *beijingkids* wish them many years of harmony and happiness to come.



Open Book at Our Little Library

Young children develop so fast, they get through a lot of books. And finding new material at the right level can be a challenge in Beijing. Now one Sanlitun mother has come up with a solution – she's turned her living room into a library! Aldith Gauci, a mother of two, opens Our Little Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11.30am, for storytelling and craft sessions. Attendees can also browse and borrow books. To find out more, and to register for sessions, visit our website www.beijing-kids.com and search for "Our Little Library."



Fab Five Bring Beatles Tunes to Babies

There's another musical treat for little ones at the China Millennium Monument Theatre, as four musicians and a dancer perform Beatles favorites in an interactive child-friendly concert. The instruments used are violin, clarinet, cello and percussion, so it promises to be an interesting interpretation. Performances run from 4-5.30pm on 9-12 March, and tickets are available online from en.damai.cn.



A Musical Voyage with BICO

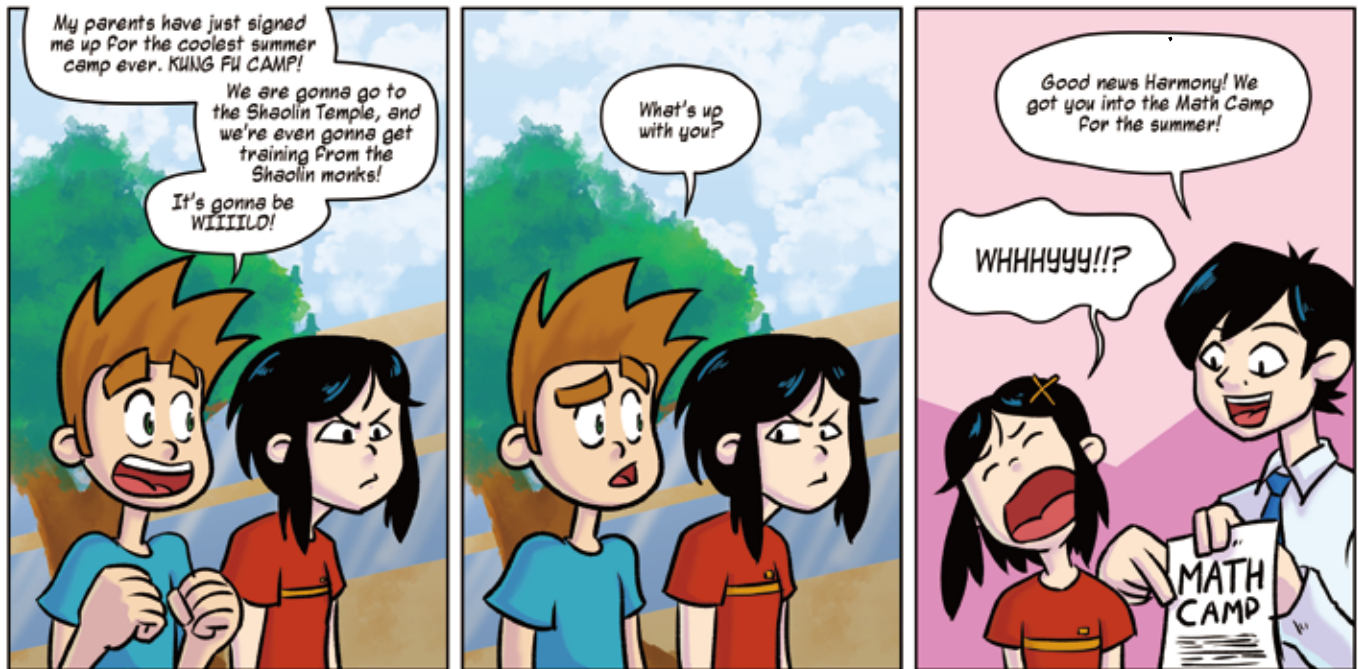
This month Beijing International Chamber Orchestra (BICO) will present a concert of music aimed at children, with a theme of "All About the Sea." Suitable for children aged three and up, with an early start time of 4pm making it easier to get home by bedtime, the concert will take place on 18 and 19 March at Canadian International School Beijing (CISB). As well as familiar music by Wagner, Mendelssohn and Rimsky-Korsakov, the concert includes the world premiere of a symphonic suite by the orchestra's conductor Maria Nauen, and a piano concerto by Joachim Raff.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JIN CHAN YUM WAI, MICHAEL COGHILAN VIA FLICKR, BICO, ALDITH GAUCI, SLGGKC VIA FLICKR

Harmony and Steve

by Jin Chan Yum Wai



#LearnISB

The International School of Beijing is now accepting applications for the 2017/18 school year. Visit our website and find out the difference an education at ISB can mean for your child.

www.isb.bj.edu.cn



IGNITING A PASSION FOR LEARNING • CARING FOR ALL • IMPACTING LIVES



March Events



Thurs, March 2

YCIS Beijing Open Day: Innovative Spaces Accommodating 21st Century Learning



Adults. Join Yew Chung International School Beijing (YCIS Beijing) for their Open Day and learn more about the school's unique education model. Parents will have the opportunity to learn about the inner transformation that their children can undergo as a part of their YCIS Beijing experience! Free. 9.30am. YCIS.

Sat, March 4

BCA School Open Day



For adults. Visit Beijing Collegiate Academy's (BCA) campus for BCA School Open Day. Learn what BCA is all about directly from their Headmaster, Ms Karen Mazurek, who will lead an informative presentation on BCA's IPC curriculum followed by a Q&A and a campus tour. (010-56812565)

Sun Mar 5

The Voice of China Party



For teens. This month starts with spring awakening called *Jingzhe*. Chinese karaoke will have the same effect! Grab the chance to learn to sing some classical or popular Chinese songs. The custom is to eat pears so, if you get tired, relax a little by eating a tasty pear or two! Registration required. RMB 100. 2-5 pm. That's Mandarin School. (010-52186432)



DCB Open House

Meet our teachers and students, tour the school and learn about:

- Our Senior School curriculum and after school activities
- Leadership opportunities and pastoral care
- University counselling

9:00am – 11:30am

Friday 10 March 2017

Legend Garden Campus

For more information and to reserve seats please email us at RSVP@dulwich-beijing.cn

Dulwich College. Founded in 1619. Inspiration starts here.

DULWICH COLLEGE | BEIJING |

北京德威英国国际学校



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- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Editor's Pick | Dining | Playing | Learning |
| Community | Living | Health | Parenting |

Wed-Thur, March 8-9

Riviera Chic



In celebration of Women's Day, this curated ensemble of boutique fashion, beauty, accessory, and design labels is brought together to create a one stop easy shop with 15 pop-up vendors in attendance. Free. 10am-6pm (Wed), 10am-4pm (Thur). Beijing Riviera Villas. (135 100 4204)

Fri, March 10

2 DCB Senior School Open House



All ages. Prospective parents are invited to take a campus tour led by Dulwich College Beijing's (DCB) Senior School students. Watch lessons in action and have a chance to ask questions. Free. 9-11.30am. Dulwich College Beijing, Legend Garden Campus. (6454 9068, Maggie.Jiang@dulwich-beijing.cn)

Wed, March 15

Harrow Parent Partnership Programme Lecture: Language and Learning



For adults. This lecture will focus on the benefits and reasons for children to learn languages. Speakers will share three main tips to help your child with language learning. Free. 3.30pm. Harrow Beijing Lecture Theatre. (6444 8900, www.harrowbeijing.cn)

Thurs, Mar 16

INN Coffee Morning at BSB, Shunyi Chatterbox



All ages. The British School of Beijing, Shunyi (BSB, Shunyi) is hosting this month's International Newcomers Network (INN) Shunyi coffee morning. Join them for an opportunity to meet other newcomers and old-timers in the Shunyi area. Free. 10am-Noon. BSB, Shunyi, Chatterbox Café. (8047-3588, www.bsbsunyi.com)



PHOTO: COURTESY OF DCB



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Admissions Open House

We are currently accepting enrollment applications for Grades 7 -11

Thursday, 6 April 2017
9:30am to 11:00am

For more information and reserve seats please email us at bj55iss@bj55.cn

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3 Four-Day STEM Robotics Workshop at BSB, Shunyi

The British School of Beijing (BSB) STEM/ Robotics Maker Academy will help students develop collaboration and teamwork, as well as engage their higher level and critical thinking skills. The workshop will also begin the students' journey to become future digital experts, satisfy their curiosity, and exercise their ingenuity.

Sun, Mar 19

4 Flux Film Festival (Last Day for Submissions)

Ages 8+ The annual Flux Film Festival is an event run by Beijing City International School (BCIS) students and staff members. By giving youth a chance to dream, create, and enter a short film, the event serves as a platform for entrants to communicate and share their messages worldwide. Proceeds from the event will go to "Help a Child Smile" foundation, a charity which provides orphaned children with cleft lip palate the chance of surgery correction. The last day for submissions is 19 March. (thefluxfilm.com, flux@bcis.cn)



Want your family-friendly event to appear
in our April issue?
Upload it at www.beijing-kids.com/events by **March 10.**

Mon, March 20

5 WAB Open House – Middle and High Schools

All ages. At these intimate and customized sessions, families will have the chance to get into the classroom to see Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) teaching and learning in action. WAB offers an innovative education, access to cutting-edge technology, a warm and inclusive environment, and more than 400 extracurricular activities. WAB is a leading, non-profit international school, with 51 nationalities, and is proud to offer the full suite of International Baccalaureate programs. Free. 9.30am-12.30pm. Western Academy of Beijing.



5



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BCIS, WAB



Etonkids
Educational Group 伊顿国际教育集团

伊顿幼儿园复活节 Etonkids Easter Event

欢迎来伊顿幼儿园，参与丰富有趣的复活节活动！4月16日，等待你的加入！

Come and **join us** for our fun, colorful, and simply **EGGcellent Etonkids Easter Event!**

精彩活动预告 Event Highlights:

奇趣寻宝 Family Easter Egg Hunt

趣味彩蛋 DIY Egg Coloring

创意美食分享 Pie & Cookie Decorating

亲子互动游戏 Interactive Parent-Child Games



了解更多伊顿幼儿园的信息，您可以致电预约参观校园，或通过官方网站、微信公众号与我们联系。
To learn more about Etonkids or make an appointment for a campus tour, go to our website, WeChat, or call our hotline.





Editor's Pick



Dining



Playing



Learning



Community



Living



Health



Parenting

Want your family-friendly event to appear
in our April issue?

Upload it at www.beijing-kids.com/events by **March 10.**



Mon, March 20

WAB Open House – Middle and High Schools



All ages. At these intimate and customized sessions, families will have the chance to get into the classroom to see Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) teaching and learning in action. Free. 9.30am-12.30pm. Western Academy of Beijing.

Fri, March 24

6 WAB Idol



All ages. In this variety show, performers from Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) High School will dazzle you with song, dance and a wide range of talents. 7-9.30pm. Western Academy of Beijing. (Contact hsreception@wab.edu for tickets)

Sat, March 25

7 English Story Time



Ages 3-6. Parents interested in improving concentration and English listening skills can sign up for English storytelling. Kids can experience a journey to a fairytale kingdom and develop focus and creativity. Free for members, RMB 80 for non-members (includes one adult and one child). 4.30-5.30pm. Kids' Intelligence Development Academy. (400 805 9698)

The First Annual YCIS PO Charity Ball



Adults. Yew Chung International School, Beijing's Parent Organization (PO) cordially invites all to attend their first annual Charity Ball. All proceeds generated from ticket sales and raffle auction prizes will be donated to the Seeds of Hope Foundation, an initiative to create Hope Schools in impoverished areas throughout mainland China. RMB 900/individual, RMB 9,000/table. 5.30pm. JW Marriot, Xuanwumen.



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www.sibs.com.cn



- | | | | |
|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|
| Editor's Pick | Dining | Playing | Learning |
| Community | Living | Health | Parenting |



8



9

Wed, March 29

**Parent Partnership Programme Lecture:
9 Mandarin and Other Languages**



Adults. Do you want to know to which university courses Mandarin and other language learning will lead your child? Attend Harrow Beijing's lecture on language learning! Free. 3.30pm. Harrow Beijing Lecture Theatre Upper School. (6444 8900, www.harrowbeijing.cn)

Ongoing

8 BSB Baby and Toddler Group



Adults and ages 1-18 months. Families with little ones ages 1-18 months can come to meet other expat families, enjoy playing with age-appropriate toys, creating seasonal crafts, singing, moving, and lots more. Drinks and snacks provided. (Open to foreign passport holders only). Free. Fridays, 9-10.30am. BSB, Shunyi, Soft Play Room, A119. (8047 3558, RSVP to play@britishschool.org.cn, www.bsbshunyi.com)



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SAY HELLO TO BEIJING'S SMALLEST

Want to share your new arrival with our readers? Email a photo (at least 1MB in size) of your little one with their full name, nationality, birth date, hospital, and parents' names to editor@beijing-kids.com. Due to space constraints, we will only publish photos of babies born in Beijing after **July 1, 2016**.



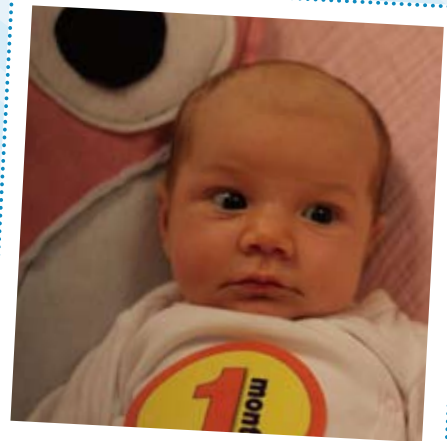
Lotte Mei Damme

German. Born on August 23 to Renske and Stefan Damme at Beijing United Family Hospital.



Lukas Scheffel

German. Born on September 8 to Nicol and Manuel Scheffel at Beijing United Family Hospital.



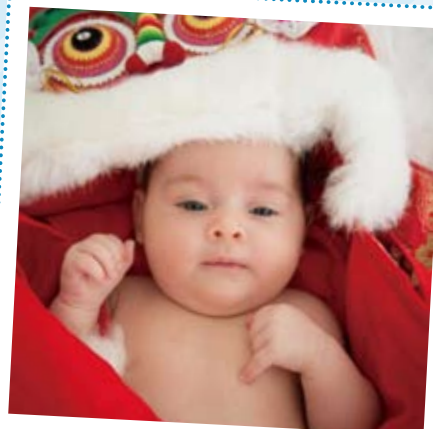
Marie Dauphin

German. Born on September 11 to Stefanie and Marc Dauphin at Oasis International Hospital.



"Little Star"

Chinese. Born on January 28 to Julia Zhu and Yubo Guo at Beijing Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital.



Valérie Hammerer

Austrian/German. Born on August 30 to Janine and Georg Hammerer at Beijing United Family Hospital.



Glacial Gift

A detoxifying mask for better pores

by Vanessa Jencks

Before Ella Chen, mom and cofounder of exquisite earth elements (e3), settled in Beijing, she went to university in Canada at Lambton College. While there she met a woman from the Homalco tribe who told Ella about the powerful properties of Canadian glacial oceanic clay. The ancestors of the Homalco and other Canadian tribes had been using the clay as medicine for a plethora of ailments. "At that time, I didn't think about making it into a skincare product," Chen says. But the clay and its properties stuck in the back of her mind. She later transferred to Central Michigan, where she would give birth to her son and became friends with her future US partners.

One day, as a mutual airline attendant friend of theirs started to complain about how greasy her skin got after wearing makeup for hours for her job, Ella was struck with the idea of turning the mud into a skincare product. "I said, 'I know something that can help!' and that's basically how we came up with this idea."

Their main headquarters is in Atlanta, likely due to the ease of setting up there, but Chen and her husband head up the company here in Beijing. Currently the mask is sold only in the US and in China, but the product remains the same regardless of which country the mask is purchased in, unlike other luxury masks which have been rumored to include paraben in their non-US products.



