

Beijing's essential international family resource

beijingkids

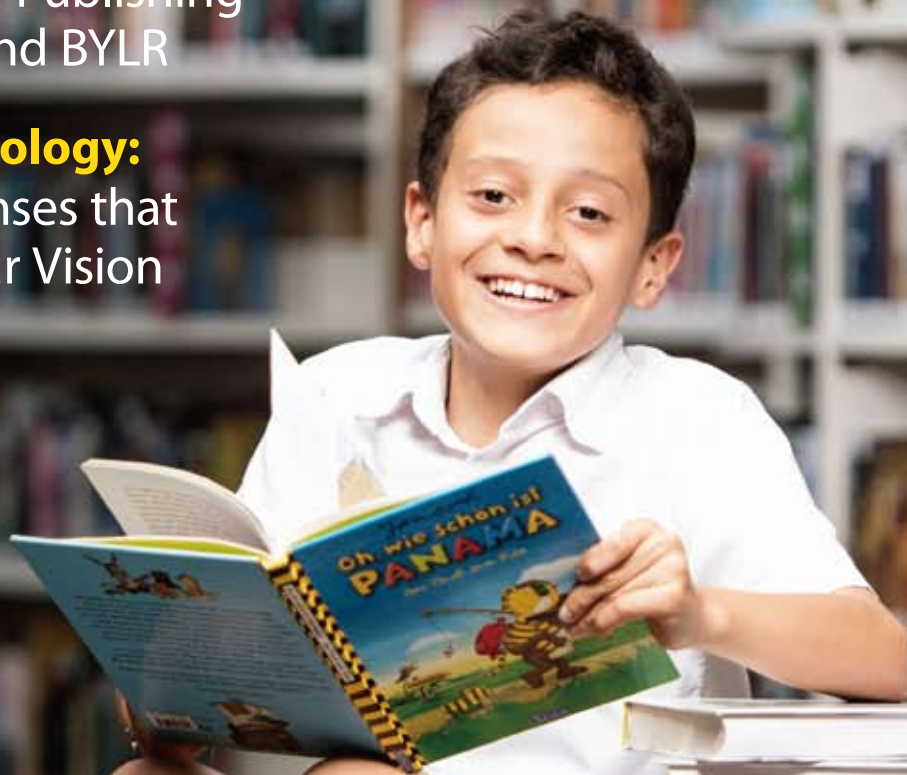
June 2017

Students Turned Authors:

Writing and Publishing
with MSB and BYLR

Orthokeratology:

Contact Lenses that
Correct Your Vision



Read Around the World

Globetrot with favorite family books this summer



True Run Media



SCAN QR CODE
FOR DETAILS



ARE YOU ONE OF US?



You think you got what it takes to become
jingkids' Editor?

Then send us your application today!

Email your updated CV plus three writing samples to employment@beijing-kids.com.

True Run Media, the parent company of beijingkids, is a proud equal-opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin or disability.

thebeijinger

beijingkids





IVY EDUCATION GROUP
艾毅教育集团



Distinguished Speaker Series
杰出教育专家讲座系列



Ivy Education Group is proud to present to you
Harvard University's most prestigious a cappella group

THE HARVARD KROKODILOES

Join us for a panel discussion featuring four members of the Krokodiloes as they share their educational journey, followed by a special, live performance by the Kroks!

Date Language

Saturday June 10th English (with Chinese simultaneous translation)

Time Admissions

9:30-10:45 Panel Discussion & Q&A Adults: 100RMB
10:45-11:00 Coffee Break Students: 70RMB
11:00-11:45 Concert (Students must be age 6 or above to attend)

Location CHAO Sanlitun Beijing, No.4 East Workers' Stadium Road

Media Partners:

Beijing's essential international family resource

beijing kids



Seats are limited, please scan the
QR code to book your spot TODAY!



WOMEN OF CHINA



《中国妇女》英文刊 2017年6月(下半月)

WOMEN OF CHINA English Monthly
Sponsored and administrated by ALL-CHINA WOMEN'S FEDERATION
Published by WOMEN'S FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS OF CHINA
Publishing Date: June 6, 2017

WOMEN OF CHINA English Monthly
中华全国妇女联合会主管/主办
中国妇女外文期刊社出版
本期出版时间:2017年6月6日

Adviser 顾问	彭珮云 PENG PEIYUN 全国人大常委会前副委员长 Former Vice-Chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee
Adviser 顾问	顾秀莲 GU XIULIAN 全国人大常委会前副委员长 Former Vice-Chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee
Director 社长	Zhang Hui 张慧
Deputy Editor-in-Chief & Deputy Director 副总编辑·副社长	Wei Liang 位亮
Deputy Editor-in-Chief 副总编辑	A Rong 阿榕
Chief Editor 主编	Yuan Kang 袁康
Managing Editor	Vanessa Jencks
Deputy Managing Editor	Andy Peñafluente III
Senior Editors	Andrew Killeen, Kipp Whitaker
Shunyi Correspondent	Pauline van Hasselt
Social Media Editor	Annie Wang
Contributors	Ember Swift
Editorial Consultant 编辑顾问	ROBERT MILLER (Canadian) 罗伯特·米勒 (加拿大)
Director of Sales Department 广告发行经营部主任	XIA WEI 夏巍
Tel 电话	5779 8877
Legal Adviser 法律顾问	LI XUESEN 李雪森
Advertising Agency	Beijing Agenda Advertising Co., Limited
广告代理	北京爱见达广告有限公司
Advertising Hotlines 广告热线	5941 0368/69/72/77/78/79
Printing 印刷	TOPPAN LEEFUNG CHANGCHENG PRINTING (BEIJING) CO., LTD. 北京利丰雅高长城印刷有限公司
Address 本刊地址	WOMEN OF CHINA English Monthly 《中国妇女》英文月刊 15 Jianguomennei Dajie, Beijing 100730, China 中国北京建国门内大街15号 邮编:100730
国际标准刊号	ISSN1000 9388
国内统一刊号	CN11-1704/C

A Publication of
True Run Media
Helping the international community get the most out of life in Beijing

True Run Media 出版制作

Managing Editor Vanessa Jencks
Deputy Managing Editor Andy Peñafuerte III
Senior Editors Andrew Killeen,
Kipp Whittaker
Shunyi Correspondent Pauline van Hasselt
Social Media Editor Annie Wang

Advertising Agency

**Beijing Agenda Advertising
Co., Limited**

广告代理

北京爱见达广告有限公司

Telephone/电话: 5779 8877

Advertising Hotlines/广告热线:
5941 0368/69/72/77/78/79

CEO and Founder Michael Wester
Owner and Co-Founder Toni Ma
Head of Marketing Lareina Yang
Marketing Team Mu Yu, Sharon Shang,
Helen Liu
Art Director Susu Luo
Production Manager Joey Guo
Graphic Designer Penny Wu
Advertising Designer Yuki Jia
Photographer Uni You
Sales Director Sheena Hu
Sales Team Coordinator Gladys Tang
Sales Team Winter Liu, Veronica Wu,
Olesya Sedysheva, Wilson Barrie,
Renee Hu, Serena Du
Content Marketing Nimo Wanjau
IT Team Yan Wen, Arvi Lefevre
Alexandre Froger
Finance Judy Zhao, Vicky Cui
HR & Admin Tobal Loyola
Distribution Minna Zhao
General Inquiries 5779 8877
Editorial 5779 8877 ext. 6693
Distribution 5941 5387

Contact:

General Information: info@beijing-kids.com

Editorial: editor@beijing-kids.com

Sales: sales@truerun.com

Marketing: marketing@truerun.com


Digital & Content Marketing: DCmarketing@truerun.com


Distribution: distribution@truerun.com

Directories: listings@beijing-kids.com

 www.beijing-kids.com

 beijingkids

 beijing-kids

 @beijingkids or #beijingkids

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.



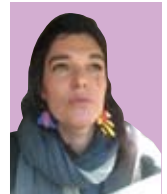
Mike Signorelli

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.



Marianne Daquet

In Beijing for 11 years, Marianne Daquet has always been passionate about art and education. She founded Atelier Art School 5 years ago with the mission to pass on her strong belief that creativity can change the world. She and her French husband have two daughters. You can reach her at Marianne@atelier.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!



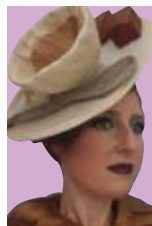
Caroline Nath

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.



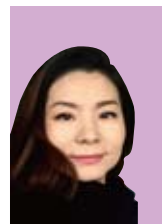
Elisabeth Koch

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 Zhang 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 own jewelry. When not working, she enjoys spending time outdoors with her family. Contact 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. Before moving to China, she worked as a health visitor, conducting in-house check ups, breastfeeding counseling, and other newborn concerns. After she moved to Beijing, she finished her Master's in Sociology and took part in the startup Challet Baby.



Editor's Correction

On p30 of the *May Home and Relocation Guide*, Raffles Medical was wrongly listed as International SOS Clinic. Please only use 6462 9112 for medical, appointment, and emergency calls.