What makes the e3 mineral mask so special is the glacial oceanic clay, which is considered a Canadian treasure and the extraction of which has strict Canadian government regulations. Researchers at the University of British Columbia, including professor-emeritus Julian Davies, found in a *bona fide* study that this clay's microbial properties even combated dangerous superbugs (known as ESKAPE pathogens). The study was published in the science journal American Society for Microbiology, and Radio Canada International interviewed Professor Davies about the clay.*

There are 50 finely ground minerals in the clay in its natural state, and e3 adds pomegranate and willow bark extract, and cedar wood, rosemary, and bergamot oil for additional skin-promoting benefits. There are no artificial perfumes or colors, and no parabens or binding agents in this mask. The clay acts in an ionic way to pull out impurities and oil in skin.

At RMB 399, we admit that the whole mask is pricey, but one day's mask takes just a small bit of clay from the 80-gram jar, which is glam and paired with a quality brush applicator. We also tried out a free sample of the mask and noticed it dries quickly, the smell is pleasant, not strong, and it washes off easily.

Learn more about the mask at www.eeelements.com or check out their Instagram for their US-based testimonials (@exquisite_earth_elements). To try a sample or purchase the mask in China, connect with them on WeChat (ID: e3official).

* Source: www.rcinet.com

Packing Well

Equip your traveller with summer camp necessities

by Vanessa Jencks

If you've ever had trouble packing efficiently and lightly for a trip abroad, imagine preparing for your child's first solo trip overseas. Don't worry, and take a deep breath. Most camps will have a list of goods that must be sent, but we've come up with a few essentials and where to find them here in Beijing.

Packing Up

We suggest kids go with one suitcase and backpack for the airplane, plus one small daypack for camp that's easy to carry around. Decathlon has great daypacks that are good quality and inexpensive.

Bags range from RMB 19 to 69. Some have side pockets for water bottles.



Vitals

Along with a vitals bracelet, we suggest a key ring for kids that would include a mini flashlight and a waterproof USB. Before they head off, you can store a copy of their passport, flight itinerary, medical records, addresses, and anything else an adult caretaker might need to access in the case of emergency.

This 16 GB USB by Teclastis costs only RMB 36 and is available on JD.com.



Leak-proof Water Bottle

A pet peeve of ours is a reusable water bottle that leaks. Readers have suggested the ever-loved Nalgene, the Bobble, and Lock & Lock. Nalgene and Bobble win for a trip being lightweight, but Lock & Lock is perfect if students will miss hot tea from home. Remind kids that liquids can't be taken through airport security at most airlines, and so they should empty their water bottles before going through security check-in.

If you want to help protect the environment with reusable bottles, it costs. All three brands cost in the RMB 100 range and are available on JD.com. Bobble can be found at most BHG supermarkets.

Shutting Down Mosquitoes

A new find for us is Bebebugs. Mom Carol Ong made this itch eraser and mosquito repellent after her first product, Bebebalm, was made for her baby's severe eczema. She brainstormed with her aunt, a dermatologist, and her husband, a doctor and biochemist, for this natural remedy. She's a self-described geek for such solutions. It's made from organic virgin coconut oil, lavender, neem, and plant-based lauric acid, naturally found in breast milk and plants.

Bebebugs sticks set of 2, RMB 39, Bebebugs 20g jar, RMB 59. They're available on Taobao and WeChat (bebebal.taobao.com, WeChat ID: LadyMagix)



Other Necessities

Along with the waterproof USB, parents and kids could also create a keychain of a small bottle of hand sanitizer, a small keychain flashlight, and a whistle (for emergencies). These can all be found at your local Decathlon, with the hand sanitizer and flashlight at the front. Decathlon also has a great assortment of waterproof watches, but we suggest having kids trying out watches for comfort before sending them along for an overseas camp.





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Red Hot

Catherine de France gives Katie Musser
a bright and warm chop.

Text by Vanessa Jencks, Photos by Uni You



Katie Musser is originally from California but came to Beijing after four years in Al Ruwais in the UAE. Previously, her family lived in Qatar, and the US before that. Musser is a contract geologist, while her husband, Todd, is a secondary school teacher. Thaddeus, their son, turning seven, and Tirzah, their daughter, turning four, both have birthdays in March. Musser previously worked as a geographic information systems (GIS) specialist for an energy land contract company before taking a break to settle her home

in Beijing.

When Musser arrived, she told Catherine de France's master stylist, Elien Oberliin, that she was open to anything. Friends in UAE would suggest she get something done. She laughed, "My hair is the color of dirty dish water." But the prices in the UAE were outrageous, and

"I didn't think they could make mom any more beautiful, but they did."

her dyed hair would come back feeling rough and uncomfortable.

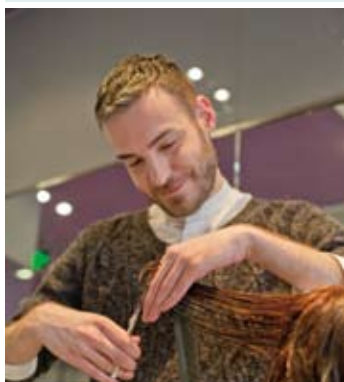
As Oberliin put on the dye, we could see it was going to be a very different color, but everyone was delighted to see how it turned out. Musser was pleased with the service. When she looked at the prices of just a cut, she considered it reasonable, especially for her son, Thaddeus. He has curly hair, and it is difficult for her to cut and would be difficult for local stylists.

Typically, Musser is a wash-and-chase-kids type of lady, but after the visit to Catherine de France, she found she trusted the salon and took their advice to use a mask to protect her color. Her children were excited to see her when they got home and her husband remarked, "Who is that woman? I didn't think they could make mom any more beautiful, but they did."

The Mussers did indeed go back to visit Catherine de France later, and they took friends, too.

Step 1

Wash, and quick trim because the hair was so long (no need to dye all of it).



Step 2

Add color and highlights, repeat wash.



Step 4

Makeover stylist Mary Deng applied foundation, concealer, and bronzer.



Step 5

Deng accentuated the eyes with an eyeshadow color perfect for blue eyes.



Step 6

Den finished the look with blush and brushed on red lipstick.



Step 3

Cut hair, blow dry with a round brush and cut bangs.



Catherine de France 法式美容美发沙龙 Tue-Sun 9am-9pm.
B1 East Avenue Bldg., 10 Xin Dong Lu, Chaoyang District (8442 5120, 135 2147 3492, eastavenue@catherinedefrance.com) 朝阳区新东路10号逸盛阁首层

Seward Mediter Alchemy, 13/0 Argan Oil
Butterfly Shadow, Hard Hold Hairspray
Retouche Express Correction Instantanee
CoCoser Foundation
021 Sun Light bronzer
Ombres TRIO, Brownie color
Mac 6 Snowglobe Eye Shadows/Cool
Bleunuit Glamorous Evening Mascara
Loreal Duchess Rose
Lancome, Lipstick, color 195



A Mexican Feast

Taste testing at QMex Bar and Grill

Text by Pauline van Hasselt, Photos by Uni You

We met the energetic Liam at the equally lively QMex Bar and Grill in Sanlitun. Liam is a five-year-old student at Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) in Shunyi. He plays the drum and practices kongfu in his free time. QMex's chef was creating a kids' menu. Lucky for us, they needed a taste tester, and Liam was kind enough to delight us with his honest opinions. "I can eat the whole restaurant," was one of his first reactions.

QMex is a big colorful restaurant, but when we asked Liam what he thought of the interior he said it was small. And here we thought everything seems bigger when you are five years old!



We got together with the chef and had a look through the menu to make a selection for Liam to taste. We started with a corn cob (RMB 35) roasted on the grill. Liam was not sure what he saw when the corn came out as it was charred from the grill. He had corn the night before and we asked him what he thought of this corn, he said, "Not so good with the burned flavor." We were not kidding when we said he would be honest.



QMex Bar and Grill Kids Menu

Quesadillas RMB 30
Nachos RMB 35
Chicken taquitos RMB 25
Spaghetti bolognese RMB 30
Spaghetti with tomato sauce RMB 25
Pizza Margarita RMB 30
Salami pizza RMB 35
French fries RMB 15

After bravely trying the corn, the taquitos (RMB 25) were up for the test. Taquitos are corn tortillas rolled up with chicken inside and then deep fried. Other than being too hot to touch at first, they were a hit. Big smiles and a "pretty good" from our small but critical food tester.



The taquitos were followed by the biggest hit of the lunch, nachos with sour cream and guacamole (RMB 35). Liam said the nachos "are like a dream come true!" Following this epic dish, Liam got a mini burrito with rice, beans, and corn. Liam was not a big fan, and wanted to keep eating the nachos instead.

Liam ordered a mango smoothie (RMB 40) which came with added kale. Liam did not notice, so this was a brilliant way of adding some veggies to the lunch. Then Liam tasted the quesadilla (RMB 30), two flour tortillas grilled with cheese in the middle, a big hit in our household. Liam dipped the quesadilla in the sour cream and devoured the cheesy Mexican dish.



We finished the marathon session of food tasting at QMex with the giant dessert nachos (RMB 65), a heap of fried flour tortillas, topped with cinnamon sugar, fresh fruit, jam, and chocolate syrup. Essentially anything you can want from dessert was on top of the nachos.

QMex has a great formula for a weekend lunch with kids. Dads and moms can enjoy some Slow Boat beer on draft and give in to the family's Tex-Mex cravings.

QMex Bar and Grill

10.30am until 2.30am. Building 80, 1F H01, Gongti Beilu, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District 北京朝阳区工体北路4号80号楼一层H01室



All-American S'Mores Roll

The Only Camping Recipe You Need

Text by Pauline van Hasselt, Photos by Uni You

Nick, Laura, Lily, and Landon Lyman, an all American family, welcome us to their home in Shunyi to show us a new take on an old time camping favorite. They combine two of the sweetest culinary delights America has to offer: S'mores and Rice Krispies rolled up in one big log of happiness.

The Campfire Marshmallow Company published a cookbook in 1920 with the first recipe of s'mores, and the recipe quickly became popular with boy and girl scouts. The name s'more comes from the phrase "Please, I'd like **some more.**"

Laura is Vice President of the Girl Scouts in Beijing and her 9 year old, Lily, is a Brownie with troop 15 in Shunyi. Together they attend regular meetings, and last year they had their first camping

trip with the girl scouts, roasting s'mores by the campfire. As Laura homeschools Lily, this is just one of the activities they are involved in as a family. Homeschooling Lily is the best fit for the Lymans as Dad is a pilot and has unexpected shifts, flying in and out of Beijing. Mom set up a classroom in their home where she schools Lily, and spends precious time with two-year-old Landon.

The Lymans have been in Beijing for almost four years, exploring the diversity and culinary delights like Peking duck and *jian bing* pancakes. They love entertaining and spending time with their friends, hosting game nights, and having the kids play together around their home in Shunyi.

**Ingredients 食材:**

15 oz marshmallows
 1/4 cup butter
 5 cups of Rice Krispies cereal
 3/4 cup of graham crackers or digestive biscuits
 12 oz semi sweet chocolate chips
 15盎司棉花糖
 1/4杯黄油
 5杯米香麦片
 3/4杯全麦饼干或消化饼干
 12盎司半甜的巧克力片

Method 烹饪方法:

① Line a 10x15 inch baking sheet with parchment paper, spray with cooking spray. 在10x15英寸的烤盘上放一张烘焙油纸，在上面喷上烹饪喷雾。



② Crush the graham crackers or digestive biscuits into crumbs. 将全麦饼干或消化饼干压成碎屑。



③ Mix Rice Krispies cereal together with the crumbs. 将米香麦片与饼干屑混合。



④ In a large pot or wok, melt butter and 10 oz marshmallows, while stirring constantly, until combined and smooth. 在一口大锅或炒锅中，将黄油和10盎司的棉花糖融化。在熔化的过程中不断搅拌，直至棉花糖和黄油均匀地融合在一起。



⑤ Reduce to a simmer and add the Rice Krispies and crumb mixture to the pot and stir until combined. 将火调至煨炖状态，加入米香麦片和饼干的混合碎屑，搅拌至锅中的混合物完全融合。



⑥ Press the Rice Krispies crumb mixture into the lined 10x15 baking sheet with a rolling pin. 用擀面杖将融合好的米香混合物铺在带烘焙油纸的烤盘中。



⑦ In the microwave melt the chocolate chips, checking and stirring every 20 seconds until completely melted. 在微波炉中融化巧克力碎片，每20秒检查并搅拌一次，直至巧克力完全融化。



⑧ Pour the melted chocolate on top of the pressed Rice Krispies crumb mixture, completely covering the mixture. 把融化好的巧克力倒在铺好的米香混合物表面，将巧克力完全覆盖混合物。



⑨ In a small pan melt the remaining marshmallows with a little butter until completely melted and creamy. 在一口小锅中融化剩下的棉花糖，并加入黄油，直至两者完全融化在一起。



⑩ Immediately spread marshmallow mixture covering chocolate layer on Rice Krispies. 趁热将融化好的黄油棉花糖铺在巧克力层上。



⑪ Let cool for about 10 minutes and then carefully roll up from the long side. Place in fridge for 30-45 minutes. Cut into slices and serve. 冷却约10分钟后，沿长边小心地把三层棉花糖混合物卷成卷，放入冰箱。等待30-45分钟后，把棉花糖卷取出切片，就可以端上桌享用了。

The Doctor's in the House

by Dr. Melissa Rodriguez

Being a mom is hard work, whether you're a stay-at-home mom or a working mom. Moms have to wear so many hats from teacher, educator, administrator, project manager, lawyer, judge, psychologist, nurse, and doctor, and the list goes on. To help with your Dr. Mom duties (or Dr. Dad for that matter) here are some home remedies and natural treatments that I have found useful in my home.

Sore Throat and Coughs

The simplest solution to help ease a cough is a spoonful of honey. (Unless your child is under the age of one, in which case they should not consume any honey or honey products.) It not only coats the throat to alleviate pain, but also has antimicrobial properties, which means it can kill and inhibit the growth of microorganisms. Another great option is a spoonful of coconut oil. It helps stop a sore throat in its tracks!



Mosquitoes

Natural treatments to avoid mosquito bites are repellents made from various botanical extracts including citronella, lemongrass and geranium oil. My favorite brand of repellent called Badger can be found on Amazon.cn. I find the anti-bug balm to work very well. In recent years citronella bracelets have come on the market. These didn't seem to work as well with my kids, but I think it really depends on the brand. The bracelets can also be purchased online.



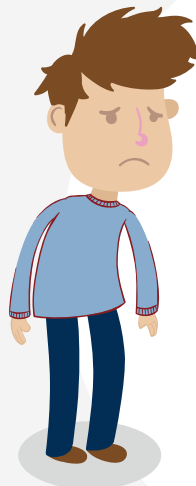
Tummy Ache

Stomach pain can be caused by minor issues (think constipation and indigestion) or more serious concerns like appendicitis. When evaluating pain consider its intensity and if in doubt see your doctor. For minor pains I always turn to a hot water bottle. It's soothing and really seems to comfort my kids. For pain from gas and indigestion a warm cup of tea can help, especially chrysanthemum (菊花) or peppermint. You can buy a mint (薄荷) plant at any of the larger flower markets and use the leaves to prepare a fresh tea. Ginger can also be taken as a tea. It helps ease nausea, which is great for stomach flu. All of these herbs are safe for children to take.



Jet Lag

Being well hydrated during a flight may not prevent jetlag, but it definitely helps deal with the symptoms. Some people experience headaches with the time change that can often be attributed to dehydration. The well known natural cure for jet lag is melatonin. Melatonin is actually a hormone that our body produces in response to our sleep-wake cycle. It is naturally produced in the evening and helps ease our body into restful sleep. Melatonin can be purchased as a supplement, but I would caution against giving it to children. Older teens could take some at a very low dose, ideally only 1mg in a sublingual form, 1 hour before bed. Melatonin should only be taken for a short period of time to adjust to the time change.



Got a question?

Dr. Melissa Rodriguez is a naturopathic doctor and mother of two, who works at Beijing United Family Hospital. To find out more, check out her website at www.drmelissarodriguez.com



Thriving as an Expat Couple

by Dr. Dorothy Dexter

When families relocate internationally for work, the challenges are great for each of the members. Traditionally one partner gives up their job to become the primary household caretaker with tasks such as helping children adapt to a new school, solving house infrastructure problems, discovering how to buy and prepare food in a different environment, discovering how to manage household assistants and create new friendships, among others. On the other hand, the employed individual must adapt to a new work environment that is quite demanding, while both of them must learn to communicate in a new language and culture.

Relocating puts an added strain on the relationship and could create unhappy family interactions during an already challenging period of time. Research conducted among spouses of individuals with highly demanding careers suggests that there are several factors that help ensure that everyone remains happy and healthy under such conditions.

The first is a secure emotional connection; this implies that your partner empathizes with you and will turn toward you when you need them the most. The best way to have an emotional connection is to put yourselves in each other's shoes and know the other sees you, values you and comforts you when you are going through the most vulnerable moments. When an emotional connection is present, you and your partner will be able to adapt to even the most difficult situations.

The second factor that affects the quality of a marriage is emotional support for one another's career. This is complex when the move implies that one of the members of the couple may have to give up their job. What is important to remember is that there must always be a conscious choice involved. According to the previously mentioned study, being the primary household caretaker is equally as satisfying as working in the professional field when it is done by choice. Alternatively I know of many spouses who choose to work online or find a job within their professional field in the same place as their spouse.

The third factor is joint decision making, which means that big decisions, such as whether to move or not, should be made together. When time is carved out of a busy schedule

and an effort is put into communication and joint decision making, the likelihood of a harmonious transition is greater. It takes time to listen attentively to one another's thoughts and come up with a decision that brings together complementing perspectives.

Marriage is a continuous process of adaptation and learning. Moving to a new country can either bring the couple closer together or farther apart. Alarm signs to look for within the relationship are dissatisfaction related to the spouse's work-home imbalance, or feelings of unreciprocated career sacrifice. When there are problems brewing, you can usually feel it. It is important to act and make time for communication, joint decision making, and finding a compromise. Never forget how important an act of empathy and reaching out to reassure each other during vulnerable moments is. If you perceive things are not going as you would like and are open to talking about it with a therapist, I encourage you to do so. Visiting a psychologist is most effective earlier on before decisions to separate are looming on the horizon.



Need more info?

Dr. Dorothy Dexter is a family medicine physician at Beijing United Family Hospital. She has several years of clinical experience, and speaks English and Spanish. Contact her at dorothy.dexter@ufh.com.cn.



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explore experiment express



Natural Interaction

Friendly competition for schools that gets parents planting too

by Andy Penafuerte III

Back in 2009, a pop phenomenon drove millions of people worldwide to grow plants — but on cyberspace. That's FarmVille, a social networking game on Facebook. Its concept made Facebook users plant crops, raise cattle, and become farmers themselves without a sweat.

Try searching for "farm" on your app store and a wealth of farming simulation apps will surface. Most of them look animated and cartoonish, probably designed in such a way to make kids download and play these apps. Play time? Check. Teaching kids the difference between plants and farm animals? Maybe check. Making them active? Definitely not.

Just last year, **Nurseries for Nurseries** (*Jardins d'enfants*) was launched as an initiative to get kids' hands dirty — by teaching them to grow a garden in real life. Nurseries for Nurseries saw 23 Chinese primary and elementary schools, 21 of which were from Beijing, competing to grow 20 square meter gardens in the most creative and eco-friendly way as possible.

Tristan Macquet, one of the volunteers at Nurseries for Nurseries, told *beijingkids* that the project was not a pure competition in itself but more of a bridge Beijing schools can use to maintain friendly relations, especially in environmental terms. Macquet said all the schools were rewarded to recognize their efforts and value the input of the 798 participating schoolchildren.

Gardening and growing plants can be either boring or, as Macquet puts it, a "magical" experience for kids to interact with nature and socialize with others. "It's taking the time to switch off phones, iPads, and [using that] time to get [children's] hands in the dirt and planting seed, going back the next day to water the seed and to see if [the sprout] has gone out," he said.

Indeed it's a one of a kind experience seeing something grow and change. The fact that gardening brings nature to children makes it not only a worthwhile but also a healthful activity. Macquet adds that gardening gives children the opportunity to see and feel nature themselves as this provides them an understanding of where their food comes from, and even teaches them to properly consume produce and protect the environment.

In the Nurseries for Nurseries e-book (in English and Chinese), there are appealing projects where kids improvised to grow their gardens. One project had a "Hedgehog irrigation system" that solved the issue of irregular watering. Children, as inquisitive as they are, turned to parents, teachers, and guardians, wanting to know more about gardening. But one interesting anecdote Macquet revealed was that many of the parents are unaware how gardening is done, or much about what planting is.

"The parents had no experience because many of them have lived most of their lives in the city and never [tried to grow] anything. So the kids went to their grandparents who more likely had some agricultural experience or knowledge. And then it kind of gave them some topics to bond! The grandparents were coming to schools [and teaching the kids], "Now you don't have to plant it against the wall. The grandparents became [heavily] involved."

With that, Macquet said Nurseries for Nurseries is aiming for a "ripple effect," in which the idea of gardening and planting doesn't just stay with the children but rather is propagated in classrooms, families, and communities — to have everybody's hands dirty growing plants in the aim of increasing awareness of environmental protection and of the importance of healthy eating. "We encouraged some schools to have children bring back plants at home so they can discuss it with their parents and bring the idea of, 'I want to take care of this living being,'" he added.

Amanda Galsworthy, spouse of French Ambassador to China Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, said in the project e-book that the first 23 participating schools communicated through a WeChat group, which turned out to be successful as it facilitated learning exchange among members.

As it seems, the initiative has become a new option for social farming, but with real results (see the table below). This year's competition of Nurseries of Nurseries has become larger with 70 schools across China competing, 2,705 schoolchildren participating, and 50,000 others expected to be impacted. The competition will run until June, when winners will be announced by the organizers on <http://jardins.faguowenhua.com>.

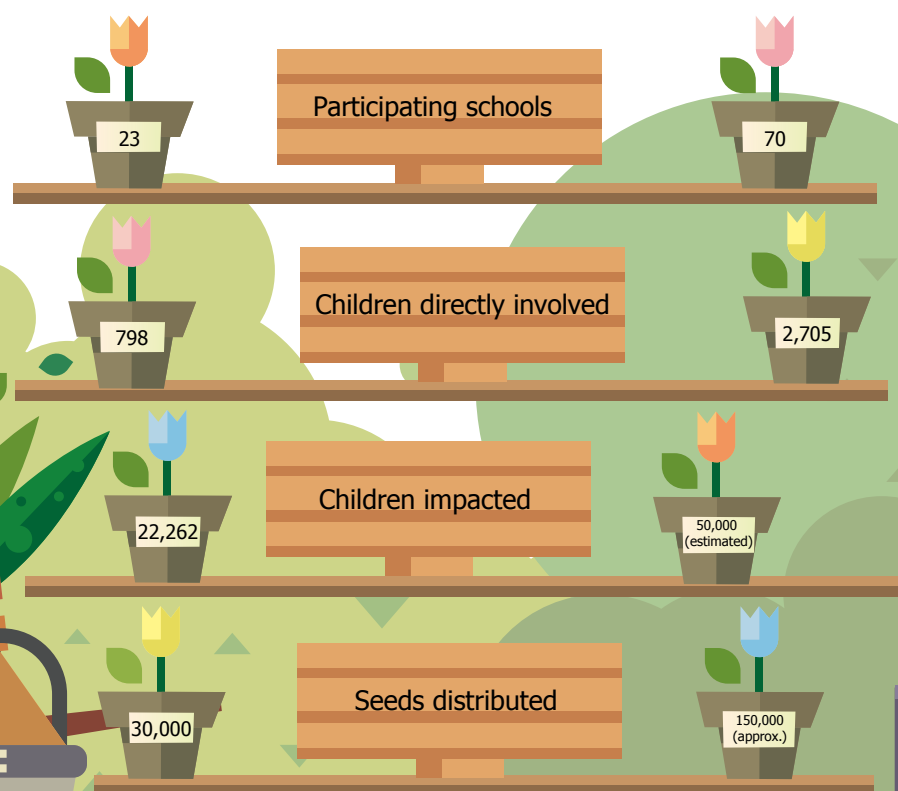
Parents can go to the website to access the e-book themselves to create a bit of a gardening competition at home or among neighbors. And with most gardening supplies available at local grocery stores, there's no reason not to get dirty gardening this spring.

For more info about Nurseries for Nurseries, visit their website or scan the QR code below.



Season 1 (2015-2016)

Season 2 (2016-2017)





Picture This

Scrapbooking Your Way
Through Summer

Text by Pauline van Hasselt, Photos by Uni You

What better way to relive summer memories rather than putting all the wonderful pictures into a scrapbook? Scrapbooking is a method of showing and arranging memories in the form of an album. This is a worldwide and venerable hobby, with the oldest scrapbooks dating from the 15th century.

Christy Heart, art teacher at Beijing International Bilingual Academy (BIBA) in Shunyi shows us how to make scrapbooking fun. Heart hails from Wisconsin in the US and has been teaching for two years in Beijing, enjoying the nature and art scene that the city has to offer. She showed two Grade 1 students, Miracle and Gaia, both seven years old, how to make paper more interesting by creating crayon resist, an action where two materials repel each other. In this art project, crayon and watercolor resist and repel. The space in between the crayon drawings will later be filled in with watercolor.

Both Gaia's and Miracle's favorite classes are art and PE, so they both had a great time, especially Gaia who was very focused. She added pictures of the Great Wall and cut the paper with the edging scissors to remind her of her Great Wall adventure.

Materials

- Construction paper
- Watercolor paper
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Dubbed sided tape
- Texture
- Watercolor



Instructions



- 1** Make a pattern on paper with crayon.



- 2** Paint the complete paper with water color and let it dry.



- 3** Design the pages of the book; paper can be layered.



- 4** Cut the dried paper to size and stick on the paper.



- 5** Stick the photos on the paper with double sided tape.



- 6** Add captions by the pictures.

Camp out!

Getting bags packed for an experience of a lifetime

by Andy Penafuerte III

How often have you and your family gone camping and enjoyed the great outdoors? The fresh air, the clear night sky, tents, barbecues and s'mores, endless stories, and surprising discoveries – all of these are truly memorable experiences that we do not get every day. For children and adolescents, camping is a defining moment that enhances their personalities. These days though, going to camp often means something more than tents and s'mores.

During summer, many schools in different countries conduct camps, retreats, jamborees, or even give internship opportunities for kids in a way to boost their experience and awareness of many things without sacrificing vacation vibes.

I took advantage of two such experiences as a boy: a retreat back in Grade 8, and a Grade 12 internship. The retreat involved a visit to a nearby town where we partook in prayer groups and fellowships. It gave me a new perspective on life, and helped

me become more independent. My internship was in the same school where I worked as a student assistant for our Personality Development teacher, which was a big plus considering she taught me proper decorum and social graces.

Years of research by various child development professionals suggest that these activities are beneficial to the well-being of children, especially in their foundation years. In an article posted on the American Camp Association, Peter Scales said that camps provide experience and satisfy young people's need for "physical activity, creative expression and true participation in a community environment." [1] Academic and camp owner Stephen Fine said in his 2005 doctorate thesis that personal, social, and physical learning obtained through camps are carried over into school studies. His research is reported on www.ourkids.net, along with viewpoints of other professionals toward summer camps. [2]



On the Internet, countless resources highlight the value of camping. In this age of ubiquitous technologies, camps provide an indispensable view of the real and the physical as opposed to the virtual. Rook Brook, a girl's camp in the US, says children campers "unplug from technology," which in turn lets them "rediscover" their creative potential. [3]

Camping can be viewed as a microcosm of how different social groups interact with each other. It is also seen as an institution where children can learn definitive social and life skills such as communication, collaboration, and leadership. On top of that, camping fosters a social environment different from school or home. As a result, children "reinvent" themselves and break out of usual habits, which in turn boosts their confidence [4].

A Fun Breather

While the concept of summer camps in Western countries is mostly a fun breather from children's academic responsibilities, in China it's strongly linked to academic achievement. Chinese parents who can afford to bring their children to a camp say it is an opportunity to boost their English language training or a preparation for their future study abroad. [5] Various foreign educational institutions based in China also believe overseas camps are a great way to introduce the world to students, with one firm saying camps are an "educational portfolio [for children to become] world citizens." [5]

Some international parents in Beijing, meanwhile, have gone back to their home country with their kids whom they sent to summer camps or to their grandparents' home. AJ Warner, an educational consultant, had his two sons join a camp in Pennsylvania last summer. They detail their experiences on page 48.

Are Camps Worth It?

Of course, camps are an expense added on top of yearly school tuition fees. Does that deter parents from sending their kids to these institutions? It depends on a variety of factors. But there are still parents, like Lucia Su, who are prepared to shell out money to bring their kids abroad for camps. Her five-year-old son Lucas, an

avid hockey fan, is about to start school. Su said she wants to bring him first to Singapore to play, and then in the future to an overseas camp where Lucas can hone his hockey skills.

Another issue is the glut of choices in a city as big as Beijing. The huge market of international schools, educational firms, and institutions all claiming to offer the best children's camp leads parents to ask, "Which one is really the best?"

Keystone Academy, which offers two distinct academic camps this summer, explains that school-run camps are motivated by school vision and mostly give what is not readily available in the general education market. Jay Lin, director of Keystone's summer program, said the topics at school-run academic camps are enriching and help children realize their roles in the natural world.

Parents might wonder what the difference is between camps, usual classes and after-school activities. The Learning Center explains that camps such as theirs are "specifically designed to assist children in areas where they may need a little extra help" by offering a more-focused approach to enhance their skill sets and strategic thinking.

On the other hand, institutions and companies that offer seasonal camps often employ foreign experts and qualified professionals to ensure optimum learning in a fun environment.

Whether Western-style or patterned on Chinese culture and academics, we've got you covered with a list of interesting camps on the next page.



Sources:

[1] American Camp Association (www.acacamps.org/press-room/benefits-of-camp/psychological-aspects)

[2] Our Kids (www.ourkids.net/camp/learning-benefits-of-summer-camp.php)

[3] Rook Brook Camp (www.rockbrookcamp.com/parents/children-camp-great/)

[4] Parent Guide News (www.parentguidenews.com/Articles/6SummerCampBenefits)

[5] China Daily: Chinese parents turn to US summer camps (www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-06/26/content_12777809.htm)

China Culture Center, Flips and Kicks Plus, Keystone Academy, Kids' Intelligence Development Academy, The Learning Center Shunyi.

ACADEMIC

While mostly linked to schools, academic camps are clearly distinct from regular classes. Keystone Academy explains that learning through these camps is done in a creative fashion using various approaches such as combining different age groups and programs. Moreover, time constraints such as hourly sessions do not affect the content and design of academic camps.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL

Children's creative potential is maximized at artistic camps, where they are trained properly by career experts. Cultural camps also open children's view of local customs and the history of a nation. China Culture Center says educational programs on culture are a way to explore a country's past, present, and future.

INTERNSHIP

According to Kids' Intelligence Development Academy, internships can help kids get a hand in trying professional roles, which can jumpstart their concept of work and career. We suggest older students take advantage of these, as valuable professional networks can be built before college.

SPORTS

Playing and being active aren't the only things offered at sports camps. Flips and Kicks Plus says at sports camps like theirs, children can improve their physical condition, coordination, and concentration, as well as self-esteem and confidence.