CONTENTS

June 2017



18



24



48

LIVING

14 Indulge

Nicki Sharratt picks a bold blue hue

16 From the Blog

Star designer Luke Hughes on gap years, libraries, and more

HEALTH

17 The Natural Path

Rinse away your sinus problems with neti pots

18 Health Special

Contacts that improve your vision

DINING

20 Dining Out

5 year-old James Adams scores Fella's food

22 Food for Thought

Murphy family bakes a cherry cake via BSB, Sanlitun's special cookbook

Playing

24 Weekend Warrior

Be inspired with a visit to this unique library in Huairou

26 Playing Inside

A roundup of bookstores and libraries in Beijing

26 Maker's Corner

BIBS, Shunyi helps us catch a "monster bookworm"

LEARNING

30 Schooled

Writing and publishing books with BYLR and MSB students

34 When I Grow Up

Pickatale app CEO visits YCIS Beijing

36 Blank Canvas

3E puts together Picasso-style self-portraits

38 Tough Topics

Reading problems, ADHD, and possible solutions

39 Tech Corner

Two multilingual apps for kids' e-reading

PARENTING

40 Dynamic Dad

Homeschooling over 51,000-km and across a continent

42 West Meets East

Reading habits at home

44 The Echo Chamber

Ember Swift on the tri-lingual challenge

45 Beijing Baba

Sorting through reading trash and treasure

FEATURES

46 Read Around the World

Six global families share their favorite cultural books

54 Chinese Culture Summer Reading

Learn more about your current home through these recommended books

ESSENTIALS

5 Editor's Note

6 What's New

8 Events

13 New Arrivals

57 School News

58 The Circuit

64 Family Favorites



ON THE COVER:

Pedro Fedeles, 11, and his family shared with us about books from Panama and Puerto Rico for this issue's feature on page 46. Pedro is currently a student at Dulwich College Beijing and is also a voracious reader. On a cleaning spree under his bed, Pedro's mother found a flashlight used for his nighttime reading.

Photography by Dave's Studio

A World of Books

The team at *beijingkids* chose a reading-themed issue for many reasons. As writers, we naturally love books; as parents, we know books challenge our children educationally and spark their creativity; as expats, we love finding out about different cultures and locations near and far.

Books let us explore the world from the comfort of the warm sheets in our bed or propped on the couch under a soft blanket with loved ones tucked in our arms. Books let us escape suffocating, thick summer air or the cold bite of a winter night. Reading age-appropriate books over the summer is an inexpensive way to help students beat summer fallback, a common issue among grade-schoolers with empty summer plans. The world of literature seems as vast and wide as the world's oceans, with every year producing new authors and experimental genres. For

your children and teens, there is bound to be a book to set their love of reading ablaze.

"Read Around the World" as my last issue as Managing Editor is incredibly fitting, as I'm stepping down from the role to focus on my family and my own book and blog projects. I'll still be around in Beijing for good times at clothing auctions, day trips to my favorite Beijing spots, coffee breaks, and events here and there. For the foreseeable future, Beijing is my home, and the community's students, parents, teachers, and schools have my support. Be on the lookout for the July issue, where new dad and Managing Editor, Kipp Whittaker, will make his debut with a long-overdue Maternity issue. Don't be surprised to see my name on articles and blogs too, as I can't imagine completely leaving the *beijingkids* team while here.

Vanessa Jencks

Vanessa Jencks
Managing Editor



Celebrating 10 Years with *beijingkids*



Former Managing Editor Jessica Pan said working at *beijingkids* made a huge impact on her life. "I met my husband while working as editor; he did some work for the magazine one summer." For her, the company colleagues were her family. "It's an amazing group that I'm so honored to be a part of. I really loved that job." Her favorite issue was the Mother's Day issue. "We interviewed all kinds of different mothers living in Beijing: single mothers, mothers who have adopted, grandmothers, first-time mothers, mothers with four kids... I really liked interviewing and hearing the stories of the women and families who have found themselves in Beijing." Pan is now a freelance journalist in London, contributing to *ELLE*, *Refinery29*, *Jezebel*, *VICE*, and *The Daily Telegraph*, and her memoir *Graduates in Wonderland* was published by Penguin in 2014.

What's New

One Belt, One Road: Fun for All the Family

If you didn't know about China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative before, then you certainly do after last month's summit, when dignitaries from all over the world descended on Beijing, causing traffic gridlock, subway closures, and a security clampdown on favorite expat nightspots. But if you want to share the joys of globalization with your kids, then *China Daily* has kindly created a series of videos to help, featuring US journalist Erik Nilsson talking about the initiative with his daughter at bedtime. Alternatively, you can sing along with the government's official Belt and Road song, "The Belt and Road is How," in which children from different countries dance and sing: *The belt connects the land/ The road moves on the sea/ The promise that they hold/ Is joint prosperity*. Because as every parent knows, there's nothing that fascinates kids more than international infrastructure investment programs.



Bestselling Authors Visit Beijing

You've probably never heard of Roderick Hunt or Alex Brychta, but they created one of the most successful series of children's books ever. *The Oxford Reading Tree* has helped children in over 140 countries learn to read, with its funny, exciting stories about Biff, Chip, Kipper, and Floppy the dog. The authors visited Beijing last month and spoke to an invited audience at the British School of Beijing, Sanlitun (BSB, Sanlitun). But Hunt didn't mind not being as famous as JK Rowling. "I'd rather be as anonymous as I am," he told us, "and I'm glad I am not much in any spotlight, other than the one which shines a light on my passion to enable children to become literate, to love books, and to be effective, critical life-long learners." Read the rest of our exclusive interview on our website: www.beijing-kids.com



The Heat Is On

May saw the hottest temperatures ever recorded in Beijing for the time of year, with a "yellow heat warning" being issued. The peak temperature reached 38 degrees Celsius, not far short of Beijing's all-time high of 41 degrees in 1989. This followed an all-time high for April too, so June is likely to be a scorcher. There's no need to let the heat trap you inside, just follow a few simple precautions to stay safe and protect your kids' delicate skin: use high factor sunscreen, wear a hat and loose clothing which covers you up, and drink plenty of liquids throughout the day. And if you go swimming, don't forget to reapply sunscreen after, even if it's water-resistant.

Hunting the "Blue Whale"

Warnings have been circulating on social media about a game called "Blue Whale." Disturbing stories claim that children and teens are dared to take on a series of increasingly dangerous challenges, such as carving a whale into their skin and watching horror movies, before being told to kill themselves on the final day of the challenge. Last month, *China Daily* reported that a 17 year old had been arrested in Sichuan for spreading the game. If all this sounds like something from dystopian drama *Black Mirror*, then there's a reason why: the stories almost certainly originated as a hoax. "It's truly fake," according to netfamilynews.com, "a textbook example of how misinformation about online harm can itself be harmful." There's no credible evidence linking the game to real suicides, and the risk is that spreading warnings can encourage attention seekers to try it out, as appears to be the case with the young man in Sichuan. As always, we encourage you to take an active interest in what your children do online, to keep an open dialogue, and not to allow unsupervised access until you're confident your youngsters are sufficiently mature to handle the many dangers of the internet.



Harmony and Steve

by Jin Chan Yum Wai







United Family Healthcare
和睦家医疗



Emergency (24hr)	Obstetrics & Gynecology	Internal Medicine
Surgery	Pediatrics	Cardiovascular Medicine
Urology Surgery	Pediatric Surgery	Interventional Radiology
Orthopedics	Oncology	Family Medicine
Sports Medicine	Pathology	Vaccination Clinic
Neurosurgery	Dental Clinic	Clinical Psychology
Cardiovascular Surgery	Eye Clinic	Traditional Chinese Medicine
Thoracic Surgery	ENT Clinic (Ear, Nose, Throat)	Laboratory
Plastic Surgery	Dermatology	Imaging
Anesthesiology	Integrative Medicine	

Beijing United Family Hospital

Add: 2 Jiangtai Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100015

24hr Service Center : 24hr ER :

4008-919191 (010) 5927 7120



BJU中文微信



BJU English WeChat



BJU中文微博



June Events



June 7

1 BSB, Shunyi Secondary Soiree



All ages. Join the British School of Beijing, Shunyi (BSB, Shunyi) for an evening of creative arts, showcasing a delightful mix of art and music presented by their secondary students. Stunning pieces of artwork will be displayed in the foyer, while a musical program will include a vast range of music. A drinks and canapes reception will be hosted at 6pm. Free. 6-8.30pm. BSB, Shunyi. (brenda.leung@britishschool.org.cn, 8047-3588)

June 9

Women in Leadership: Mentor Walks Asia



Adults. Mentor Walks Asia in Beijing will bring together established and emerging women leaders in the community for a morning walk to discuss professional and personal successes, challenges, and aspirations. This event aims to provide women in the workplace a platform to share their experience and help them progress in their careers. Free. 7.45-9am. Ritan Park. (jia.wang@cbbc.org.cn, 8525 1111 ext 371)

June 10

Outdoor BBQ Funday



All ages. Enjoy the sunshine at Dulwich College Beijing (DCB) as the Australian and British communities clash in a thrilling 20-20 cricket match while grabbing a 'snag off the barbie', a delicious snack from a local vendor, or a cold beer or soft drink. Kids will be well looked after with supervised activities throughout the day. RSVP by emailing events@austcham.org. RMB 20 (child), RMB 50 (adult), RMB 100 (a family of 3), RMB 110 (a family of four). 11am-4.30pm. Dongfeng International Sports Park.

2 National Theatre Live at UCCA



Ages 10+. "National Theatre Live" is jointly staged by the National Theatre of China and the UK's Royal National Theatre. This month, UCCA will bring back two titles from the screening series—*Coriolanus* and *Hamlet*—for a second showing, together with the new screening series, *New Classic*, which includes *Man and Superman*, *The Deep Blue Sea*, *The Threepenny Opera* and *One Man, Two Guvvies*. Tickets can be purchased at <http://ucca.org.cn/en/>. Two tickets package: RMB 200 (adults), RMB 160 (members), single tickets RMB 120. Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA).





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



3 The Harvard Krokodilos 2017 in Beijing

Ages 6+. Ivy Education Group will host The Harvard Krokodilos a cappella group for a panel discussion and concert. English with Chinese simultaneous translation. 9.30-11.45am RMB 100 (adults), RMB 70 (students). (yopay.cn/event/62654498)

June 11

4 Yumeng Gorge Hike

All ages. Head to Yunmeng Gorge for a hike-and-swim combo. The sandy beaches and pools of water in Yunmeng Gorge make it an ideal place to picnic and swim. The group will walk up the gorge, find a spot to settle their things, and either take a dip in the water or follow guides for a longer hike up into the hills. RMB 380 (non-members), RMB 340 (members). 8am-5.30pm. Beijing Hikers. (info@beijinghikers.com, 6432 2786)



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF BEIJING, SHUNYI
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

Learn from the best

At The British School of Beijing (BSB) Shunyi, we believe that there are no limits to what our students can achieve. We create an environment where your child will excel academically, socially and personally.



Enrolment open for August 2017!

Come and find out
how we will inspire your child

Book a visit today

www.bsbshunyi.com/visit

admissions@bsbshunyi.com +86 (010) 8047 3558

Early Years-Primary-German Primary-IGCSE-IB Diploma

South Side, No. 9 An Hua Street, Shunyi District, Beijing



Editor's Pick



Community



Dining



Living



Playing



Health



Learning



Parenting

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

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

June 12

5 Aidi School Summer Charity Music Concert



All ages. Students will show off their talents at the Aidi School Summer Charity Concert this month. Proceeds from the sales of tickets will be donated to Beijing Dandelion School, a school for children of migrant workers, who need support for their music education. RMB 380-180. 7-9pm. Poly Theatre. (zhaoyini@aidi.edu.cn, 8439 2266 8897)

ReNuMe Mind and Body Transformation Program



Adults. Transform your body and detoxify your mind with the ReNuMe mind and body program exclusively at MsUptown Studio. The program includes: weight loss classes with personal trainer, yoga and meditation sessions, three in depth ReNu workshops, candlelit meditation class, and more! RMB 3,300. 7-8pm. MsUptown Studio. (WeChat: uptownyoga)

June 17

Learn to Play Majiang at the Sinology Institute



Ages 10+. Students can learn to play Majiang like pros at the Sinology Institute. Participants will not only learn a new, fun game, they will also learn about Chinese culture along the way. RSVP required. Free. 1.30-3.30pm. Sinology Institute. (admissions@sinologyinstitute.com, 6400 0905)



6



7

June 18

6 YCIS Beijing Student Charity Dinner



All ages. Students of the Yew Chung International School of Beijing (YCIS Beijing) will be hosting a charity dinner at the Taj Restaurant. The night will consist of a five-course meal, an extensive variety of high-quality auctions, and a number of performances from YCIS Beijing's talented students. All funds raised through the night will go towards the Dew Drops Little Flower charity, which provides medical and financial support to local Chinese orphans. RMB 246. Starts at 6pm. Taj Pavilion. (vanivgupta@hotmail.com, 137 1838 4938)

7 Hike Down the White River



All ages. The group will cross the river multiple times, passing the outskirts of small villages in an area that's a bit quieter, featuring fewer cars and more goats. Note: If the river level is raised because of rain the group may not be able to hike. Plans will be solidified the week before the hike. RMB 380 (non-members), RMB 340 RMB (members), RMB 200 (kids under 12). 8am-5.30pm. (info@beijinghikers.com, 6432-2786)

June 19

Survival Camp



Ages 7 to 18. Through making fires, building rafts, crossing rivers, and making traps Survival Camp will show participants what nature has to offer. All classes are taught by BSA-qualified (Bushcraft and Survival Association) guides with many years of experience leading survival camps abroad. RMB 750 RMB per day (normal price), RMB 650 per day (sign up two weeks before start), RMB 650 per day (3 kids). 8am-4.45pm. Huairou. (WeChat: Imagine24x7Service, 5739 4933)



Editor's Pick



Dining



Playing



Learning



Community



Living



Health



Parenting

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

**June 19****8 Sports Summer Camps**

Ages 5+. Sports Beijing and Fusion are teaming up for a full sports summer camp, with basketball, football, gymnastics, tennis, multisports, and arts and crafts. Camps run from June 19 to August 18 and are available as half days, full days, multiple weeks or one week. Prices vary. 9.30am-3pm. International School of Beijing and British School of Beijing, Shunyi (www.sportsbj.org)

David Hockney Workshop

Ages 5+. Students can discover contemporary painting with Atelier's journey through David Hockney's oeuvre. This year Hockney has two major retrospectives in London and Paris to cel-

brate his work. From the villas of Los Angeles to the countryside in Great Britain, get inspired by his landscapes, his experimental photography work, his iPad monumental paintings, and the harmony of his vivid palette. RMB 1,800 per week. 10am-noon (ages 5 to 8), 1.30-4pm (ages 9+). Atelier.

June 22**The Three Body Problem**

Ages 9+. The novel *The Three Body Problem*, by author Liu Cixin, was released in 2008 and is poised to become one of the classics of science fiction, not just at home, but around the world. This amazing novel comes to the stage in a Chinese-language production, following nanotechnologist Wang Miao as he grapples with the titular problem. June 22-24. RMB 380 -880. 7.30-9pm. Beijing Exhibition Center. (www.douban.com/event/28179748/)

June 26**Destination Moon Workshop**

Ages 5-8 (comic book making), ages 9+ (rocket building). During the workshop, students aged 9+ will build their own water propelled rocket from the basis of propulsion to its personalized design. All students will create a comic book to tell day by day their adventure, from the construction of the rocket to their journey to the moon. RMB 3,500 per week. 10am-4pm. Atelier. (contact@atelier.cn.com, 6416 1614).

The International School of Beijing is now accepting applications for the 2017/18 school year. Visit our website to book a tour.

www.isb.bj.edu.cn

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



Editor's Pick



Dining



Playing



Learning



Community



Living



Health



Parenting

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

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

Ongoing Sundays

CandleX Rooftop Yoga, Sunday Weekly at Sunset



Adults. CandleX started sunset yoga sessions on the rooftop of an old Beijing hutong house to stimulate greater relaxation for participants. CandleX now offers limited free spots to people that are going through depression or severe anxiety. RMB 100. 5pm-7pm. Nanluoguxiang Hutong. (info@candlex.cn, WeChat: candlex2015).

Filipino Martial Arts Classes



Adults. Arnis/Eskrima/Kali are some of the terms that are used to refer to the ancient fighting methods of the Philippines, otherwise known as Filipino Martial Arts (FMA). It is considered by many as the most advanced practical modern blade system in the world and is now being utilized by United States' Navy SEALs, Russian Forces, Indian Special Forces, Philippine Marine's Force Recon Battalion, Philippine Scout Rangers, Philippine National Police, and many more. RMB 6,000 (1 year), RMB 3,000 (6 months). 10am-Noon. Xin Dong Li Gym (Beijing Olympic Center, Swimming Gymnasium).

10 Morning Yoga at the Great Wall



Adults. Stretch and relax with guidance from our professional instructor. Yoga mats and fresh towels supplied. Water and herbal

teas offered. No charge to Brickyard and Brickyard Homes guests. Day visitors are welcome to participate. Prior booking required. Free for lodging guests, RMB 268, RMB 288 (includes breakfast buffet and changing room access). 9-10am. Brickyard Retreat Center. (info@brickyardatmutianyu.com, 6162 6506).

Wednesdays

Dumpling Class in a Hutong



All ages. Join KUCINA in their courtyard cooking studio for a great experience to learn how to make traditional Chinese dumplings. Their dumpling classes are available every Wednesday and Thursday, starting from 10:30am. Reservations should be made one day in advance. Contact for price. Sessions start as early as 10.30am. KUCINA Cooking. (150 1133 7590)



10

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ETONKIDS GRADUATES





我们长大啦! 载梦伊顿 感恩有你!

我们长大啦! ——载梦伊顿 感恩有你!
在你人生最初的旅程中, 我们一起自主学习、机敏思考、有创造力地解决问题, 我们愿你成为有同理心的小公民, 坚韧而阳光的个体。7月, 即将迎来伊顿孩子们人生的第一场毕业典礼, 感谢你们带给伊顿的快乐, 愿你们, 未来的旅途, 因为曾经伊顿的陪伴而梦想成真!

We've grown-up! - Etonkids thanks for your companionship!
In your first journey in life, you've learned together, thought smartly, and discovered creative solutions to all kinds of challenges.
We wish for you to become world citizens full of empathy, perseverance, and sunshine.
In July, Etonkids children will have their first graduation ceremony in life.
Thank you for the happiness you brought to Etonkids, and we hope that all your dreams come true!



400 818 9098
www.etonkids.com



Jada Zariah Ramos

Filipino. Born on February 26, 2017
to Jelly Ann and Richard Allen Ramos
at Beijing Jingshun Hospital

SAY HELLO TO BEIJING'S SMALLEST



Khalil James Philen

American. Born on
December 21, 2016
to Jasmeen and Bradford
Philen at Oasis Interna-
tional Hospital.



Charles Thomas Zhang

Chinese-British. Born on November 21, 2016
to Hayley Thomas and Seven Zhang at Ditan Hospital.

**Msafiri Winnie
Angel Sinkala**

Zambian. Born on
December 1, 2016
to Prudence Mutinta Sinka-
la and Msafiri Sinkala at
Beijing Jingshun Hospital.



Oliver James Brend

British. Born on February 26, 2017
to Tiffany Liu and Adrian Brend at United Family Hospital

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 **September 1, 2016**.

A woman with shoulder-length, wavy purple hair is smiling and looking off to the side. She is wearing a black and white houndstooth blazer over a black top, with a brown strap across her chest. She is standing in front of a vibrant, colorful mural of a city street scene. The mural features various buildings, windows, and a fire escape in shades of blue, red, and green. A semi-transparent blue and purple brushstroke graphic is overlaid on the lower half of the image, serving as a background for the text.