Camps at Your Door

What goes into school-based camps in Beijing

ACADEMIC



Experiential Learning Day Camp IDEAS Camp Education at BCIS and Beijing Chenlingjun Middle School

June 19 – August 25

Ages 5-7. The Day Camp is composed of workshops spanning a variety of areas including baseball, theater, rocket construction, and traditional Chinese cultural crafts. The team-building activities include detective challenges, Olympic sports, and fashion design. The camper choice provides a large variety of options that differ each day, including ultimate frisbee, jewelry making, and water experiments. USD 8,600 per two-week session inclusive of daily lunch and snacks and bus pick ups. Register online at <https://jinshuju.net/f/sbjrg>. (WeChat: [ideas_camp / bingyin.chao@ideas-camp.com / 1891843199](#)) For June 19-July 14 camps: BCIS Main Campus: 77 Baizhuan Nan Er Lu, Chaoyang | 北京市朝阳区百子湾南二路77号. For July 17-August 25 camps: Branch of Beijing Chenlingjun Middle School, No. 223 Nanhu Dongyuan, Wangjing, Chaoyang District | 北京市陈经纶中学分校 北京市朝阳区望京南湖东园223号



Summer Enhancement Program at Canadian International School of Beijing

June 26 – August 7

Ages 1.5-15. For the past ten years, CISB has offered an academically challenging and fun-filled educational summer camp. This year's diverse program includes a mix of academics and athletics that give students a variety of enriched learning experiences at one of Beijing's top international schools. Fees differ based on age group for minimum of two weeks of activities. Prices range from RMB 8,500 to RMB 24,000. Registration details at www.cisb.com.cn. (WeChat: [CISBeijing / summeradmissions@cisbeijing.com / 10 6465 7788](#)) 38 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing | 北京市朝阳区亮马桥路38号



English Immersion Keystone Academy

July 10 – 28

For kids in grades 5-9. During this 3-week program, all participants will be immersed in an English-speaking environment, engaged in the rigorous studies of arts, sciences and humanities and participating daily in a variety of sports. RMB 15,900 inclusive of admission fee, tuition, lunch, snacks, activity materials, and use of sports and performing arts facilities, and uniform. Register online at www.keystoneacademy.cn/page.cfm?p=737. (WeChat: [summer_1695 / summer@keystoneacademy.cn / 8049 6008 ext. 2008](#)) 11 Anfu Jie, Houshayu, Shunyi District | 顺义区后沙峪镇安富街11号



Academic Summer Camp at The Learning Center

July 10 – August 11

For kids in grades 1-9. TLC Summer Camps are hands-on interactive courses designed for both native and non-native English speakers. Courses include a range of full- and half-day programs in crime science investigation, public speaking, kitchen chemistry, treasure mapping, and drama. The camps will be held at TLC's newly refurbished school campus in Shunyi. Fees depend on time and number of weeks. Prices range from RMB 2,365 to RMB 4,490 (Shunyi) and RMB 3,500 to RMB 6,000 (Fuxingmen) inclusive of course materials and morning/afternoon snacks. (WeChat: [tlicyinglang / registration@hyde-education.com / 8046 3886](#)) #9 An Fu Street, Houshayu, Shunyi, Beijing | 北京顺义后沙峪安富街9号 (海德京华国际双语学校内)



Marine Science STEAM Keystone Academy & Beijing City Aquarium

July 17 – July 28

For kids in grades 2-7. In this 2-week bilingual program, students will study "animal adaptations" from multiple perspectives, including science, art, design, engineering, and math and through many hands-on activities. RMB 11,900 inclusive of application fee, tuition, lunch, diving, sleepover at the Beijing City Aquarium, activity materials, use of sports facilities, and uniform. Register online at www.keystoneacademy.cn/page.cfm?p=746. (WeChat: [summer_1695 / summer@keystoneacademy.cn / 8049 6008 ext. 2008](#)) 11 Anfu Jie, Houshayu, Shunyi District | 顺义区后沙峪镇安富街11号

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL



Theatre Camp with Beijing Playhouse at Harrow Beijing

June 26 – August 5

Ages 9-14. Beijing Playhouse offers one of the longest running artistic camps in Beijing, which concentrates on proper drama education. Twelve teachers allow for lots of one-on-one time with student actors. RMB 9,000 for each two-week session, inclusive of props and costume sets, lunch and snacks, and teacher fees. (WeChat: [chrisinbeijing / broadway@beijingplayhouse.com / 1346688333](#)) Harrow Beijing - No.287 Hegezhuang Village, Cuigezhuang County, Chaoyang District | 哈罗北京市朝阳区崔各庄乡何各庄村287号

Beidaihe Gehua Camp

July 7 – August 26

Ages 7-12. Participants will be immersed in a cultural setting in Beidaihe, Hebei Province 河北省 北戴河 where they will learn creative designing, traditional Chinese arts and drama, as well as join science workshops. RMB 18,600 inclusive of accommodation and meals. More details at www.51camp.cn (in Chinese). (WeChat: [Yingtianxia101 / wangyuqi@51camp.cn / 185 0092 0692](#))

TED Drama Camp at Beijing Penghao Theatre

July 24-29, August 7-12, 21-26

Ages 7-15. The thespians inside kids will be awakened at TED Drama Camp. Activities include drama and poem art learning, body language and stage skills training, as well as a classic cartoon study. RMB 7,580 inclusive of accommodation, meals, transport, and course materials. More details at www.51camp.cn (in Chinese). (WeChat: [Yingtianxia101 / chengnannan@51camp.cn / 159 0120 1421](#)) Beijing Penghao Theatre, No. 35 Cotton Hutong, Dongcheng District | 北京市蓬蒿剧场 北京市东城区棉花胡同35号

Getting to Know Chinese Culture in Beijing

June 5 – August 25

Ages 5-12. The China Culture Center & CCC Travel plan and organize informative, innovative journeys, both well known and off-the-beaten-path, for those who wish to better understand and experience China. This includes 50 different indoor hands-on activities and tours to explore Beijing, featuring authentic traditional Chinese culture. RMB 3,400 inclusive of lunch, snacks, entrance tickets, teachers, and materials. (WeChat: [zhicheng-beijing / info@chinaculturecenter.org / 6432 9341](#)) The Victoria Gardens D4, Chaoyang Park West Road, Chaoyang District | 北京市朝阳区朝阳公园西路. 维多利亚花园D4 -101- 北京致承文化

FUN & OUTDOORS



A Journey around the World at House of Knowledge

June 1 – July 7

Ages 3-6. Children joining the camp will first get to make their own passport as they explore the world at the school campus. Then as they go along at each destination they will get to know more of the culture, songs, language and food in a fun and captivating way through games, music, art, geography and science. Fee ranges from RMB 1,350 to RMB 2,200 per week. (WeChat: hokschools / admissions@hokschools.com / 400 650 7747) HoK Chaoyang Park Campus: 15 Victoria Gardens, Chaoyang Park West Road; HoK Shunyi: North Gate of Quanfa Gardens, 18 Ma Quan Ying (off Shun Bai Lu) | HoK 朝阳区: 朝阳公园西路15号维多利亚花园; HoK 顺义: 朝阳公园西路15号维多利亚花园; HoK 顺义: 朝阳区, 15号马泉营路, 泉发小区北门, 好思之家国际学校



Character Building at HIS Camps

July 17-21

Ages 5-15. This summer camp is distinct from others as it focuses on building students' character in a friendly, faith-based environment. Activities include horse riding, swimming, team games, and sports. RMB 4,800 inclusive of camp materials and shirts, and lunches. Register at www.hopeintschool.org. (WeChat: hopeinternational / office@hopeintschool.org / 400 800 8781 local 6007) Exhibition Hall 4, No. 1 Xiedao Road, Chaoyang District | 朝阳区蟹岛路1号蟹岛4号展馆

INTERNSHIP

Little Journalist Training at Kids' Intelligence Development Academy Camp

July 24 - August 4 (with weekend break)

Ages 5-12. Nowadays, information collection and transformation is one of the most important skills in modern society. The Little Journalist training lets kids have an opportunity to work with international groups in depth to realize their dream about TV shows. RMB 8,560/child inclusive of camping fee, materials and equipment, camp t-shirt, certificate, tickets, and 10-day lunch and afternoon tea. Register at www.kida-base.com (WeChat: 15101572326 / serena@kida-base.com / 6785 9599)



Little Scientist Training at Kids' Intelligence Development Academy Camp

July 10-24, 17-21 (with weekend break)
Ages 5-12. In order to cultivate talents, kids need to be independent and have critical thinking and manipulative ability. The Summer Career Camp adopts the STEM system and ideas to encourage little scientists to explore science, technology, engineering science and mathematics. RMB 3,280/ child inclusive of camping fee, materials and equipment, camp t-shirt, certificate, tickets, and 5-day lunch and afternoon tea. Register at www.kida-base.com (WeChat: 15101572326 / serena@kida-base.com / 6785 9599)

Little Playwright Training at Kids' Intelligence Development Academy Camp

August 7-18 (with weekend break)
Ages 5-12. Let kids join in the process of playwrighting to improve their logical thinking ability and space-time concept. They will also join in the process of dressmaking to cultivate their creative power and manipulative ability. Available in two classes. Star Classes: RMB 16,800/child; Practice Classes: RMB 5,760/child. Fees inclusive of camping fee, materials and equipment, camp t-shirt, certificate, tickets, and 5-day lunch and afternoon tea. Register at www.kida-base.com (WeChat: 15101572326 / serena@kida-base.com / 6785 9599)

SPORTS

Sailing Camps at BSC

April 2-7, June 11

Ages 6-18. Beijing Sailing Center offers an advanced training system with constant progressions which creates conditions of continued growth for children who love sailing. The course system can be divided into: dinghy training system, racing progression system, keelboat training system, and dinghy instructor training system. RMB 5,500-7,500 depending on course and fees include accommodation, transportation, three meals a day, insurance, gift package, and certificate. (beijingsailing.com / 6417 1766 / 400 1800 107) Olymfun Water Sports Center in Shunyi (for April camps); Azure Coast Sailing Club in Beidaihe (for June camps)



Sanya Diving Summer Camp in Hainan Province

July 2-7, 16-21, July 30-August 4, August 13-18

Ages 9-13. Sanya Yalong Bay in Hainan Province 海南省 三亚市 亚龙湾 is known as one of the best locations in China for diving and diving training. The instructors are certified by the Professional Association of Diver Instructors. Activities include diving skill games and training, and classes on ocean knowledge. RMB 11,999 inclusive of diving equipment, coaching and program fee, airport pick-up and drop-off, and entrance tickets. More details at www.51camp.cn (in Chinese). (WeChat: Yingtianxia007 / chengnannan@51camp.cn / 159 0120 1421)



Flips & Kicks Summer Camp at Kerry Sports

July 3-7, August 7-11, and 14-18

Ages 4-12. Participants will have the chance to try many different sports such as fencing, gymnastics, martial arts, and volleyball among others. Kerry Sports has foreign group coaches and specialist guest coaches to ensure kids' experience is both safe and fun. RMB 3,200 (half day price); RMB 4,500 (full day inclusive of lunch box); RMB 8,800 (book two weeks). Download application forms on www.flipsandkicksplus.com. (hbkc@thekerryhotels.com / 8565 2460) No 1 Guanghua Road, Third East Ring Road | 北京市朝阳区东三环光华路1号



Falcons Summer Basketball Camp at Western Academy of Beijing

August 2-9

Ages 12-19. International school students have the chance to train with the top tier players and coaches in Beijing. Refine your skills and push the limits of your game in this camp designed to make you a better individual and team player. For price details, contact www.wab.edu. (WeChat: WAB_Chats / caliu@wab.edu) 10 Laiguangying Donglu, Chaoyang District | 北京京西学校北京市朝阳区来广营东路10号



Soccer Camp at Western Academy of Beijing

August 2-9

Ages 12-19. WAB has won five straight Asia Pacific Activities Conference Championships in the last five years. Coming to this camp, no matter your age, you can feel confident that you will be getting the best training available from the region's best coaching staff. Held on a certified field, you'll feel inspired and motivated to become an elite player. For price details, contact www.wab.edu. (WeChat: WAB_Chats / caliu@wab.edu) 10 Laiguangying Donglu, Chaoyang District | 北京京西学校北京市朝阳区来广营东路10号



Tennis Camp at Western Academy of Beijing

August 2-9

Ages 12-19. Learn from top-notch coaches about how to improve your physical fitness and mental toughness, while refining your skills to gain an edge over your opponent. For price details, contact www.wab.edu. (WeChat: WAB_Chats / caliu@wab.edu) 10 Laiguangying Donglu, Chaoyang District | 北京京西学校北京市朝阳区来广营东路10号



Si Panda Volleyball Camp at Western Academy of Beijing

August 2-9

Ages 12-19. Hone your volleyball skills, and develop into an elite player with specialized training, personalized instruction, and more. The clubs supporting this camp are widely known as the best in Beijing among international school and wider communities. Campers will be trained by a former NCAA coach from Gonzaga University. For price details, contact www.wab.edu. (WeChat: WAB_Chats / caliu@wab.edu) 10 Laiguangying Donglu, Chaoyang District | 北京京西学校北京市朝阳区来广营东路10号



I Want to Be a Travel Photographer

BSB, Shunyi students point
and shoot with Dan Sandoval

Text by Andy Penafuerte III

Photos by Dave's Studio

Being a photographer for over 20 years, Dan Sandoval says he has completed a lot of exciting yet unpredictable assignments. Originally from the United States, he left life in California as a studio photographer to pursue a career in travel. He has been to every continent except Australia and visited more than 40 countries. He has been based in China since 2008 and has travelled the country extensively, exploring its culture and sharing his experience and expertise through workshops and talks. He also conducts photography lectures for the Canon Caravan Program in China. With that, Sandoval is no stranger to large audiences, making this edition of When I Grow Up suited to The British School of Beijing, Shunyi, which sent more than 150 students to listen to his latest journey between the tips of South America and Antarctica! We feature 10 students who wanted to know more about Sandoval and his career in general. If you have your own questions, Sandoval can be reached by email, dan@dansandoval.com.

**Lena, 11, Germany**

How many tries does it take to get a perfect shot?

When you get better and better, it takes less and less tries. In the beginning, I used to take a lot of photos, but now it's fewer and fewer. Practice makes perfect. But getting the perfect photo, it's impossible to say. When you're at the right light and the right time, the photos can be wonderful.

**OT, 11, South Africa**

Have you been to the Arctic?

I haven't been. That's probably my goal for myself in the next two years, to travel to the Northwest Passage in the Arctic.

**Talia, 11, US**

What inspired you to be a photographer?

Honestly, when I was young I always thought I would go into astrophysics. I really love astronomy; I love the science of light. And that's what actually inspired me to be a photographer and that's the ability you have as a photographer to manipulate light. It's really a very interesting thing to be able to capture. Most people take photos as they see them. But one of the things that I tell most people about difference between people who like photos and the photographer is that the photographer makes a photo while people who like photos take pictures. So when you make a photo, you have to consider all of these things and make it.

**Tom, 11, Germany**

How long have you been a photographer?

I'm 32 years old, now. I started doing photography, and it has been my personal job, since I was 18 years old.

**Maria, 12, Russia**

How long does it take to get the right angle for a photo?

That's a very difficult question! The problem is – it can take anywhere from a few moments to days. There were times when I had been looking for just the right angle and I had completely to get there [to the subject]. There were other times when I get to a place and the lighting's perfect and everything just lines up. It takes you just as long as it takes to pull out the camera and take a photo. And that's the fun part of it – the unpredictability. Sometimes it's easy, sometimes it's hard.

**Andreas, 11, Australia**

Have you ever encountered with any of the animals that were in Antarctica? Did any of them go near you?

Yes absolutely. The elephant seals were literally crawling up on your leg. I was lying on my belly to take a photo, waiting for some penguins to walk by, and suddenly there's something pecking the back of my leg! It scared me quite a bit! It was a big, big albatross that was probably checking if I was dead or not. I was chased by some birds as well!

**Carla, 12, Germany**

When do you prefer to take a picture? During daytime or nighttime or sunset??

Here's a very easy answer to that; it's whenever the light is best. Photography is all about light. It's about planning the best light and the best subject. The best time is whenever the lighting looks best, sometimes that's sunset, sometimes that's morning, generally evening, except middle of the day, are good times.

**Daniel, 12, England**

Do you like taking selfies?

You know actually, one of the things about being the photographer is that I'm the camera. So I have very few photos of myself. The ones [with me] are usually taken by people whom I've been travelling with. I very rarely take selfies. The only times I take selfies are when I'm with a friend.

**Jay, 12, South Korea**

Sometimes when you try to take a photo and you're not always on [the right] time, is it tiring to wait for the [right] time?

Good question. It's one of those things that is tiring but it makes it worth it when you take that photo. So sometimes I'm sitting in the cold. There was one time when I was in Xinjiang to take photos of horse riders at sunset. Everyone [other photographers] had gone back to the buses. But I was sitting there, just all these mosquitoes were coming out, and I was just being eaten alive by mosquitoes! But finally the horse riders started coming down and everyone's just sitting on the bus, comfortable and warm. But it's pretty miserable given the long wait but I have to work. So when I looked at the final photo, I was super happy with it. I'm very glad that I waited. The payoff was really worth it.

**Laura, 12, South Korea**

Isn't it dangerous to take photos of wildlife, like an aggressive animal, or taking photos from a cliff?