Singing the Blues

Adventurous Nicki Sharratt rocks a bold color choice

By Pauline van Hasselt



Sometimes it's hard to be all laughs when first arriving in Beijing, but Nicki Sharratt, a mother of two boys, is always ready to put a smile on your face. She moved to Beijing from England almost two years ago with her husband, who works in retail. Always on adventures through Beijing on the bus with her boisterous boys, it's her mission to experience each park the city has to offer. Sharratt loves to see the seasons transform in the city; from Ritan Park to Temple of Heaven, she takes her boys to play everywhere. The love for Beijing radiates from her, and it's hard to feel blue when we speak with her.

Sharratt didn't ship any belongings over, but instead brought one whole suitcase filled with books and crafts for the kids. A firm believer in reusing and great bargains, she stocks up on literature from secondhand stores and car boot sales when back in the UK.

Sharratt is one of the first mothers we've met who is wildly experimental with her hair – from blue to pink and purple, she is truly up for any wild ride. She is in trusted hands at Catherine de France, and Laëtitia Shynes is excited to give Sharratt the adventurous makeover she deserves. Browsing colors and settling on blue, Sharratt enjoys the pampering and the relaxing time away from her bustling home life.

But when she comes home she is met with a verdict from her oldest son, who states "I love your beautiful hair, mam, it smells lovely." He later presents her with a Superwoman action doll, now having evidence that his mam is indeed Superwoman. Her youngest son succinctly declares: "Hair bloooooo," and her husband agrees that the color is super cool.

Step 1

Sharratt picks out a wild color with the hair stylist. Blue it is.



Step 2

She gets a dark undertone color that will fade out to her own natural color.



Step 3

Three different popping blue colors are applied on the tips of her hair.



Step 4

The hair stylist cuts a small amount of hair to keep her luscious locks.



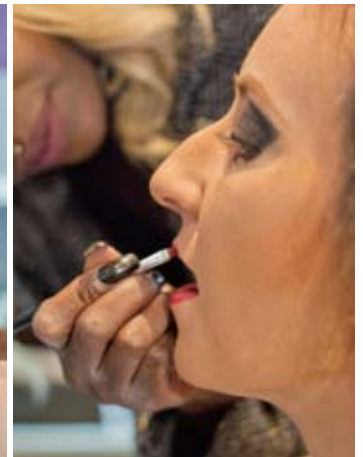
Step 5

Shynes blow-dries Sharratt's hair and adds curls.



Step 6

Model-like makeup is applied last.



Catherine de France Hair and Beauty Salon

法式美容美发沙龙

1/F, East Avenue Bldg, 10 Xindong Lu Chaoyang District

朝阳区 新东路10号逸盛阁首层 Tue-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun-Mon 11am-6pm (8442 5120, 135 2147 3492)

Products Used

MAC Studio Water Weight foundation

Bleunuit Crystal Sparkling Blush

Bleunuit Glamorous Evening mascara

Maybeline Dream Matt powder



From Gap Year Navy Adventures to Designing Beijing Libraries:

Meet Luke Hughes

By Kyle Mullin



This article first appeared on our website, www.beijing-kids.com, where new articles appear every day.

The days of studying at stuffy, strictly silent libraries are over. At least that's the impression that Luke Hughes leaves you with during a tour of the elegantly modern redesign that he oversaw at Keystone Academy's library. Upon entry one is immediately struck, for instance, by the Cambridge educated designer's placement of semi-transparent quotes on the library's hallway windows.

"The whole point is that, as you wander along, you never know which one will catch your eye, thanks to the natural lighting," the British designer says of the gleaming excerpts from Lewis Carroll, Oscar Wilde, Confucius, Zhu Xi and other authors. The plastic film that showcases those letters on the hallway side has the added benefit of offering a semi-opaque layer of privacy for the students studying inside the library, so that they aren't overly disturbed by passers-by that are peaking in.

Hughes— whose eponymous furniture designing firm boasts clients like Yale and Westminster Abbey— took other measures to make the Shunyi international school's library more inviting and visually engaging. The entryway, for instance, is arched in a classical Chinese fashion, while its bronze door handles are made in the shape of dragons— European style and the other Asian. The walls sport paintings and photos of other famous libraries around the world, but more importantly Hughes put deeply deliberate thought into the shapes of the furniture, height of the shelves and maximizing natural light, so that the study space could subtly let the students settle in and immerse themselves in their learning.

Below, Hughes tells us more about his muses and how to engage today's youth in design.

During my gap year between school and university, I went to work in the merchant navy. I was 18. My ship— an old Blue Funnel cargo liner— was sent to the South China Sea for six months. Among our crew was an old Chinese carpenter from Guangzhou. He'd make furniture out of driftwood that he fished out of the sea. So by the time he went

back home he'd bring yet another little stool or cabinet to his wife. I was really inspired by that.

By the mid-80's, books began to emerge in the West about Chinese furniture. There was a particular scholar, Wang Shixiang and the pictures of Chinese furniture in his book just hypnotized me. When I started out as a furniture maker myself I took a similar approach, and noticed a lot of similarities between Western designs and those of the Ming Dynasty, which to my mind, were more refined than those from the Qing. There is an elegance and subtlety that is really moving. So when this job came up at Keystone in Beijing, I jumped at the chance.

All my life I've been told: "Oh, you dropped out and became a designer." I try to dispel that misconception every chance I get. It's not just about designing a table and putting four legs on it. There's a meaning behind everything you design— the choice of material, the techniques of production, the ergonomics, the impact on the environment and so on. These are complicated things. Keystone has studios downstairs where students can put things together. I think that's crucial. Design is not a dropout subject; it's about coordinating hand, eye, and brain, which is really important.

I also enjoy talking to young people about sustainability. I tried to employ natural light in this library as much as I could. And I told the students about how, if you design things for a long life, you lock up carbon for a long time. So the best thing you can do is not make new things, but of course people are going to, so when you do make them you need to make them to a higher standard so they last.

If anyone wants to pursue a career in design, they need to learn how to truly use their eyes. You can do that by taking photographs, people get artistic doing that. But drawing is even better.

And I'm very pleased that Keystone has art and calligraphy classes. It doesn't matter what you draw, after a while you begin to not only see the object itself but also the meaning behind it. To me, that's the key.



Stuffy Sinuses

Rinse away pollution particles with a neti pot

by Dr. Melissa Rodriguez



I love Beijing! I've called this bustling city home for nine years and I can't say enough about how well China has treated us. Of course life in this metropolis isn't without its downsides, and we all know what the biggest one is... air quality. At least in my books, dealing with pollution is my greatest heartache.

Thankfully I have many tools in my naturopathic tool box to help counteract smoggy skies; one of those tools is the neti pot. Perhaps this is the first time you've heard of this curious looking contraption. Picture a small oblong watering can with a long, slim spout. It's available in various materials, but I prefer ceramic. You can even find it on Taobao! Let me tell you how the neti pot works, and you may also become a fan.

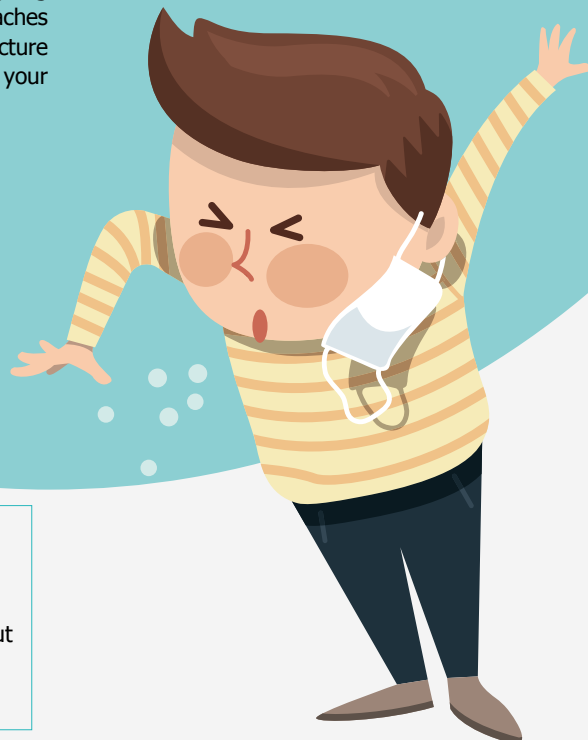
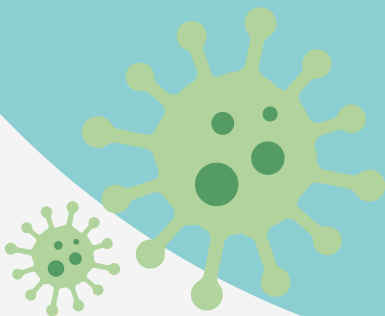
The neti pot provides an easy way to irrigate the nasal sinuses. Flushing the nasal passages with water is a form of hydrotherapy that comes from the ancient medical practice of Ayurveda. This process helps to clear mucous, microorganisms, and debris, including pollution and particles from our nose. This can lead to easier breathing for those with allergies, sinusitis, and colds.

Clearing the "stuff" in our nasal passages helps improve the function of our cilia, the tiny little hairs that line the mucous membranes of our respiratory tract. Cilia trap unwanted particles and prevent them from going into our lungs. Interestingly, some people with headaches and coughs also experience relief using a neti pot. Picture this; pour water into your right nostril while tilting your

head to allow the water to flow out the left nostril. In the process your sinuses are cleared and you can breathe easy.

Now on to the practical part of this operation, in order to successfully and healthily use a neti pot the first rule is to never use straight tap water. Water must first be boiled and allowed to cool to a lukewarm temperature. Tap water in Beijing is unreliable in terms of purity (unless you have a good filter installed), so I would suggest using bottled distilled water instead. It is the cleanest option, but you still need to boil the water. No matter what type of water you use, be sure to boil it first.

I also recommend using a saline solution in your neti pot. A saline solution is essentially a salt solution; it's gentler on sinuses and acts as a disinfectant as well. A simple recipe can be made at home. Place one cup or 240 ml of boiled water in a clean glass or ceramic container. Add ½ tsp or 2.5g of salt to the water, along with ½ tsp of baking soda. For salt I suggest using a non-iodized imported version. The fewer additives the better. Dissolve the salt and baking soda completely, and then transfer your saline solution to the neti pot. Now find yourself a bathroom sink and get ready to have some fun!



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

See Clear

Reshape your cornea for near perfect vision

By Vanessa Jencks



Imagine if even though you don't have perfect 20/20 vision, you could still see perfectly throughout the day without using contacts or glasses. Sounds like the beginning of a gimmick or hoax science, but in fact, this is actually possible. Ophthalmologists are now able to correct eyes in a similar way to orthodontists straightening teeth. Dental braces are now relatively inexpensive, the pain isn't intolerable, it's a common process, and as long as your teeth aren't too bad, no surgery is required.

In the field of orthokeratology (nicknamed ortho-k or OK), doctors can prescribe contacts that will work at night to gently reshape the cornea until it fits the shape of the contact, almost like a retainer for eyes. The wearer sleeps soundly through the whole process. It works like this; the contacts will apply a small amount of pressure to the cornea that causes it to eventually form to the shape of the contacts. As the cornea shape changes, so should the lens prescriptions, and it is up to the discretion of the eye doctor how frequently to change this prescription.

The eventual results allow the user to see clearly without using contacts or glasses during the day. But not only that, Dr. Wu Yunyan of Beijing United Family Hospital said, "Orthokeratology lenses (OK lenses) can slow down the progression of myopia (nearsightedness) by 50 percent when compared to children who wear spectacles." By Chinese law, Children should be 8 years old at least, though Dr. Tang Yan, of Beijing Aier Intech Eye Hospital, and her colleague, Dr. Fan Chunlie, have concerns that this age may also be too young. For adults under 40 years of age, it can reverse the effects of myopia and is recommended for those who have up to a -5 myopia or -1.5 astigmatisms.

In the future, the Chinese field is expected to include "collagen cross-linking technology" which would allow users to wear the contacts a few times throughout the year rather than every night or several times a week, explained Dr. Tang. Though ortho-K has been practiced privately and experimentally in the US, with recent FDA approvals of the contact lenses used in practice, ortho-K has been administered for nearly ten years in China. "According to incomplete statistics, China has seen an annual increase in orthokeratology from 10 to 300 thousand per year, with the growth rate being around 40 percent per year. In 2015, national institutions fit about 800 thousand people, and the current count is 2 million people who wear OK lenses in China," Dr. Fan said.

With all of this in mind, we still had a few questions.

Do these lenses hurt?

"OK lenses are more uncomfortable compared to soft contact lens because they are rigid gas permeable contact lenses. The material of an OK lens is more like that of hard contacts of the early 2000's. But since they are more gas permeable and anti-protein than traditional soft contact lenses, they are safer to wear at night." Dr. Wu said.

"Children will feel a strange body sensation, but they should feel comfortable with the contacts after a week." Dr. Tang said.

Who should not be recommended for this?

Fan explained that certain eye diseases like cataracts and glaucoma would prevent patients from being able to use OK lenses. There also may be hesitation for those with "acute sinusitis, severe diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and other collagen and neuropathy diseases." The solution also may cause an allergic reaction in some.

Children who are unable to take care of themselves, who have poor personal hygiene or poor compliance with medical instructions, should not be considered for OK lenses.

Can pregnant women wear OK lenses?

"The eyeball during pregnancy will change a little, and they will change back after pregnancy, so OK lenses are not suitable for this situation. We also do not suggest pregnant women wear OK lenses, because if they end up developing an eye infection, it is very difficult for them to use eye drops. The drops may hurt the fetus." Dr. Wu said.

Are there any risks or side effects?

"Eye infection. Patients should pay special attention to the proper insertion and removal of OK lens and follow appropriate hygiene care procedures to avoid infection. If parents find that their child has redness of the eyes, tearing, or photophobia, then an eye doctor should be seen immediately." Dr. Wu said.

How much does it cost?

Prices range per person, per age range, and per package, but typically the cost is less expensive than Lasik eye surgery. To find out more information, call the hospitals directly to make an appointment.

About the Doctor



Dr. Tang Yan graduated from Wenzhou Medical College. She completed research in corneal contact lenses for two years at Peking University Ophthalmology Research Center, and five years of study in ophthalmology surgery at Fukang Tongren Ophthalmic Hospital Clinic.

Currently at Beijing United Family Hospital, Dr. Wu Yunyan graduated from Capital University, receiving her degree in clinical medicine in 1998. She has been an ophthalmologist almost 20 years and speaks both English and Mandarin. Dr. Wu has previously worked at Sixth Hospital in Beijing and Beijing Intech Eye Hospital.



Dr. Fan Chunlie is the Director of the Optometry Center at Beijing Aier Intech Eye Hospital. Dr. Fan graduated from Chinese Medical University and is experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric diseases and refractive errors.

Resources

Beijing Aier Intech Eye Hospital (北京爱尔英智眼科医院)
5F, Panjiayuan Plaza #12 Panjiayuan Nanli, Chaoyang 朝阳区
潘家园南里12号楼(潘家园大厦) 5F (6773 2700)

Beijing United Family Hospital Eye Clinic
Between Buildings 14/15, Jianwai Diplomatic Residence
Compound (DRC), No. 1 Xiushui Street, Chaoyang
朝阳区建国门秀水街1号建外外交公寓14和15号楼之间
邮政编码 (5927 7038)

Sweet Potato Chips for Life

A sunny lunch
at family-friendly
community
restaurant Fella's

Text by Pauline van Hasselt,
Photos by Dave's Studio



James Adams, 5, holds up the chips that have been promised to him for life.



When arriving at the front entrance of Fella's one can't help but wonder, "Where is the rest of the restaurant?" But the stairs lead up to an enormous space with a stage, a bar, a restaurant, and a kids' play area with an enormous ball pit and slide. Let's not forget the deck wrapped around the restaurant with views of the lake. The setting is reminiscent of south Texas where sitting on the porch with an iced tea overlooking the bayou is a perfect Saturday pastime.

James Adams and his parents Lizbet and Jason joined us on a hot Saturday for a lunch on the wooden deck and a play session inside the kids' area. James is from the US and attends Beanstalk International Bilingual School (BIBS) in Shunyi. In his free time he enjoys soccer, singing, and cooking shows. "I love this restaurant as I can play and run around," James exclaims before he even takes a bite of food.

The Adams family was very impressed with the surprising space of Fella's, and as mom Lizbet explained, "I am so happy to see that the first page of the menu is for kids, as when we go out, our first concern is if it will be child friendly." And the menu proved that it was. The kids menu was extensive, with cheap prices ranging from RMB 10-30, and a mixture of American fare; from pizza and salads to wraps, there is something for all taste buds.

As *beijingkids* spoke to the owner of Fella's, Gregory MacIsaac, it was evident that he is truly a man of all trades, with fingers in many projects and adventures, one in education and the other in food. Hailing from Canada and living in Beijing for 23 years, MacIsaac aka Fella has been the owner of Fella's for 2 years now. Turning a biker bar into a family-friendly community hub has been his latest mission. Inside the restaurant, visitors will find displayed art from young and upcoming artists and a safe space for kids to play. Board games are available for families and friends to have a competitive night out. There's a big podium for bands and regular salsa nights.

James tasted the chicken wrap with fresh sweet potato chips. He was enchanted by the chips and stated, "These are my favorite for sure!" MacIsaac contently offered James "sweet potato chips for life at Fella's." Such a generous offer needed to be in writing, and now it is!

Fella's

Everyday. 10am-9.30pm, bar open until 11pm. 2F, 8 Laiguangying Dong Lu, (off the Airport Expressway) Chaoyang (100m north of WAB main entrance) 朝阳区来广营东路(北京京西学校旁边)



Cherry on Top

A cake recipe passed across time and continents

By Pauline van Hasselt

The Murphy family (clockwise from left) Ian, Emma, Saorla, and Finn

PHOTO: UNI YOU

The British School of Beijing, Sanlitun (BSB, Sanlitun) Parents Association has collaborated to make a cookbook for charity, called *A Little Taste of Home*. We had the pleasure of trying out one of the 100 recipes featured in the book. The cookbook has been created with recipes from parents and students of the school, to showcase home cooking, go back to family roots, and share culinary delights. The parent association is not doing things by half measures. A photographer and chef helped create the beautiful book, and even the pages looked good enough to eat.

The Murphy family baked a delicious cherry Madeira cake at their home in Beijing. The family, which hails from England and Ireland, has been in the bustling city for a year and a half now. Finn (5 years old) attends BSB, Sanlitun, and Saorla (2 years old) attends playgroups. The famous cake is a recipe of Emma's grandmother who lived to be 100. She was a great baker and left the family with an old recipe book which has been used now for nearly 60 years. The cake is best served with an Irish cuppa tea which Ian likes to indulge in.

Cherry Madeira Cake



Ingredients

- 175g margarine
- 175g castor sugar
- 3 eggs
- 225g flour
- 1.5 tsp baking powder
- 225g glacé cherries

① Line the bottom of a deep 18cm cake tin with a baking paper and grease with butter.