Absolutely. There's a lot of aspects of the job that are sometimes dangerous. When taking photos of wildlife, animals can really be unpredictable. There was a time that I was hanging from a rope with other rock climbers and that was a scary thing for me. But best thing to do is try to remain as safe as possible.

Students from Beijing City International School fill March's Blank Canvas

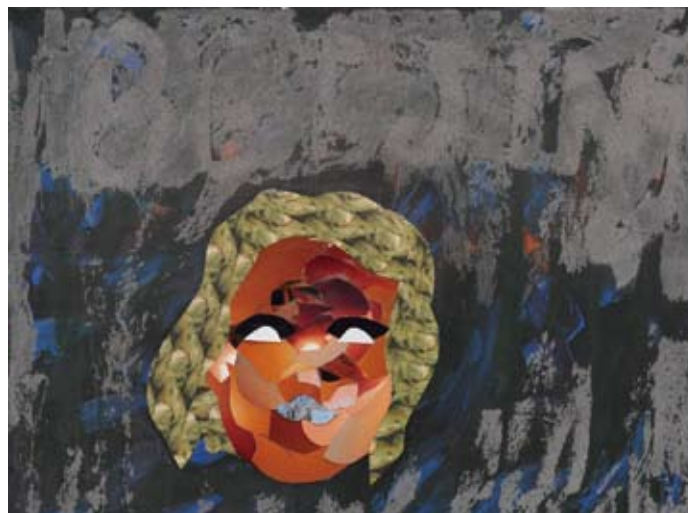


Amy Wang, China - Grade 8, "This Year's Maple"
"My painting is created with mixed media inspired by Andrew Salgado."

Sarah Yan, China - Grade 8, "My Identity"
"When creating the portrait, my ideas changed and I finally found ways to express my identity."



Ida Olszak, Poland - Grade 8 "Shapes of Happiness"
"Inspired by Marilyn Monroe, I made shapes meaning something to me. Even with the mistakes, I consider the work successful."



Rebecca Felicelli, US - Grade 11 "Beijing's Self Portrait"
"Inspired by Pablo Picasso's cubism era, it is a collection of photos from the city that were used to resemble a human."



Sylvia Qiu, China - Grade 11, "The Taste of Beijing"

"This picture is a fusion of 11 photos that aim to depict Beijing, the city always welcoming newcomers, travelers, settlers, and wanderers."



Chris Liu, China - Grade 9, "Metamorphosis"

"I wanted to show through the large iPhone the occurrence of many people walking on the street looking at their phones."



Elizabeth, China - Grade 6, "My Shoe of the World that Never Have I Found" "I want others to take away my theme, that the most unique differences make an individual the only one."



Maia Mascari, US - Grade 7 "A Droplet of Light"

"My artwork combines different types of texture and serves as a contrast to the smoothness."

Trouble Brewing

When homesickness and shyness are serious

by Vanessa Jencks

Chris Lentner is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist from the US who has spent five years working as a Middle School Counselor at the Western Academy of Beijing (WAB). Prior to moving to Beijing, he held Behavior Specialist and School Psychologist positions in Massachusetts and New York State. Lentner strives to develop lasting relationships with students and families, and enjoys being able to see struggling students find more and more success over time. He believes that every student has strengths and it is important to identify and emphasize these talents, rather than focusing only on weaknesses.

If he was not working in schools, Lentner would be working in the restaurant industry or food writing. In addition to Student Council, he co-leads a successful after school activity called "Let's Get Cooking" and is always searching for new and exciting culinary experiences. To counteract these experiences, Lentner also enjoys powerlifting.



Can you explain "trouble fitting in" and related issues?

Whenever we find ourselves in unfamiliar situations, we experience internal pressure to make connections so we can feel comfortable and operate successfully in our new surroundings. "Fitting in" is about feeling supported and included by our peers. Trouble fitting in occurs when something, external or internal, prevents us from bonding with others for an extended period of time. Sometimes, it seems like everyone already knows one another, and it is difficult to join an already established group. Other times, we hold onto things from our past and have a hard time believing things will ever get better. Feelings of anxiety, sadness, trust issues, and traumatic experiences, such as bullying, can also negatively impact our willingness to open up to new people.

Students who are having trouble fitting in often eat or spend leisure time alone or on the outskirts of a larger social group. All students should have a reliable friend with whom they can openly share their feelings and problems.

Trouble fitting in can lead to a variety of issues. Feelings such as loneliness, sadness, and anger may be associated with an inability to connect. Negative behaviors including trouble sleeping, stomach aches and headaches, rapid mood swings, conflicts with parents, withdrawal, and isolation may also occur when students are not fitting in. If left unaddressed, these problems can lead to issues such as depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and school refusal.

Has this ever been mislabeled as homesickness?

Not fitting in is sometimes confused with homesickness, but the two issues are unique in their cause and duration. Homesickness is directly related to a transition, whether it is from home-to-camp or country-to-country, and generally subsides with time. We all need some adjustment time to get over the initial shock of such experiences.

While most people are homesick at some point in their lives, not fitting in is a more serious issue and results from the inability to make social connections. Whereas homesickness often gets better with time, not fitting in may last indefinitely until conscious changes take place.

What's the difference between shyness and this issue?

Shyness is a normal human characteristic and should not be considered a "problem behavior." Some people are comfortable in large groups and new social situations while others crave intimacy and familiarity. Introverts contribute to the world by quietly getting things done and maintaining deep, meaningful relationships with others. It takes a lot of time and effort for shy people to open up, so if you are friends with someone who is shy, it means they genuinely trust you. Shyness becomes a more serious issue, however, when it prevents you from

doing things, such as going to parties, participating in activities, and making friends. If shyness interferes with your ability to have a satisfying social life, you might need to seek advice.

How would you help a student overcome these feelings?

Before making a plan, it is important to identify the cause. Is the problem caused by internal or external factors? If you are having trouble fitting in because other students are not welcoming you into their group, it might be time to look elsewhere. International schools are constantly getting new students, so if you are new, try connecting with other students who have recently arrived.

Many schools have peer mentorship programs, orientation activities, and ice breakers to help students get know one another. Participate in as many of these activities as possible and you are bound to meet someone who "gets" you. Extracurricular activities and joining clubs are a great way to meet people you would not normally see during the school day.

When entering a new situation, it is important to approach things with an open mind. Try to notice when people are reaching out to you. If someone asks you to eat lunch with them, take advantage of this opportunity. If someone asks you to hang out on the weekend, find the time. If someone asks you about yourself, have a conversation and learn more about that person. Friendships are created through a series of small interactions.

How should a student get in contact with you?

During the school day, students are always free to stop by my office. If they would like to communicate more discreetly, I check my email throughout the day and generally respond in 24 hours. In addition, I connect with students through WeChat, which allows me to provide instant support to students outside of school hours. There are many ways to receive support; it's just a matter of recognizing that you don't always have to deal with everything on your own.

What should a student expect when coming to your office?

I aim to provide a supportive, welcoming environment for students. Students are often nervous when they come to my office, so I keep the mood casual and relaxed, so they can speak openly, without fear of judgment or criticism. Ultimately, my goal when working with students is to help them deal with problems head-on; therefore, my approach is direct and solution-focused. I help students see situations from different perspectives and consider possible outcomes before having them come up with a realistic plan that includes clear steps for improving the situation.



Meet Joshua Y.

Pop quiz with a Year 12 student at Olive International School

by Vanessa Jencks

When little, what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was growing up, I wanted to be a secretary. I wanted to help successful leaders become even more successful and to lead people into greatness as a result of my efforts.

What do you want to be now?

For now, I wish to be a good student, son, and a violin maker. Within all of my outlets, whether they are public or private, I want to demonstrate quality work for people to know me by the good works and the extra effort I put into all that I do.

What was your most embarrassing moment?

When I was ten years old, I was playing violin in a school talent show. Midway through, I forgot my part and just stood there for five minutes while the piano continued to play. I wish I could have raised the standard in my performance, but I learned from what happened.

If you could edit your past, what would you change?

I would like to change the way I treated my friends. I would have paid more attention to those people who benefit from my life, and who I can benefit from in return. I would treat them better, so I would never lose them.

Which living person do you admire the most?

My master who teaches me how to make violins. He is the one who told me "If you want to make a good violin, you have to become a good person first." My master's skillful handiwork and attention to detail have always been attractive to me, and are traits that I wish to train in my life.

Which living person do you most dislike?

A stranger from another province that I met on a Line 10 subway station. He beat his wife and publicly insulted her instead of standing up for her and protecting her like a good husband should have. These kinds of things I most dislike.

What do you owe your school?

I owe the school so much for the new way of learning English and all the opportunities I've had here. Really I am so glad for all my fellow students and the teachers who care for me. Olive International School has changed my outlook on studying and opened many doors in my education.

What is the best lesson life has taught you so far?

When you respect someone, you may or may not get their respect back. Even when some are undeserving of your respect, it is important to show them kindness anyway. For in doing so, others will see what you've done and go and do the same.

What makes you unhappy?

What makes me unhappy is when I believe a topic to be very serious, but those around me take it too lightly or even make jokes. For example, in my English class, we are learning that illegal drugs are a big problem all over the world. It makes me sad and unhappy when people believe this is not their problem or issue to deal with.

What trait do you most dislike in others?

Gossiping is a distasteful trait. Whether it is your business or not, it is never good to talk about other people behind their back. Instead, people should say how they feel with confidence and care, openly trusting others. Even a sad song is pleasing when played to the right tune.

What trait do you most dislike in yourself?

I'm worried too much all the time. Maybe that is the part of me that pushes me to want to do my best in my work and studies, but I'd like to be more carefree at times.

What is your greatest achievement?

I once designed and made a wooden spoon by myself. I took my time to carefully and meticulously draw, cut and carve the piece until I was quite satisfied with the outcome of the utensil. Like everything else, I made a point to do my best and make something really nice.

When did you last cry?

I last cried at my great-grandfather's funeral a few years ago. It was a very emotional time for me and my family because we care for each other very much. There are troubles that come from time to time, but we can always overcome when we come together as a family.

Fostering Adaptations

Dad Stefen Chow connects with his kids through world trips, everyday activities, and climbing Mt. Everest

Text by Annie Wang, Photos by Stefen Chow

On a sunny October day in 2016, a three-year-old began her ascent towards the top of Mt. Everest. Stefen Chow, father of “Little Chow,” as she is affectionately called, was the mastermind behind the adventure and hiked alongside his daughter and wife as the three of them made the journey towards the top of the mountain. After ten days, the trio had climbed 4,000 meters in the Himalayas, just below Mt. Everest’s South Base Camp (which stands at an altitude of 5,364 meters) before deciding to turn back, ensuring the perfect end to a beautiful and educational adventure.

While Chow does not simply ignore the fact that others would regard taking his daughter up Mt. Everest as a risky endeavor, he believed that Little Chow was up for the adventure. Chow researched and took careful medical precautions, packing emergency medical supplies as well as creating plans in case the family needed to be evacuated. “I did my research... if there was an emergency, helicopters could come and save us, there were doctors on the mountain,” he said.

“I knew the potential risks I was walking into, so I had all these contingency plans,” Chow added. Chow himself is also an experienced mountain climber, having scaled Mt. Everest with a team of five men eleven years ago, and thus is aware of symptoms of altitude sickness and other health issues that may arise when climbing.

Chow says that even though his daughter may not remember the trip, he is still happy that they went on the adventure together. Chow almost became a professional mountaineer after his first trip to Mt. Everest and said his “life is in the mountains.” His daughter gained such concrete knowledge during their trip, for example as how sherpas live in the mountains. Chow said what made the trip memorable was it gave him the opportunity to share this part of his life with his daughter.



Father-Daughter Solo Trips

Chow’s trip with his daughter, when measured by most societal standards in the developed world, would be considered quite outrageous. He does not think that everyone must take their children on such extreme treks. Chow advocates for all parents to simply take one-on-one trips with their children. Chow recognizes that his thought process might be simply founded in stereotypes, but he particularly advocates that fathers take their children on what he calls “solo trips.” From his own personal experiences taking his daughter to Taiwan and Thailand, Chow believes these trips have allowed the two to form a deeper bond.

As a professional photographer, Chow spends a lot of time on the road. Since he has begun taking his daughter on trips, he believes her perception of him has changed. “I think, for my daughter, the father is a very fun person to have around so that part of the dynamic has changed. The mom has always been there, but since I travel now when



I come back, Little Chow expects that I will do something with her at some point."

Chow began taking his daughter on trips when he realized she was becoming more aware and conscious in her daily life. Instead of making simple, linear connections, Little Chow had begun to make lateral connections, finding relationships between seemingly unrelated events. Chow said an example of such a connection would be Little Chow making an association between a meal cooked at home and a meal eaten at a restaurant days later. Once he saw her making these associations, Chow thought his daughter was ready and would get more out of their trips together.

On these trips, Chow intentionally focuses on giving him and his daughter the opportunity to interact with local people and to try, for a short time, integrating into the local culture. He says that most of their time is spent walking in small towns and speaking to people rather than shopping and going to the typical tourist attractions. Little Chow is given as active a role as any three-year old can have during these trips. Chow says that during these excursions, as well as family adventures, he sees the two of them as partners rather than a strict parent-child pair. He also plans to take his son, now one and a half, on similar adventures when he can communicate similar connections.

Everyday Adventures

In the family's daily life, Chow and his wife hope to guide their children and show them they have their own sense of agency as well. During weekend trips, the couple give their daughter (who is old enough to communicate verbally and coherently) choices between destinations. After Little Chow makes her choice, Chow and his wife will make arrangements to travel to that location. In a recent trip, the family chose between a trip to Weifang and Jinan, both in Shandong Province. Instead of Chow and his wife deciding, they gave their daughter the choice between the two cities. In the end, Little Chow chose Weifang due to intrigue over the city's well-known kite flying, and so the family traveled to the city for the sole purpose of flying kites.

Chow attributes part of his parenting philosophy to experiences with his own father, a businessman in Singapore. As a child, his father would consciously bring him to business meetings in an effort to carve out quality father-son time. As a result, Chow witnessed business meetings that succeeded and failed, as well as the everyday life of his father outside of his parental role. These experiences allowed Chow



Little Chow with baby yaks...



...and with daddy on a beach in Taiwan

to understand his father in a more holistic way.

Outside of traveling to different parts of China and the wider world, Chow and his wife also make an effort to take their kids with them when they go out with friends. Chow also says that he and his wife made a conscious decision to try and maintain their pre-parental lifestyle as much as possible. The family goes to kid-friendly locations and bars such as Great Leap Brewing. When asked how he and his wife balance being present with their friends while also looking after their children, Chow did not seem to think that it was an issue. Chow says that his children are well behaved and he attributes part of his children's public behavior to having been exposed to many similar adult situations.

Chow hopes that his children will learn how to interact with different kinds of people through these daily and otherwise planned adventures. He also hopes above all to show his kids what his life is like outside of his parental role. "A lot of us parents today have a lot to offer our children, but if you can spend time with them and show them your world, I think the children will all benefit a lot."

In allowing them to make decisions during their travels, taking them together to adult gatherings, and encouraging them to speak to different types of people, Chow hopes his kids can become independent thinkers. As for the next big adventure? Chow says the family is looking into a bike tour in Taiwan on Europe. Either way, the kids and the parents are sure to be present together.



Going Places

This month we ask parents from different cultural backgrounds about traveling with kids

by Andrew Killeen and Emma Qi

Mey Jansen describes herself as Indonesian Australian. She used to work as an architect but now she's a stay at home mom, volunteering her time on the committee of different organizations. Husband Kamal (Indonesian) is an engineer, and they have two daughters: Jasmine (18) studies at the University of Melbourne, while Jazzlyn (15) attends the Western Academy of Beijing (WAB).

They're a truly international family, having lived in Indonesia, Australia, the US, and Kazakhstan before moving to Beijing (for the second time) in January 2016.

How often do you travel with your daughter?

On average, two to three times each year.

Does your child have a say in what sort of vacations you take?

Yes, we will usually discuss our destination and travel plan together, and talk about travel companions.

What tricks or tips do you have for surviving long journeys?

I will bring wet tissue, dry tissue, antiseptic paper and some clean plastic bags in my backpack just in case. They are very useful, especially when the kid is at a young age. Further it's very important and essential to buy travel medical insurance which covers both accident and outpatient service, if travelling outside mainland China. A few hundred yuan might save you a huge amount of medical cost.