② Place all the ingredients except cherries in a bowl and beat with a wooden spoon or use a mixer.



③ Fold in the cherries, place mixture in prepared tin and smooth top.



④ Bake in preheated oven for 90 to 150 min. Test before removing the oven.



⑤ Turn out then remove paper and cool on a wire rack.





Weekend Warrior

Liyuan Library

Experiencing Beijing's most Instagrammable library

By Kipp Whittaker

Libraries have held an integral role throughout human history as a place where knowledge is stored, protected, and passed down from generation to generation. But due to limited access and living in the age of the internet, these houses of information have mostly become obsolete.

We say mostly because there is still a certain fondness that exists for the utilitarian functions of a library, and the sort of conduciveness for learning and quiet ambiance such places possess. That's why we decided to venture out to the village of Jiaojiehe, in the mountainous region of Huairou, to check out this minimalist architectural wonder known as the Liyuan Library.

Liyuan Library was designed and built by Li Xiaodong, an architecture professor at Tsinghua University in 2011. Li saw it as a way to draw visitors to the forgotten village and help promote economic development. Since construction, the library has been featured in numerous architectural and international publications, not only because of its unique structural characteristics, but also because of its isolated and serene location.

Using the village and its landscape as inspiration, one of the building's most distinct features are its use of local fruit tree branches along the roof and exterior to almost camouflage the facade with its surroundings. This decision also gives Liyuan's interior the perfect amount of ambient lighting during the day and helps keep the glass and steel box structure relatively cool during warmer months by providing just the right amount of shade. This combination of a unique design and remote location has since turned this sleepy village outpost into a travel destination for about 400 people every weekend between mid-April and mid-October.



PHOTOS: KIPP WHITTAKER

Traveling to the Library

Getting there, however, is no real easy feat. It is a 50km drive from the city center, which depending on traffic can take you up to three hours to reach. We recommend arriving early because the weekend lines can get painfully long.

We first rode the subway to Houshayu on Line 15 and from here caught a Didi, which managed to bring us the rest of the way. The library wasn't easy to find, and we had to turn around at one point because the road Didi directed us to take was closed. It also got even more confusing because there wasn't much cellular service as you begin to traverse up the mountain.

All in all, though, the drive up these summits provided many stunning views. There were a couple of moments where you could even spot unrestored guard towers of the Great Wall that have probably been untouched for years due to their hard-to-reach positions.

Upon entering the site, a couple of signs pointing in the way of Liyuan Library will lead past a couple of small restaurants. If arriving by car, they ask for a RMB 5 parking fee. Once out of the car, there's a small concession stand that can come in handy as this is the last chance to get some liquids or a quick snack before reaching the library, which is about a five-minute walk down a gravel road.

Arriving for the Line and Wait

The scene is immediately impressive. The elongated box structure covered in dead tree limbs is perfectly nestled among mountains and a small pond with a greenish blue hue. The one thing that didn't look tranquil however was the line of 30 people waiting to get into this minimalist house of knowledge. This was about 1.30pm, and they had just reopened after their lunch break.

This was also when we discovered that the library has a limited capacity of 40 people at all times. Though the restriction makes sense, it can be a little troubling knowing that nobody currently flipping through their pages on the inside will leave for a while. It's unlikely that anyone goes to a library this remote to just walk inside, check it out, then hit the road.

So we ended up waiting for about two hours just to get in. Luckily, it was mostly in the shade, and there were plenty of places to play while one person maintains that precious place in line.

Books and Ambiance Inside

After reaching the front of the line, removing your shoes to keep the space clean is expected, so make sure to come wearing a clean pair of socks to avoid adding some unpleasantness to the lovely woodsy odor of the venue.

The interior is equally impressive as the facade, filled with wooden steps and open floor space for sitting. As we mentioned before, there is great natural lighting provided as the sunlight is obstructed by thousands of branches fastened to the exterior. Just enough light to get in the mood to start digging into the book of your choosing.

A majority of the books here are in Chinese, but not all. Both the kids and adult sections have a decent amount of books in English, but nothing compared to a Beijing bookseller.

We realized quickly that this was more of a place to soak in the atmosphere, not their shallow collection of used books, which included titles ranging from JD Salinger's *Nine Stories* and Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*, to less desirable informational reads like *Skype Hacks: Tips & Tools for Cheap, Fun, Innovative Phone Service*.

Despite this lack of choice, it was probably the most "Instagrammable" library we had ever visited. That's what a majority of the people seemed to be doing there, despite the numerous signs prohibiting photography.

Caution for Parents and Kids

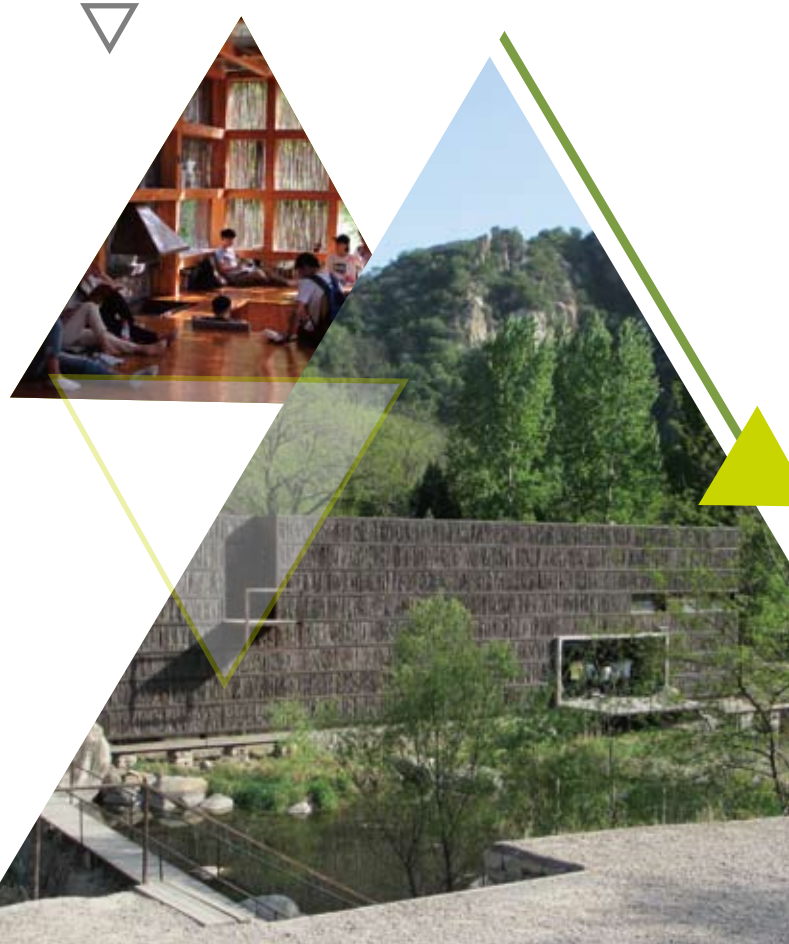
We should warn that even though this space is conducive to reading, it isn't very safe if a child is one that can't sit still for extended periods of time. There are sections who have a pretty high drop due to the design, neglecting the use of guard rails likely for aesthetic reasons.

This is why in their comprehensive set of rules that can be found on their WeChat account, they state that children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 18 at all times, and children under the age of three will not be admitted. They also make it clear that you must watch your step at all times, and they can't be held responsible for any injuries that may occur. It was the first time that we've seen the term "use at your own risk" to detail the potential harm that could be caused by a library.

After spending an hour reading our Kindle in the company of other hardcore readers, we decided it was time to soak in a little more of the scenic offerings available around the perimeter, which can also be a pleasant place to get some reading done. As we were exiting, we encountered a little shouting match with an angry visitor who arrived about an hour before closing time to at least an hour long wait in line. Don't let this happen to you by doing your utmost to get there when they open at 9am, to ensure hours of reading pleasure. As the old saying goes, "the early bird gets the worm," or in this case the bookworm we suppose.

Liyuan Library 篱苑书屋

Sat-Sun 9-11:30 am, 1:30-4:30 pm. Zhihui Valley, Jiaojiehe Village, Yanxi Town, Huairou 怀柔区雁栖镇交界河村智慧谷 (139 1010 5454, WeChat: liyuanlibrary)



Literary Spaces

Visit a world of languages and books in Beijing

By Annie Wang

Peekabook Library was launched by two Chinese-American mothers and includes a vast collection of English language children's books. The founders of the space are based in the US and bring children's books to China with the goal of exposing children in Beijing to more Western books in an affordable way. At Peekabook, a full-year membership costs RMB 800, and half the year, RMB 500. The library also rewards kids for returning books, giving them RMB 1 each time. Membership also includes Chinese and English reading sessions twice a day and crafts classes in the afternoon.

Open Tues-Sun 9.30am-8.30pm. Room 203, #1 Building, Bishui Community, WanliuZhonglu, Haidian 海淀区万柳中路碧水云天社区1号楼底商302室 (8256 7276, WeChat: Peekabooklibrary_WL)



Ready Reading Library is a bilingual library opened in October 2016 by two mothers, Mia Wang and Jane Fang. The space has lockers, a café, two classrooms that host arts and crafts activities, an arena for story tellers, and an outdoor space. Ready Reading also sells kids' toys. A one-year membership costs RMB 1,280 and includes unlimited book borrowing throughout the year, 10 books borrowed at a time, online book ordering and free delivery/pick up, a 20 percent discount on new books, and an entrance ticket per session discounted to RMB 100. A single entry ticket includes access to the reading library, two cups of free coffee, unlimited stay for the day, and entry for one child and two adults.

Open daily, 9am-6pm. Guanghua Lu Soho, Level 15, Block 1 No.22 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路SOHO一期一单元15层, 光华路南侧, 都是圈的那个楼 (5368 5569)

R3 Discovery aims to provide a space for children to read and discover the fun of learning English. Focused on children ages 5 to 12, R3 Discovery hosts reading programs for three different reading levels: guided reading, independent reading, and advanced reading. There is also a flexible schedule for weekends, seasonal workshops, and parenting talks and workshops held weekdays at 10-11am. There are no membership fees, and children go through reading assessments to find out which level reading group from which they would most benefit. Program fees are RMB 270/1.5 hrs.

Open Monday to Friday at 3.30- 5pm. InnCube, 9th Floor, Jingchao Building, No.5Nongzhan South Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区农展南路5号京朝大厦9层众舍空间 (151 0160 5805, WeChat: R3Discovery, r3discovery@sina.com)



Our Little Library is tailored towards toddlers aged 1 to 4 years. The library hosts baby storytimes twice a week from 10-11.30am, Tuesdays for 1 to 2 year olds and Thursdays for 2 to 4 year olds. There is no membership fee and parents can sign up on WeChat and pay RMB 100 a session. Groups are small so registering beforehand is highly recommended. During a storytime, the group will engage in singing, storytelling, and will participate in other activities related to books. After that, attendees can borrow books for two weeks, paying a RMB 100 deposit which will be refunded upon their return. The library has mostly English and Chinese books and a small selection of books in other languages. The books are generally for ages 7 and below.

Open Tues and Thurs 10-11.30am. Beijing, Chaoyang, Sanlitun DRC 北京朝阳区三里屯外交公寓 (WeChat: skutella)

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF READY READING LIBRARY

The National Library of China 国家图书馆 is the largest library in Asia and the third largest in the world. In addition to holding the world's largest collection of Chinese literature and historical sources, the NLC also has a peaceful children's section for ages 15 and below. This section boasts hundreds of English-Mandarin bilingual books as well as books for China's minority languages. Kids can enter the NLC Children's Library by presenting a reader's card or valid IDs. In order to get a reader's card, children must be accompanied by an adult and show valid ID. All publications in the Children's Library can only be read within the NLC and readers are only allowed to take three books off the shelf at a time.

Open Mon-Fri at 9am-5pm (open in public holidays). National Library of China, #33 ZhongguancunNandajie, Haidian 海淀区中关村南大街33号 国家图书馆 (8854 5080, webmaster@nlc.gov.cn)



Bookstores

Star Kids 书店 is open Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm. Room 201, Heng Tong Building, No. 1, Shun Chang Avenue, Nan Fa Xin Town, Shunyi 顺义区南法信空港物流园顺畅大道1号恒通大厦201号 (84727131, WeChat: StarKidschina, www.starkidschina.com, alex@starkidschina.com)

Page One 叶一堂 has a wide variety of Chinese and English children's books, at one point selling the *Hunger Games* book series. For addresses, hours of operation, and contact information, please refer to www.pageone-group.com

The Poplar Kids Republic 蒲蒲兰绘本馆 provides kids with English language books that can help foster an appreciation for stories and language learning. Open daily 10am-7pm. Rm 1362, Bldg 13, Jianwai Soho, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环中路39号建外Soho13号楼1362 (5869 3032)

The Bookworm 老书虫吧 hosts Bookworm Kids Club sessions every weekend. On Friday mornings from 10.30-11.30am, kids aged three months to 2 years can join in mom and baby activities. On Saturday mornings starting from 10.30am, children aged 4 to 10 can join the Bookworm for storytelling and crafts. The Bookworm has Chinese and English children's and young adult books. Open daily from 9am to midnight. Courtyard 4, GongtiBeilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院 (6586 9507, peter@chinabookworm.com)

Foreign Languages Bookstore 外文书店 has a wide variety of English books, mostly for ages 4 to 5. Open daily 9.30am-9pm. 235 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区王府井大街235号 (6512 6911, bxwjsjb@public.bta.net.cn)

Sisyphus Bookstore has a wide variety of English language books including *National Geographic Kids* magazine, *Captain Underpants*, and picture books. Open daily 10am-10pm. L1 Building 1, Solana Mall, Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园蓝色港湾国际商务区1号楼L1 (14号线枣营站A出口) (5905 6490)





Monster Bookmark

BIBS catches a big “bookworm” to make reading more fun

Text by Andy Penafuerte III, Photos by Dave’s Studio

Vibrant images and illustrations surely entice children to read books. To make reading even more playful, art teacher Nadia Learned at Beanstalk International Bilingual School, Shunyi (BIBS, Shunyi) thought of adding a twist to the usual bookmark, by making it a big and voracious “bookworm monster.” Ninth-grader Bronwyn Tosa helped *beijingkids* catch, or rather, create a colorful monster.

Estimated time 30 minutes
Suitable for Kids 5+

Materials

Colored square origami papers, 15x15cm
 White rectangular paper, 7.5x15 cm
 Pencil
 Black marker
 Glue stick
 Scissors (optional)



I. Origami



1. Fold square origami paper diagonally, then fold two 45-degree corners to meet at the middle of the 90-degree corner.



2. Unfold these corners again. Fold the top 90-degree corner in the opposite direction, toward the middle of the diagonal line.



3. Bring the two 45-degree corners to the middle of the 90-degree corner again, then fold them into a pocket. The origami bookmark is finished, but it looks somewhat bland, doesn't it? Let's turn it into a book-eating monster!



4. Making a mouth: Put the bookmark on top of a rectangular piece of paper and trace a smaller square by slightly moving the bookmark upwards. Cut out the resulting small square then paste it into the bookmark pocket.



6. Making the face: Cut out the monster's eyes, ears, and tongue from the leftovers of other papers. Apply glue and stick them on the monster's face. Draw eyeballs and eyebrows with a black marker.

II. Making a Bookworm Monster



5. Using a white paper square (or any other color if you wish), draw and cut the monster's teeth on one diagonal half. Then paste the other side of the diagonal half inside the pocket.



7. Your monster is ready to eat your book!



Colette Cooke (left) encourages Shiraz Rothschild (right) and other MSB pupils to author literacy works.

Connecting Words

Writing to share your own
identity with others

Text by Andy Penafuerte III, Photos by Lens Studio

*Brother oh sister
oh Father oh no,
Nobody really understands me so.
They give me money and they give me gold,
But don't they know, all I want is
To get some love from their souls?*

— Excerpt from *Brother oh Sister*,
Shiraz Rothschild, 2017

Writing is celebrated as one of the fundamental artistic forms of human expression. Like our rich emotions, literature takes different forms to satisfy our need to define our identities and shake our understanding of nature and reality.

But what is enthralling in literature is its inherent quality to connect minds, from authors to audience anywhere in the world. A string of words, a collection of paragraphs, or a melody of lyrics carries a vivid mixture of ideas flowing from the imagination of its creator. How an audience interacts with these forms is as magical as their creation.



Student literature is mostly published in-house.

The Hurdles of Student Potential in the Digital Age

"Imagine if you couldn't talk. It would be hard to express those deep feelings," 10-year-old Shiraz Rothschild told *beijingkids*, "Writing is a form of art because you're trying to express yourself just like what the early cavemen did. Instead of making sounds, they drew and that's what's probably more affectionate and personal." The Grade 4 pupil at the International Montessori School of Beijing (MSB) is one of the students who wrote a collection of literature as part of the school's literacy program. "[But] since we have computers and technology, you can remember quotes or Google something," she continued.

Whereas technology has opened many new channels for self-expression, it has a detrimental effect on people-to-people interaction. "It seems that people have lost their humanistic side in this digital age and conversation have been replaced with [short-form] messages or emails," said Kaersten Deeds, university counselor at Dulwich College Beijing (DCB).

"Words are the connections from emotion to emotion."

Today's messaging methods have brought that impulse for swift responses, which are more often laconic and prone to misinterpretation. When what is viewed as a facilitator limits personal interaction, we wondered how it would affect reading and writing.

"The limitations in conversation have plagued many students who are a part of this super digital generation," Deeds said. "They have lost the ability to communicate effectively and advocate on their behalf. There is a newfound shyness and awkwardness attributed to human interaction that can now easily be masked by [short-form] text."

Students are also prone to look for simplistic answers while discovering their own voice. Simon Shieh, one of the editors of *Beijing Youth Literary Review* (BYLR), said that youth have a hard time seeing the larger picture. "[They] are constantly looking for the right answer and that's a bad thing to do when you're writing creatively or what you're writing about is a kind of expository essay, or just making an argument. A lot of times in writing there is no right answer. I guess that might be something that holds students back nowadays."

That difficulty in self-expression can be attributed to the dilemma of finding identity, especially for students. There's so much noise in the background and more often than not, youngsters try to conform to whatever is the norm or prescribed by society. When students write essays for school tests, preparation for university, or to express themselves, Deeds said they follow the superficial, use a complex jargon, or discuss a hackneyed theme. The combination results in a stagnant and bland story that shows no deep thoughts or fails to reflect their character and potential.

Corners such as this appear in the library and every classroom.



Creating a Student-Led Narrative

"Children are storytellers, negotiators, and reporters. They're all of these things," said Colette Cooke, lead teacher and deputy academic head at MSB. Cultivating their inner selves, as she said, is done through motivation. But in writing, a crucial factor is not just motivating but also valuing children's contributions. "No matter what they write, read it like it's gold, showing them that you value their voice and that there are different ways to communicate with their audience."

Rothschild told *beijingkids* she has written four books and a number of poems as part of MSB Authors, a platform under MSB's literacy curriculum that allows students to author books and compose poems and other literary works. All the compositions are put in MSB Authors Corner in the library and in every classroom for other children and visitors to enjoy.