How do you cope with check in and security at airports?

On our very first few trips, we told our daughter what check-in and the security check are, and what the procedures are step by step, and pre-alerted her to the possibility that we might be waiting a long time. When my daughter was little, it was very normal that she became impatient. The best pacifying method

was Mom's hugging and calm mood! Now she's grown up a bit, it rarely happens that her mood gets very fretful. But if the waiting time is too long, she might get bored. Then a lollipop could be a good choice to pacify her.

How do you help your daughter deal with culture shock?

My daughter is only five years old, so she doesn't have a strong feeling of culture shock. But when travelling out of China, we will definitely encounter numerous differences, like language, rules, habits, among others. The best way is to communicate with her before travelling, and when she is confused, just to explain. I think the most effective and simplest way to get along with a kid is to treat her as an independent person with respect, communication and equality, and to accept her uniqueness in being young. This principle applies to all possible difficulties and confusions, during travel, and during daily life.

How do you help your daughter deal with jet lag?

The worst jet lag happened when we traveled to the US. My daughter was three years old. She woke up at midnight for the first two or three days. We played quiet games in bed for about an hour, then turned off the light and went to sleep. It took about three to four days for her to adjust completely. In fact, I think it's easier for kids to get over jet lag than adults, as the adaptability of a child's biological clock is very high.

Do your children get travel sickness? If so, what do you do?

No. But she feels pain inside her ear when the plane lands. I hug her and give her a lollipop.

What sort of accommodation do you book?

I choose hotels with high standard of comfort. Sometimes I also choose hostels with good ratings and comments, depending on our destination.

Are there any trips you wouldn't take your children on?

I wouldn't take her to any places where there are security risks, or places where there are hygiene issues.

How much do you pack when traveling with kids?

My daughter brings a small suitcase with wheels with her favorite toys, and things which might be needed on plane including a drawing book and pencils. I myself will bring a trolley case with stuff for my daughter and I will also bring a backpack. If my husband has time to travel together with us, he will bring another trolley case.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF MEY JANSEN

Beijing mom Jessica lives with her husband and their five-year-old daughter Niu Zi (妞子). Jessica owns a ship equipment agency, and in her spare time enjoys travel, reading and food.

How often do you travel with your children?

About three to four times a year for trips internationally. For trips within China it really ranges depending on everyone's schedule, and can sometimes just be day trips. It's hard to coordinate when the kids are in high school and university due to their commitment to extracurricular activities at school, and they may prefer to relax at home rather than travel for only a day or two.

Do your kids have a say in what sort of vacations you take?

Yes, they do. They often suggest places depending on whether they would prefer to go to areas with beaches, cultural activities, sports or areas for hiking, walking, swimming, or snorkeling, or a destination just to relax and take in the sights. While everyone in the family is welcome to suggest the type of vacation they would like or where they want to go, the final decision is made through a family discussion.

What tricks or tips do you have for surviving long journeys?

We all pack our hand carry bags with books, movies on our laptops, and ensure there's music or podcasts that we want to listen to on our phones. It's also important to get a good amount of sleep before the traveling day, and to try and get sleep during the journey (if it's a long plane flight for example).

How do you cope with check in and security at airports?

We arrive at the airport around three hours before our flight time - this can be earlier if it is an international flight, or a bit later if it is a domestic flight. If possible, we do online check-in the day or night before our flight, so that at the airport we only need to drop our baggage. We try to weigh all the baggage at home prior to arriving at the airport so that there are no surprises with excess baggage on the day. We also ensure that we know where certain items in our carry-on bags are, such as laptops and battery packs which need to be taken out during security checks. If we have any liquids in our carry-on, we try to put it in a ziplock bag before arriving at the airport, or throw out/ empty any water bottles we have. All of the above things we do help make for a more smooth, quick and efficient check-in and security check.

How do you help your children deal with culture shock?

We try to read or look up different aspects surrounding the holiday destination prior to arriving there. This means we are more prepared in terms of what activities we want to do, what places we want to go to and what food we want to try for example, but also means there is less of a culture shock when arriving since we know what to expect. This also means that if a country has a culture or religion that has traditions or ways of living that are different to ours, we are more prepared to adapt and accommodate this. If there's something we see when we arrive in the country that shocks or confuses us or we don't understand the reasoning behind what has happened, someone in the family will usually note it down and look it up later that night so we understand and know what to expect if we encounter it again.

How do you help your children deal with jet lag?

We usually try and wake up at a relatively normal time in the morning at the holiday destination (in the time zone of the destination), and may get the kids to sleep earlier at night so that they get enough rest but can wake up around a normal time the next day.

Do your children get travel sickness? If so, what do you do?

No, we are very fortunate that neither of our children get travel sick. However, in case of motion sickness on boat rides (especially if going to a beach or island location which results in some rocky boat rides), I may put some motion sickness tablets in my bag.

What sort of accommodation do you book?

We use hotels, rent apartments and also use AirBnb (with pool, and if possible with a kitchen).

Are there any trips you wouldn't take your children on?

While we would like to keep every destination a possibility for travels, we usually keep track of what locations are dangerous or high-risk to go to (as recommended by the Australian government) and stay away from them.

How much do you pack when traveling with kids?

We usually have approximately 20kg (depending on the airline, etc) of baggage allowance per person, making the family baggage total about 80kg (since there are four of us). However, we don't usually use all of this baggage allowance in order to keep things relatively light and easy to transport around. It usually depends on whether we are going to a summer or winter location, how long we will be there for, and what things we are planning to do.



Creating Free Summers

by Ember Swift

A winter spent juggling is worth it, for a summer of outdoor fun shared with family.

Since coming to China in 2008, I have returned to Canada every summer. When one kid came along in 2012 and then another in 2013, I returned first with a pregnant belly, then with six-month old baby in tow, then with toddler and new pregnant belly, and then with preschooler and a new baby against my chest. I felt a bit like a human reproduction clown pulling out an inexhaustible string of humans like a trick handkerchief.

Now that they're both big enough to be running ahead of me through the airport corridors, the additional joy of purchasing full-price airline tickets to Canada is never something I'm thrilled about. But, it's my own fault: I have created an expectation among family and friends to continue the annual habit and so here we are in the scrambling season as I anticipate the expenditure.

The thing is, I'm not a teacher. I don't get paid for the summer months, but I'm happy to have designed my life in such a way that I don't have to do much work when I'm back in my home country. I can juggle a freelance life in the colder months like a crazed circus lady, and this affords me the luxury of *chaises longues* and leisurely afternoon swims throughout most of July and August. In other words, I live summers like a teacher, and that's probably because I was raised by two of them. I want to be resting and spending time with family. I want to be free. About the good things, we always tend to replicate our childhoods for our children in some fashion, don't you think?

As a kid, I found it annoying having my parents around in the summer months. They would make us work with them in the gardens or on home renovations, or would be with

us when we went camping. Of course, we were kids and couldn't go camping alone, but I was personally offended that I never got to go to "summer camp." I didn't know then that summer camp was the answer for parents who still had to go to the office everyday. And while summer camp might have been fun, I'm not disappointed that I got to go fishing with my dad and make little birch bark canoes with my mom that my sister and I would race down campsite rivers and then transfer to suburban puddles when we returned to the city.

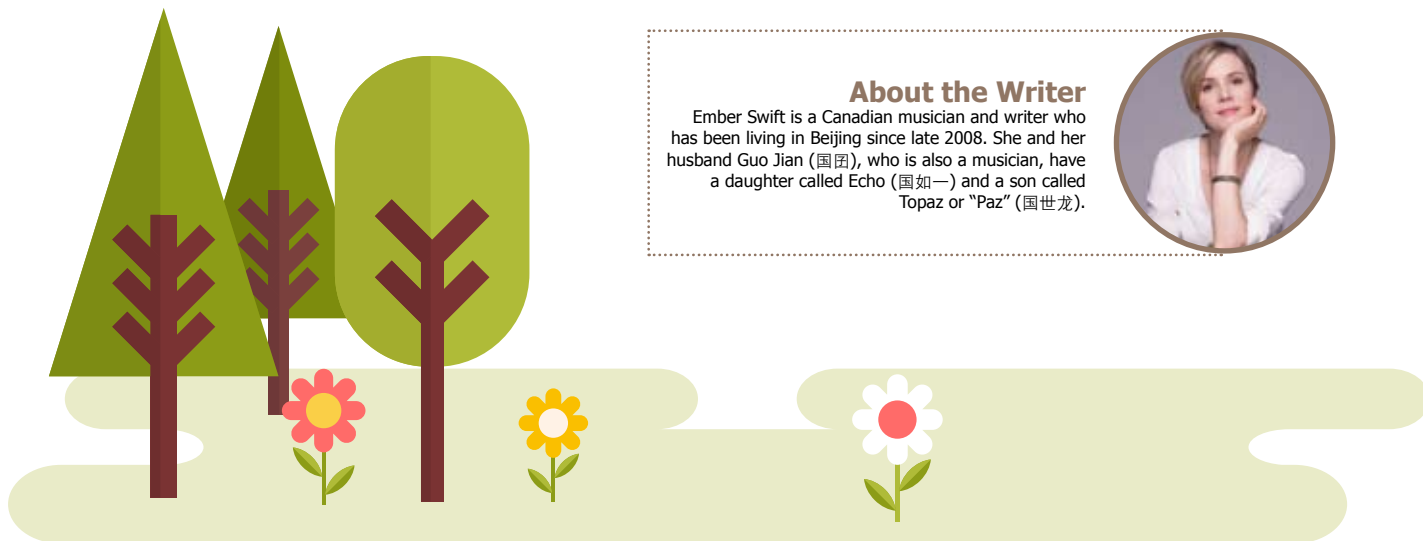
So, when I load my brood onto a plane and head back to my home country — kids now 3 and 5 — I revel in being able to show them a Canadian summer of outdoor sports, crafts, nature, and short trips. We visit many people in both cities and countryside, take long walks in woods, and play in the water in countless lakes, rivers, and swimming pools until my kids practically grow fins. They also experience eating outdoors and cooking on an open fire, even when we aren't camping. The patchwork of environments that wrap around their summers is as colorful as any Chinese marketplace and it's a joy to see them fit right in.

Canadian summer is a respite and this year will be no exception. In the end all the scrambling and juggling is worth it when I can experience a summer filled with sunshine in both the sky and on my children's faces. There's nothing more valuable.

Maybe this year, I'll get out the unicycle that still lives in my parent's garage. Yes, it's mine. And yes, I can ride it. Or else, I could. I'm sure the kids will much prefer seeing their mommy do that kind of circus play!

About the Writer

Ember Swift is a Canadian musician and writer who has been living in Beijing since late 2008. She and her husband Guo Jian (国团), who is also a musician, have a daughter called Echo (国如一) and a son called Topaz or "Paz" (国世龙).



Wild Horses

A search for a rare species poses questions about the true value of travel

by Andrew Killeen

"Is that them there?"

"What, those yellow blobs?"

"What yellow blobs?"

"Let me see, I want to see!"

Joseph grabs the binoculars, nearly strangling his brother, who has the strap around his neck.

"Right, that's it," I say. "Give me the binoculars, if you can't be responsible with them."

I ignore the whines and complaints of unfairness, and train the binoculars on the distant hillside.

"Well, those are definitely yellow blobs."

We are looking for Przewalski's horses, the only truly wild horse left in the world. It's a hot day, in the Hustai National Park in Mongolia. We have traveled for several hours, along rough and often non-existent roads to get there, and since then have driven bumpily around the park in search of our quarry. The kids are getting a little wild themselves.

Our guide insists that the blobs are indeed the horses.

"But they're not moving," my wife says. "Are you sure they're not rocks?"

"Can't you see them?" our guide says. "They have darker manes and legs."

Even through the binoculars, I can't see any manes or legs. All I can see are blobs. Przewalski's blobs.

The eponymous Przewalski was a Russian explorer, who in the 19th century traveled deep into Central Asia and discovered, among other things, a new species (some say sub-species – let's not quibble over detail) of horse. The news prompted a stampede of western naturalists, all determined to bring back foals for examination and exhibition. These brutally clumsy expeditions, combined with war and cold winters, drove the species to extinction in the wild within ninety years of their discovery.

At one stage, there were only a dozen of these animals left in the world. A global breeding program brought a recovery of their numbers to the extent that they could be reintroduced to Mongolia. There are now over 200 in the Park, although their future remains precarious. And their presence elusive.

It's understandable that they're reluctant to get up close and personal with a species which nearly wiped them out. For a moment the cynic in me wonders whether those are really yellow rocks on the hillside, and guides bring gullible tourists here and tell them those are the famous wild horses.

This thought prompts further musing, on this whole business of sightseeing. I can now say I've seen Przewalski's horse in the wild – box ticked. Yet beside the fact I can say I've done it, is it really a superior experience to watching a documentary about them? (Ironically, the projector in the visitor center was broken on the day we went, so we didn't even get to see the film.) The same applies to marine animals in aquariums: you can't smell, touch or even hear them. Would it be much different if the tanks were replaced with screens?



As video games become more sophisticated and immersive, and particularly as VR technology develops, the distinction between what's a real experience and what's not becomes increasingly blurred. As a gamer, I sometimes feel entitled to say, like Blade Runner's Roy Batty, "I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion. I watched C-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhäuser Gate..." In contrast, the Mona Lisa in real life is a drab little smudge, Stonehenge disappointingly small, surrounded by busy roads and only visible from behind barriers.

We decide to agree that we've seen the horses, should anybody ask, and turn back for the van. The landscape of Hustai is stunning, sweeping chalk hills, rich with wildlife and fragrant with the scent of caryopteris. We see wild marmots scurrying across the grass (not mammoths, as my wife originally misheard our guide saying). Our guide is flirting with the pretty young park-keeper, showing off, singing Frank Sinatra for her in a heavy Mongolian accent. The children find an anthill; to our horror, he pulls the legs off a grasshopper and throws it in so we can watch the ants devour it in seconds. After the crowds and pollution of Beijing, it's joyous to be out on open ground, in clean air. I swing the children round until they fall over and roll down the hill.

And I am reminded that this is the real value of travel. Not ticking famous sites off a list, not doing things so you can say you've done them; but being there, in that unique moment, with people you love, making memories that will stay with you.

Przewalski, I think, can keep his horses.

About the Writer

Andrew Killeen is a novelist and creative writing teacher. Originally from Birmingham, England, he studied at Cambridge University and now lives in Beijing with his wife and two lively boys, Noah (age 11) and Joseph (age 8). In between he was at various times a DJ, festival director, positive parenting practitioner, and home-less support worker. His critically acclaimed historical novels are available from Dedalus Books.





Going International

How one summer camp in the US inspired
two young Beijingers to become entrepreneurs

by Andrew Killeen

Summer camp is an American institution, giving kids the chance to flourish, learn new skills and develop independence away from their parents (not to mention giving parents a break from their kids...) But how much more of an adventure it is when you have to cross an ocean to get there, and stay thousands of miles from home!

To find out what that experience is like, we talk to Trey Lei Warner (age 9), and his dad AJ Warner, an educational consultant. Trey attends Daystar Academy, and went to camp with big brother Peyton Xiang Warner, who's a student at the International School of Beijing (ISB).



"My brother and I went to summer camp last summer," Trey tells us, "at Independent Lake Camp in Pennsylvania. We flew into New York first and then drove with my parents to the camp."

Was this just Mom and Dad's idea, we wonder? Or did the kids have any input into the decision?

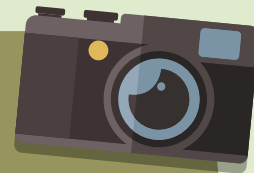
"My dad showed me the video about the camp," Trey says, "and I liked very much what I saw. My brother also became very enthusiastic about going. So, we both made the decision that our parents should send us to Independent Lake Camp over other summer camps."

We ask Dad whether there were any difficulties over visas, but as US citizens they had no problems. "The camp is very international," Warner says, "with about 40 percent of campers from other countries, including France, Brazil, the UK, Germany, South Korea and New Zealand. The camp provides international campers with all the necessary invitations for visa to attend, so there will not be any issues for Chinese kids to attend this coming summer."

Trey tells us more about his journey. "My dad drove my brother and me to the camp. We left New York City and drove through rolling green hills in Pennsylvania called the Pocono Mountains. However, when the camp ended I took a bus by myself back to New York City. My parents were there waiting for me."



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF INDEPENDENT LAKE CAMP



Life at Camp Abroad

It's already becoming apparent that the experience gave a huge boost to Trey's confidence and independence. We ask him how he felt when he arrived.

"I felt excited! My parents dropped me off at the camp dorm, and I met my camp counselor. There were other kids my age, and we all became friends. We left the dorm and went around the camp area together exploring and seeing our new home."

Trey describes a typical day in camp for us.

"Every day was busy with activities, but lots of fun. I took different classes that I chose, so I would go to my magic and illusion classes and learn new tricks. I took juggling the last two weeks. We prepared for performances that we shared with the whole camp and parents. At night, there was always something fun at the camp. At night in bed, I talked with my friends with flashlights until our counselor told us to go to sleep."

We ask him what the best thing about camp was.

"I thought the best thing was the classes I took. I learned to perform illusion tricks and then perform in front of an audience. This experience I never had in Beijing, so it was a little scary at first, but then I found out how fun it was to perform. The teachers were so fun and encouraging. Learning was the best thing about the camp."

And the worst?

"I did not like getting out of shower in the morning and walking back to my bed. It was cold in the morning!"

Unfamiliar food is often an issue when kids are away from home, but this wasn't an issue for Trey.

"The food was not bad, but it was not as good as what my Ayi cooks. However, when the food that day wasn't good, they always had hamburgers and pizza at the other cafeteria that was pretty good."

Even so he still missed a taste of home, he tells us.

"There was no Chinese food served at the camp, so when I got to New York that was the first food I ate."

We ask him whether the experience was different for him in any way because he lives in Beijing.

"It was like my school in Beijing, but lots more fun," Trey answers. "Every day I was taking classes I liked and being with the new friends I made at camp. We were with larger kids like 16 years old, which was different from back in Beijing. All day was fun, which was much better than Beijing!"

Trey is enthusiastic about all the new things he learned.

"I learned how to perform illusion tricks. I also learned juggling. I even learned how to build a rocket. I learned lots of other things, but I don't want to tell you. There were so many things I still want to learn at the camp like circus performance, which I will take this summer."

We ask him how he felt when it was time to come home.

"I wasn't ready to go back," Trey says. "I still wanted to stay at the camp for another two weeks. The time went by too fast. Always want it longer, don't you know."

"Trey thoroughly enjoyed the camp," Dad adds. "He forgot to call or write us. According to his counselors, Trey became one of the most active boys in his dorm and had an amazing time at the camp. For the next two months after the camp, Trey practiced juggling every night and even taught himself new tricks."

We ask Trey how the experience has changed him.

"I don't know," he says. "I enjoy going up in my class and giving presentations more than I did last year. I spoke in front of a huge audience at my school and I wasn't scared even a little."

Dad has certainly noticed a difference.

"We weren't sure how we would handle the camp, but the experience helped him develop new interests and more confidence in himself," Warner says. "He made many new friends, with kids his age and his counselors. When I visited him halfway through the camp, I knew he would develop into a different kid by the end of the camp. When we came back to China, he wanted to get involved in more activities at school and on the weekends. Today, he is the youngest member of his school's robotics team."





More Than Just Summer Fun

Trey is already planning what he'll do when he goes back, and this summer he hopes to stay longer than four weeks. In fact, they're so keen, that they're marketing the camp to other Beijing youngsters.

"I was thinking about different ways to give my two sons an opportunity to get involved in helping create a business," Warner tells us. "While talking with the owner of Independent Lake Camp, he mentioned his hope to involve more Chinese kids in the camp. That is when I came up with the idea of promoting the summer camp and having my two sons contribute their thoughts to brainstorm to build the business. At first, they didn't understand the purpose of promoting their summer camp, but as we discussed how to market the opportunity, they began to get excited about being part of the new business."

"I think the camp was a great camp because the classes were fun and the teachers were great," Trey says. "However, there weren't many Chinese kids at the camp. I want more Chinese kids to enjoy the camp like I did, so I want to start the business to promote the summer camp."

Peyton takes up the story.

"When my dad first told me about the idea of promoting the summer camp, I was a little bit confused, but when my dad explained to me a little bit more, I thought the idea was great."

"We decided to market the camp at the Beijing International School Expo," Trey continues. "I talked about my experiences at Independent Lake Camp with parents to persuade them to send their child to my camp."

"I passed out fliers to Chinese parents and talked with them," Peyton says. "Hopefully, our work and talks will convince them why I think Independent Lake Camp is so special and a great summer camp. I met other students from France, Germany, Brazil, and South Korea at the camp, but no Chinese. I was the only Chinese so I will change that for this summer."

"My sons are also writing articles to share on WeChat," Warner adds, "and plan to hold a webinar to share their experience with parents as well as answer questions. When kids want to ask questions, my sons will talk via WeChat with interested kids and maybe even hold an orientation, so that everyone participating in the camp is excited about their upcoming summer experience."

Warner hopes that the project will also be a learning experience for his kids.

"I purposely involved my sons in all aspect of the business because I started it for them to gain hands-on experience starting and operating a small business. They are actively involved in most decisions, although I make the final determination. In the end, I want them to feel the success of getting more Chinese to attend the camp directly from their efforts. For me, this experience opened a new way for me to connect with my own kids, and I am looking forward to seeing how everything goes with the business we are creating to promote Independent Lake Camp."



Family Business

We ask him how the boys are finding life as entrepreneurs.

"In the beginning, they were confused, but over time and more discussions about what we are going to accomplish, they have become interested. The fact that any money earned from the business will be shared helped motivate them. They are interested in using the profit they receive to purchase computers for new business that they intend to establish. My older son impressed me when he told me of his desire to learn how to create online servers for Minecraft to sell monthly memberships. My younger son said he intends to use the profit also to buy a computer so that he can create a new computer operating system. Overall, both sons are excited about the business and what it will help them to accomplish later.

"I initiated the idea because I wanted them to gain a better understanding about what their mother and I do every day as entrepreneurs in Beijing," Warner continues. "I hope they appreciate the hard work required to be a successful entrepreneur as well as the rewarding side. I also want them to consider establishing their own businesses in the future, so gaining hands-on experience will help them know if this is a good career path for their futures. Finally, I wanted them to work together on a common goal as team members. Making sure that they have a good relationship is important to me, so this business 'partnership' gives them a new way to connect with each other."

I ask the boys what they're going to do with their share of the profits.

"I will use the money I earn to buy my own computer," Trey says. "I want a computer so I can increase my skills on programming in C/C++ and Java."

Peyton already has his next business venture in mind.

"I'm planning to use the income I make to buy a new computer so that I could design custom servers in Minecraft and charge membership fees," he says.

International summer camp certainly seems to have made a major impact on the Warner boys. If you're interested in exploring the idea with your own family, check out our listings on the next page.

Abroad We Will Go!

Preparing to be a world citizen through overseas summer camps

by Andy Peñafuerte III

"All my bags are packed and I'm ready to go..." That thought always crosses my mind before I travel. After all, there's so much to prepare before a trip that packing can feel like a journey in and of itself. That's even truer for parents ahead of family vacations, and all the more so when Moms and Dads send their kids overseas for a short summer trip or camp — alone.

As I've discussed on page 32, camps complement children's academic studies. Their social skills and life experience are also greatly enhanced at camps, with child development experts saying that they bring the best out of the kids during their childhood and teenage years.

But when is the right time to send girls and boys to camps, let alone overseas? Many educational institutions and professionals around the globe have debated how young is too young. It's a tricky subject, but as your child gets older, the list of questions and considerations shortens. Sunshine Parenting online magazine gives an overview for children of different ages (see the link at the end of the article). [1]

Singapore's Association for Early Childhood Educators says sending pre-schoolers and students of early grades to camp abroad is beneficial to their experiential learning. [2] Emily Bazelon, a writer at the New York Times, writes that 6-year-olds can be sent to overnight camps, but the reason not many go at this age is "parents, not the kids [themselves], are not ready." [3] While parents' main consideration is always their children's safety, Michael G. Thompson argues in his *Homesick and Happy* book that such instincts "deprive children of the major developmental milestones that occur through letting them go—and watching them come back transformed." [4]



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CAMP EDEN CANADA



AMERICAS

1 Canada



Children and Youth Summer Camp July 2 - August 16

Ages 7-17. Camp Eden offers the campers a healthy summer and a Canadian tradition at the camp in Haliburton, Ontario. Classes include English language courses, team building projects, survival and navigational skills training, sports, and other cultural activities that are patterned to Canadian tradition. USD 1,400 per week (minimum of two weeks) and fees include all meals, accommodation, full programming, and material costs. (www.edencampcanada.com / eden.camp@outlook.com / 136 2134 2192)

Tawingo Camp July 4-21

Ages 7-15. Explore nature, tour and do water activities and sports at Canada Tawingo Camp in Ontario. There will be a variety of fun sports activities to encourage campers to explore and take adventures. RMB 31,800 inclusive of program fee, accommodation, meal, transport within Canada, certificates. More details at www.51camp.cn (in Chinese). (WeChat Yingtiansia101 / wangyuqi@51camp.cn / 185 0092 0692)

2 USA



Sleepover Summer Camp June 18 - August 27

Ages 6-17. Independent Lake Camp has a long history of delivering unbelievable summer experiences to campers. The camp also creates a mini United Nations atmosphere because it purposely attracts campers from around the world from Europe, South America, Australia, and now China. The camp in Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania has over 40 different mini activities, including the famous circus camp, sports and extreme sports camp, performing arts camp, and equestrian. USD 3,150 for two weeks, including activity costs, food, boarding, and airport pick-up and drop-off. Register at http://independentlake.com/ (WeChat: jingjingsydney / jingjingren@touchdown.org.cn / 135 0120 5267)

American Timber Lake West Camp July 23 - August 16

Ages 7-15. This overnight camp in New York will be held at a private lake with facilities. There will be more than 60 activities that will focus on building cooperation and friendly competition in a safe and comfortable environment. RMB 56,800 inclusive of 3 week

summer program fee, accommodation, meals, transport within America, certificate, and photography. More details at www.51camp.cn (in Chinese). (WeChat Yingtiansia007 / chengnannan@51camp.cn / 159 0120 1421)

3 Caribbean

Caribbean Underwater Discoveries Voyage

June - August

For kids in grades 7-12. Whether you've never been diving or sailing before and want to start at the Discovery level, or want to earn advanced certifications on the Explorer level version, this voyage is one of Broad Reach's most popular programs for good reasons. Tuition starts at USD 4,850, depending on trip. Full details at gobroadreach.com/program-overview-for-caribbean-teen-scuba-and-sailing-summer-camps.asp

4 Panama

Photography Adventure June - July

For kids in grades 7-11. Dig into your passion for photography as you master techniques and find inspiration on Panama's cobblestone streets, on its thrilling rapids, or among its indigenous Gnobe community. Tuition starts at USD 5,280 depending on trip. Full details at www.gobroadreach.com/program-overview-for-photography-teen-summer-camp-in-panama.asp

5 Mexico

Yucatán Advanced Scuba and Safari June - July

For kids in grades 7-11. Known for its incredible drift diving, Cozumel provides the perfect introduction to Mexico's finest reefs. Nestled down by the border of Central America, the Yucatán Peninsula is a diver's dream: sharks, rays, turtles; you name it, it's there. Tuition starts at USD 5,380 depending on trip. Full details at www.gobroadreach.com/program-overview-for-Mexico-Yucatan-Advanced-Dive-Safari.asp

6 Ecuador

Ecuador & Galápagos Biodiversity June - July

For kids in grades 10-12. Tropical ecosystems exhibit an amazing degree of biodiversity and species richness, and this program brings you into the heart of it all - the Andes Mountains, Amazon jungle and the Galápagos Islands. Tuition starts at USD 4,180 depending on each trip. Full details at www.gobroadreach.com/program-overview-for-natural-science-summer-camp-in-ecuador-galapagos-and-amazon.asp

AFRICA

7 South Africa

Ultimate Predators June - July

For kids in grades 9-12. Learn about the world's most revered predators both above and below the surface. Travel to the Indian Ocean to snorkel during the great sardine run, a feeding frenzy of millions of sardines by the ocean's top predators. Tuition starts at USD 6,480 depending on trip. Full details at www.gobroadreach.com/program-overview-for-ultimate-predators-college-study-abroad-in-south-africa.asp

EUROPE

8 United Kingdom



Oxford Summer Courses June 25 - July 29

Age groups: 10-12, 13-15, 16-17, 18-24. Oxford Summer Courses use the same interactive teaching methods employed by the university. Courses will be held only at top quality sites including Wycombe Abbey and University of Oxford. The classes include seminars and activities such as debating workshops, TED-style talks and stimulating excursions to famous museums and hidden historical sites. Fees for age 10-12 group start at £1,495 (one week); for age 13-15, 16-17, 18-24 groups start at £3,895 (two-weeks). Apply at www.oxfordsummercourses.com/apply/ (info@oxfordsummercourses.com / 01865 264194)



Bournemouth Parent and Child Summer Camp Course

July 9-22 and July 23 - August 5

Parents and teens ages 13-17. The program offers an exciting home stay opportunity for students in a quiet and safe residential area of Bournemouth where students can live with a local family for an authentic cultural experience and maximum progress in English. The parent-and-child courses recognize the importance of the family, enabling families to live together and spend their recreational time together. RMB 62,800 for two weeks for 1 adult and 1 child (get RMB 2,000 discount for registrations before April 15). Fees inclusive of registration, visa application fee, flight ticket, full-board accommodation. Register at http://955.cc/2AuPj. (WeChat: BeGoEdu / www.begoedu.com / hello@begoedu.com / 135 2299 9196)

UK Scout International Camp July 9-22 and July 29 - August 12

Ages 8-13. Participant kids will have survival training at the camp in London using a program developed by Bear Grylls. There will also be other international children and altogether the participants will do team building activities, sports, adventure, and sight-seeing visit of natural places in London. RMB 40,999 inclusive of international return flight fee, summer program fee, accommodation, meals, entrance fees, transport within the UK, and certificates. More details at www.51camp.cn (in Chinese). (WeChat Xialingying51 / chenxiaojia@51camp.cn / 189 3140 6706)



Discover Boarding School Life at Stowe School

July 9-22 and July 23 - August 5

Ages 7-12, 13-17. Stowe School is one of England's most prestigious schools and is rated as one of the top 15 private schools that are hardest to get into in the UK. Participants will be immersed in international English-speaking and focused atmosphere, with other students from more than 30 different countries around the world. RMB 42,800 for two weeks (get RMB 2000 discount for registrations before April 15). Fees inclusive of registration, visa application fee, flight ticket, boarding/accommodation. Register at http://955.cc/2AuPj. (WeChat: BeGoEdu / www.begoedu.com / hello@begoedu.com / 135 2299 9196)



UAL Summer Camp July 23 - August 20

Ages 16+. Students will have the opportunity to study at UAL and experience the creative heart of the world in London. Participants will study English at UAL Language Center and take arts courses at Central Saint Martin, London College of Fashion, Chelsea and London College of Communication. RMB 38,800 for the camp duration, inclusive of accommodation, meals, language tuition, arts course fee and materials cost, and UAL ID card. Apply at www.arts.org.cn (WeChat: ualchina / admission@arts.org.cn / 8418 6733; 8418 6788; 8418 6799)



Shakespeare Camp

July 2-18

Ages 12-17. Staying with local families in their homes gives participants a unique experience of English culture and language, and helps them prepare for study abroad. Every morning English lessons will be provided at Birmingham College, and there will be afternoon and full day excursions to cultural sites: Shakespeare's Stratford, Oxford University (including locations for the Harry Potter movies), Liverpool and of course London. RMB 30,000, including accommodation, meals, travel within UK and entrance fees. Flights not included. (WeChat andrew2307 (Chinese), karenkil (English) / 0851 27725522)



9 Portugal

Benfica Elite Training Soccer Camps

June - July

Ages 13-18. Benfica Elite Training Soccer Camps in Lisbon, Portugal, is a football camp program developed by Sport Lisboa e Benfica for youngsters born between 1999 and 2004 who want to develop and improve their sporting performance. USD 1,595 for one week. Full details at soccercampsinternational.com/benfica-elite-soccer-training-camps/

10 Spain

FC Barcelona I Summer Camp

July - August

Ages 11-17. The FC Barcelona soccer camp is a unique and exciting opportunity for boys to experience specialized soccer training through an official partnership with the world's most successful soccer team and their expert Soccer Schools Coaches. Enjoy exclusive access to FC Barcelona's training methods for the true Barça experience, at their official home in Spain. USD 3,995 for two weeks. Full details at soccercampsinternational.com/spain-soccer-camps/barcelona-soccer-camp/

FC Barcelona Women Summer Camp

July - August

Ages 12-17. The FCBarcelona Women Soccer Camp in Barcelona, Spain is a unique 7- or 13-day girls-only residential soccer camp for soccer players who want to experience an intensive soccer training in Barcelona at the exclusive FC Barcelona professional club's facilities. Training practices are hosted at FC Barcelona's official training facilities. USD 3,995 for two weeks. Full details at soccercampsinternational.com/spain-soccer-camps/barcelona-girls-soccer-camp/

11 Italy

AC Milan Junior Camps

July - August

Ages 7-16. The AC Milan Football Academy Camp also known as Milan Junior Camp (MJC) is the children's summer vacation soccer camp organized by the famous AC Milan football club from the Italian Serie A League and carried out by local organizations. USD 1,195 for one week. Full details at soccercampsinternational.com/italy-soccer-camps/ac-milan-soccer-camp/

ASIA

12 Hong Kong



Filmmaker Course at Foundation Summer Camp

July 31 - August 11

Ages 8-11. Make a movie this Summer with Foundation Academy by training in various filming techniques such as storyboard making, camera angles, dialogue delivery and acting. The course is aimed at developing children's imagination, critical thinking and confidence through exciting platforms. HKD 4,500 inclusive of course materials, equipment and logistics, and final presentation. See registration details at [www.foundationacademy.co. \(academy@foundationge.com / +852 3107 8810\)](http://www.foundationacademy.co. (academy@foundationge.com / +852 3107 8810))



Novelist Course at Foundation Summer Camp

July 31 - August 11

Ages 8-11. Write and publish a book this summer by learning to write original narratives-from poetry to comic books. Develop life-long skills in expression and authorship. It is a unique experience with a creative platform that makes the learning process fun. See registration details at [www.foundationacademy.co. \(academy@foundationge.com / +852 3107 8810\)](http://www.foundationacademy.co. (academy@foundationge.com / +852 3107 8810))

13 India

Study Global Medicine

July - August

For kids in grades 10-12. Take in healthcare from a global perspective while getting hands-on medical experience in the tranquil hills of southern India. Tuition starts at USD 5,980 depending on course. Full details at www.gobroadreach.com/program-overview-for-high-school-medicine-course-in-india.asp

14 Indonesia

Learn Veterinary Medicine in Bali

June - July

For kids in grades 10-12. In Bali, encounter, treat and rehabilitate an array of animals and endangered species that are as varied and exotic as this magical island. Tuition starts

at USD 6,780 depending on course. Full details at www.gobroadreach.com/program-overview-for-veterinary-medicine-high-school-study-abroad-in-indonesia.asp

AUSTRALASIA

15 Australia

Broadreach Global Educational Features

A listing of various summer programs for middle school and high school students. See available programs at www.gobroadreach.com.

16 French Polynesia

Advanced Sailing

June - July

For kids in grades 10-12. Follow the path of ancient Polynesians and sail more than 700 nautical miles across the South Pacific. Below the surface, encounter a staggering array of marine life including sharks, rays and dolphins. Tuition starts at USD 7,880. Full details at www.gobroadreach.com/program-overview-for-french-polynesia-teen-advanced-sailing-summer-camp.asp

17 Fiji

Shark Studies

July-August

For kids in grades 9-12. Work alongside conservationists and researchers, and dive with sharks in a controlled environment. Dispel negative myths surrounding sharks and discover how they're vital to ocean ecosystems. Tuition starts at USD 7,280. Full details at www.gobroadreach.com/program-overview-for-shark-studies-high-school-study-abroad-in-fiji.asp



Making connections is one of the best things kids can learn at camps.

On the previous page, we listed some awesome and exciting camps. Though they may look distinct from each other, the underlying fabric weaving them together is mainly their high safety standards. As you might have noticed, there are camps, for example in the UK, that offer accommodation or lodging. In South America, the camps we've listed are mostly for natural and wildlife exploration, while in Asia and Oceania, they're cultural and highlight interaction with nature.

Camps, of course, will ensure everything to keep your children safe. But why not give them an extra safety net by buying travel insurance? Nomadic Matt, a travel website, says travel insurance can be a confusing topic, but it is a safeguard for the unexpected. It says travel insurance is "not a substitute or a replacement for health insurance and shouldn't be treated as such ... as it is there for unexpected emergencies" such as breaking your leg, popping your eardrums, getting food poisoning or falling ill with dengue. [9] It can also cover lost luggage. You can see in detail the concept of travel insurance on Nomadic Matt's website (the link is at the end of this article.)

While joining camps can be a fun and enjoyable activity for children, remember that not everything falls into place and they will face occasional issues. As there will be kids from other countries, different cultural norms and personalities will certainly have an effect on a camper's adventure. It is important to gear them up with knowledge about norms and mores and tell them to resist peer pressure like drinking alcohol, especially if there are campers who manage to sneak bottles inside the camp.

One major point that kid campers need to be aware of is that they're there to grow and learn. Culture shock and language barriers, as well as differences in food and daily routine may take their toll, but they can also be an eye-opening and memorable experience that will boost children's awareness.

Campers should expect that other children might have attitudes different to what is normal in their home countries. Some participants may have ADHD, others can be aggressive or even be bullies. Another main issue is sexual harassment and sexism. Camping websites see these as some reasons for miscommunication and uneasiness, which, if left unresolved, will result in the expulsion or quitting of a camper. [6]

InterExchange.org say that camps cover most of the issues stated above in pre-camping orientations. It also advises campers and parents alike to be prepared, and seek help from counselors during any untoward situations. [6]

Like many parents, AJ Warner was amazed by how his children changed and matured after their camp experience (see more about Warner's children on page 48). Remember, camping isn't only about fun activities and checking items off itineraries and lists. It's there to

help prepare children for life situations not covered or discussed in academic lessons or activities. The wisdom of other people like professional camping guides, instructors, and even grandparents brings invaluable experience to children, making them better prepared to become world citizens.

TO GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE WE GO

If summer camps aren't suited yet for your kids, why not send them for a visit with their Grandparents?

"[It] can be a treasured time, full of memory-making adventures" says Dr. Gail Gross in her article on The Huffington Post. [7] Grandparents can be extremely clingy (of course in a good way) to their grandchildren, sending them lots of love and care that's even better than what you had before when you were a child. The bond between the two different generations is special and deep in which children gain "confidence and independence as they experience life adventures in a supervised environment outside of his immediate family unit," says Dr. Gross. Kids' Health says grandparents "can be positive role models and influences" who can equip kids with the knowledge of family history and cultural heritage. [8]

While grandmas and grandpas welcome your child with all their hearts, remember that it's still a different environment for your child. It will help if you discuss your plans and schedules first with your parents, and then exchange information about your child's medical history (for your part) and household dangers (for their part). Then talk to your child about behavioral expectations, as grandparents will be in charge of everything in their home. [7] [8]

- [1] Sunshine Parenting: <http://sunshine-parenting.com/2014/04/11/whats-the-best-age-for-camp/>
- [2] Asia One: Never too young for overseas school trips <http://www.asiaone.com/print/News/Latest%2BNews/Edvantage/Story/A1Story20121101-380964.html>
- [3] Buck Up, Little Camper http://www.slate.com/articles/life/family/2006/06/buck_up_little_camper.html
- [4] Michael Thompson: Homesick and Happy <http://michaelthompson-phd.com/books/homesick-and-happy/>
- [5] Volunteer Forever: https://www.volunteerforever.com/article_post/teen-high-school-volunteer-abroad-programs-under-18-mission-trips
- [6] Addressing Problems at Camp: <https://www.interexchange.org/handbooks/camp-usa/participants/problems/>
- [7] Prepping Your Kids for Vacation With Grandparents: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-gail-gross/prepping-your-kids-for-vacation-with-grandparents_b_7332292.html
- [8] Bonding With Grandparents: <http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/grandparents.html>
- [9] How to buy good travel insurance: <http://www.nomadicmatt.com/travel-blogs/travel-insurance/>

School News



YCIS Beijing's Secondary School Musical One for the Ages

Yew Chung International School Beijing (YCIS Beijing) has put on three sellout performances of the critically acclaimed *Legally Blonde: The Musical*. The upbeat and energetic production featured a slew of talented student actors, actresses, and musicians who worked hard for nearly six months. The show had audiences on their feet.



Robotic Tours Now Available at WAB

Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) is the first international school to offer interactive robotic tours. WAB introduces "K2-12," the robot that puts visitors into the driver's seat of the tour – no matter where they are in the world. Book a tour with WAB's Admissions team at admissions@wab.edu, and control the tour using a computer, tablet or mobile from the comfort of home.



DCB Wins British International School Award

Dulwich College Beijing (DCB) has won a British International School Award. The school was recognized in the 'Teaching Initiative of the Year' category for its Blended Maths program in Year 7. DCB's Head of Maths Camille Brown and Deputy Head of Senior School Chris Stanley accepted the award at the ceremony in London on 23 January. DCB gives thanks to its teachers, parents, and students who offered support with this innovative program.



ISB's Diaper Drive for Underprivileged Thai Babies

The International School of Beijing (ISB) and Ruamrudee International School in Bangkok have capped off a successful diaper drive through fun runs that raised a staggering USD 16,000. The amount will provide diapers to underprivileged newborns at a public hospital in the northern Thai city of Udon Thani over the next three years, far exceeding both schools' original one-year target.



HIS Awarded Full Accreditation

Hope International School (HIS) has received full accreditation from Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC). This is a result of an effort made by the HIS faculty, staff, students and parents, as well as the HIS board since 2012. The accreditation validates the integrity of the school programs and transcripts.



Book Week at Harrow Beijing

This annual event is held to celebrate literacy across the whole school. Book weeks normally have a theme and this year Harrow Beijing is exploring 'Reading Takes You Places'. A series of events will last from March 20-24.



PAL Workshop: Redefining Free Time

Beijing City International School (BCIS) held a Parents as Learners (PAL) Workshop entitled "Redefining Free Time," wherein participants learned more about the importance of children having free time. The session was held on 28 February and led by Elementary Teacher Librarian Sally Richmond and Secondary School Teacher Librarian Megan Eddington.



Summer Performing Arts with The Juilliard School

The music curriculum at The British School of Beijing, Shunyi (BSB, Shunyi) has been designed in collaboration with The Juilliard School. This July, there will be opportunities for students of every level to attend a two-week summer program in Geneva, Switzerland. Students can explore their creative talents and work with renowned Juilliard artists in music, dance, or drama to make incredible technical and artistic strides!

Editor's Corrections

In the 2017 School Choice Guide on page 96, the pictures of students Escelle at the French International School Beijing and Victorious at Daystar Academy were mistakenly switched. Additionally, 'from my mother-in-law' was accidentally added to Kirsten of YCIS, Beijing's comments. In the February 2017 issue on page 56, Raffles Medical was mistakenly identified as International SOS Beijing Clinic.

We regret the errors.

The Circuit is a chance to check out what's happening on the Beijing family scene. Want to see your event on these pages?



The Art of Designing Centers for Learning and Growth

On January 19, Keystone Academy dedicated its 6th Education Salon to reflect on the design process behind the recently completed high school library. Furniture designer and social anthropologist, Luke Hughes spoke about his quest to striking a balance between furniture, light, architecture, and craftsmanship for this Keystone project.



Festive Temple Fair at YCIS Beijing

Yew Chung International School of Beijing (YCIS Beijing) held its annual temple fair on campus on January 18 to usher in the Year of the Rooster. Students, teachers, vendors, and performers joined together to create a truly festive atmosphere, with Primary School students putting on a variety of traditional Chinese performances.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF KEYSTONE AND YCIS

Send an email with the date of your event, a brief description, and high-resolution photos (at least 1MB each) to webeditor@beijing-kids.com by **March 10**



Delightful Start of the Rooster Year at ISB

The International School of Beijing (ISB) community welcomed the Year of the Rooster on January 26 with a parade, acrobatics show, and Chinese cultural activities.



BSB, Shunyi Rings in Spring

Students, parents, and teachers had fun celebrating the Spring Festival at The British School of Beijing (BSB), Shunyi Temple Fair on January 24. Besides fantastic student performances, everyone had a go at interactive traditional activities, arts and crafts, and indulged in delicious snacks! The Mandarin Department and Parents' Association organized the event.





HOK Kids Get Those Smiles On

Visiting a dentist had never been so much fun for students at House of Knowledge (HOK), Quanfa Campus. Staff from the International Dental Clinic (IDC) captured the attention of the students with an informative talk, followed by a dental check. All the students got a goody bag to take home too!

Juilliard Alumni Visiting BSB, Sanlitun

The first Juilliard alumni visit at The British School of Beijing (BSB), Sanlitun took place on January 12. Dr Benal Tanrıseven Şimşek and Ms Abby Gerdts, both former Juilliard students, gave a thrilling performance and inspired the children throughout the day in their Drama and Music workshops. After school they gave another interactive performance to the children and their parents.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BSB, SANLITUN AND HOK



Back to the Culture: WAB Marks Chinese New Year

Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) students, faculty, staff, and parents rang in the Year of the Rooster with various cultural activities.



BCIS Starts the Year with Blessings

During the weeks leading to Chinese New Year, Beijing City International School (BCIS) students took on many activities in celebration of this important national holiday.





Harrow Beijing Students at UK Schools

Thirteen Year 9 students from Harrow Beijing have been on an exchange program and visiting the John Lyon School and Royal Masonic School in the UK from February 25 to March 11. There have been a total of 26 pupils from UK visiting Harrow Beijing as well. Students from both sides enjoyed their trip very much!



DCB Enters the Rooster Year in Style

Just before Spring Festival, Dulwich College Beijing (DCB) celebrated in style with fantastic performances by Junior School students in their Chinese New Year production.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF HARROW BEIJING AND DCB



Good Wishes from Eduwings Kids

On January 25, Eduwings kids experienced a traditional Chinese new year party where they made *jiaozi* and *tanghulu*. They also learned dragon dancing and how to send good wishes, making the whole shindig terrific fun.



HIS Community All Together in a Great Year Ahead

Hope International School (HIS) held a great campus fair on January 24 to celebrate Chinese New Year. Students, staff and enthusiastic parents worked together to cook and sell delicious dumplings, dim sum, *tangyuan*, and *tanghulu*. Meanwhile, students participated in various fun games.



The Micallef Family

By Pauline van Hasselt Pictures by Uni You

Both Aldith and Ettienne hail from the warm island of Malta in the Mediterranean. They have two kids, Nina, 1 year old, and Elija, 2 and a half years old. Elija attends the Italian Embassy School of Beijing. The family loves warm weather and spending time outside, so the summer can't arrive fast enough. Ettienne works for an international organization for migration. Aldith works at home taking care of her children and is busy with her new venture, **Our Little Library**.

Favorite Beijing Parks **Tuajiehu and Ritan**

But all Beijing parks are awesome. As soon as it's warm enough, we head out to our nearby park. There is always something going on: dancing or martial arts, and a ride on one of the old-school fair rides makes my son's day.

Adapted from the Chinese Culture
Our love for sweet potatoes.

Favorite Weekend Activity

Inviting friends with kids to our warm and cozy home, or visiting friends with kids at their homes, then relaxing as our kids have playmates.

Favorite Outside Activities

When the sun is out and the air is clean, we love to lie out in the sun in our compound with a big blanket, and our favorite neighbors. There's no need to travel with two kids, and we can have our dog with us. This is where you will find us in the spring.

Best Place to Play Indoors

Little Oasis is great for indoor play, preferably together with other friends and their kids.

Favorite Date Night

A pub like Jing, or the Local for a relaxing Friday night date.

Favorite Website

Pinterest.com because it connects Aldith to many fabulous things like cooking, DIY, crafts, and blogs.

Favorite Chinese Shop

A little Chinese Opera shop just behind Qianmen. Aldith studied performance, so for her, this place is a little gem to browse costumes, accessories, and instruments.



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