"It was impressive! If I didn't put my name next to it, my family probably would think that it was written by someone else," Rothschild said of her very first book about herself, published when she was grade 1. At the time of writing, Rothschild is creating her fourth book, about Greek mythology.

The platform, as MSB calls it, is a concept initiated by their student Catherine Ma and her mother last year. In April 2017, we featured Ma and how she authored a bilingual book that compiled years of her literary work at the school. MSB developed the concept and integrated it into their English literacy program. Cooke said the platform nurtures

student authors in this age of technology by going back to the roots of writing: knowing first their interests, and then teaching them the underlying skills in writing and publishing, and exposing them in different literary genres. The outcomes come in the form of books: poetry, biography, and fiction. Since the launch of MSB Authors, the school has seen a continuous stream of literary production from students.

"My philosophy is really that the books that our children read in the library are no more valuable than the books they produce themselves, or the things they have to say," Cooke said. "When we offer children an idea or experience, the directions that they go in are endless."

Real World Opportunities for Young Writers

When given an opportunity, young people can create colorful and perceptive personal narratives through writing. "[That] identity can help you feel like you're something... not defined by your grades, depression or anxiety, or your parents," Shieh said. "Some teenagers are timider and they will not tell their stories, but a lot of other teenagers are just burning to tell someone [their narratives] and to be taken seriously, [and] that's the thing that BYLR does – to take young writers seriously."

In Spring 2017, Shieh and colleagues Kate Rowe and Jennifer Fossenbell launched the first issue of BLYR, *Maps*. It featured 40 student writers from different schools across Beijing, all of them giving a perception of the ethereal territories of childhood and growing up.



*I am an intelligent artifact
All I have to do is direct the way
for people
It's pretty simple work for me
But I still don't know what word
people can use to describe me.*

— Excerpt from *What Am I?*,
Clare Wu, 2017*

"It's such an empowering tool [and] feeling for a young writer to have this platform ... and be taken seriously as someone who has an interesting story."

Preparation for Life and Study After Grade School

Shieh said BYLR not only gives personalized feedback to budding writers, but also readies them for college applications, helps improve their creative and technical writing skills, and fosters a creative literary and artistic community of young people in Beijing.

But what is important, as he said, is to let young people vent out and let their voices be heard through writing. "There's always going to be people who need to create narratives out of their experiences, their lives, as a kind of catharsis or a way to solidify their identity." Shieh believes that it is important for educators to teach young people the craft of writing to help students to liberate their voices without getting stuck in the notions of what is right or wrong, or good or bad.

Cooke, meanwhile, said that elementary children need to be exposed to hands-on and collaborative activities with older peers so that they will be motivated to write as part of holistic learning. Most of the time when students share their literary work, she explained, they become enthusiastic to the point that they want to write more. "We're a Montessori school and we teach in multiple age groups. And that's exactly why we do it. Younger children learn best from peers that are

slightly older than them. And it just develops so much community in the school to do that."

Words from Within

Rothschild shows no sign of stopping her literature production. "I will still write books, but the books will probably be very different. When I look at the journals [I made] when I was in first grade ... it's also like saying how good you were at that age. When I think of them, I'm like 'I was so little, I was so young, everything wasn't that good.' But when you look at it now, you'll be like, 'Wow, I was so mature and big.'"

Both Cooke and Shieh believe that writing comes from the unconscious, and it is important young people be invested in it so that they can amplify their voices, exude their identities, and express their emotions. When someone understands and relates to that voice, the writer succeeds in producing a powerful piece of work, Shieh said, while Cooke calls it "magical" and a "quintessential thing about being a human."

"If you lose the ability to speak," Rothschild said, "... it'd be hard. But I think I can go a whole day without speaking and just showing my emotions, like happy or sad. Because people, humans, basically depend on emotions. Words are the connections from emotion to emotion. If you didn't have emotions, there would be no use for words."

I Want to Be a CEO

Sig Dugal shares the success story of Pickatale app with
YCIS Beijing students

Text by Andy Penafuerte III, Photos by Lens Studio



Reading is fun but what makes it exciting are the lively images that bring out readers' imaginations. Now Pickatale app takes it to a much more interactive level for kids up to 8 years old. It features over 1,000 audio-visual storybooks, translated in English, Chinese, and other languages. Pickatale app founder Sigbjørn (Sig) Dugal has 15 years experience working with startups in China. He visited Yew Chung International School of Beijing (YCIS Beijing) and shared with Year 8 and 9 students his entrepreneurial expertise and a back story about the app. Read our review in Tech Corner on p 39.



Guy, 13, US

Are you interested in putting games in Pickatale's new system to attract more people to use the app?

Yes, definitely. Putting games in a reading app is called gamification. But we don't want to just gamify the app, we want to continue to have kids read.



Emmie, 13, US

Will you eventually try to publish the books in every language?

We have plans now for Spanish, German, and French translations. It takes time and costs a lot of money to get them into a different language. Probably this year we will add more languages. Our focus now is China.



Cesare, 13, Italy

What are the key things you need to learn in school to become a good entrepreneur?

I think it's important to address what's being taught in school today. When we rethink how to teach children, it's important to prepare them for what's happening next in the world. I think multitasking, knowing a little bit about everything, and then finding your own ways are the key.



Leighton, 14, US

You mentioned failure as your first attempt in learning. Are there major failures you've had in your businesses? How did you cope with them?

Yes, many, but the furniture company was the biggest because I was very passionate about it. How I marketed on the internet to so many people cost me so much money. I wanted to democratize how furniture designers sell their product in the market. But it just didn't work, and I had to lay off a lot of people. Most of them were my friends, and I had to go to them and say sorry. That was tough, but I learned a lot from that, and I will never make that same mistake again regarding how to get customers.



Alicia, 12, Singapore

What made you feel like you needed to make the app?

I wanted my kids to read books and especially to buy digital books. There was nothing out there then. The publishing industry has been doing the same for a lot of years and they don't need to renew their business. And that's why we thought, "Oh, this is an opportunity." Nobody has collected so many books in the world and put them together, in several languages, not only PDFs but something more behind them that can help a child to read.



Ethan, 12, New Zealand

When you were at our age, what was your dream job?

Both my parents are doctors, but when I was young, I ran a business as a nightclub DJ. I think I've always enjoyed doing business.



Steven, 13, Canada

Does Pickatale have a large server in which all the books are stored? How do you run them?

Today, you don't need a large server. Now we can rent a cloud-based service from Amazon. Our main server is in Ireland, but then we say to the server, "Okay we want to put you in Shanghai as well," and then they are.



Jane, 13, South Korea

Do you plan to make books for older readers?

Since we officially launched in China in August last year, we're working with more than 1,000 schools, most are kindergartens and private learning institutions. The natural expansion path is to take on books for older readers. We also want to start a program where we encourage young people to write books.



Chiara, 12, Italy

How long does it take to create an app like Pickatale?

It took us a lot of time because of the amount of content. We took an approach called "lean startup." With this style, it took us 3-4 months to program everything, but then the content took a lot of time.



Stella, 12, US

What was the first thing you ever sold?

I sold magazines to my friends. I was maybe 8 years old.



Leander, 15, Germany

Creating Pickatale is obviously quite a huge achievement. Have you studied design and technology before?

No. This is why I said teamwork is so important. Your future is not about what you know, but what you need to have are relationships. Treat people well and know the best one in doing design, the best programmer and so on, and put them together and explain your vision, what you want to do, and then you'll have a great team.

Grade 1 students from 3e International School make self-portraits inspired by Spanish painter Pablo Picasso



Ariah, 7 – China

My favorite thing about Picasso is that he made a lot of art using his imagination.



Tiger Zheng, 7 – China

I enjoyed using my favorite color blue while making my self portrait.



Eddy, 7 – Rwanda

I enjoy using shapes to make my self-portrait like Picasso.



Johnny, 7 – HK/China

I liked using different colors and shapes to make a Picasso picture.


Katelyn, 7 – US

I'm amazed by how Picasso uses bright colors in his art.


Nicholas, 7 – US

I like drawing my face using the style of Picasso.


Nicole, 7 – China

I enjoyed learning about Picasso's art because he used lots of different colors when painting people.

Shan Qing, 6 – China

My self portrait uses not real colors and shapes like Picasso.


Claire, 7 – HK/China

Picasso draws people in a way that is not real.

Tiger Zhou, 6 – China

I like how Picasso draws in a silly way.

Wandering Eyes

How ADD or ADHD affects reading

By Vanessa Jencks

Every parent hopes reading will happen with no more difficulty than the “average” student, but the reality is that there really is no such thing as “average.” Every child is unique, with their own gifts and difficulties. We decided to investigate possible reading difficulties for students who have been diagnosed with attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). We asked Serrina Smith, a certified Special Education teacher at Springboard International Bilingual School, a few questions to help us navigate the issue.

1. What are some difficulties in reading that ADD or ADHD could potentially cause?

Students with ADHD may struggle with inattention, impulsivity, and hyperactivity. Students who have ADHD may be easily distracted, have difficulty sitting in place, and maintaining focus for the duration of a task. These struggles can then contribute to reading difficulties, such as reading comprehension.

In order to effectively read, a student must be able to grasp a level of understanding from the text, retain, and recall that information. While reading, students with ADHD may miss phrases in the text, skip words, forget where they are in the passage, and find they are unable to recall details. When students aren't able to focus throughout reading, they encounter difficulties in their ability to organize, analyze, and construct meaning.

2. Are these obvious to spot or are students able to cover or hide these difficulties?

It all depends on the individual student. Fidgeting and the inability to attend to the text being read due to hyperactivity is obvious. However, other students may appear to be on task and focused, but are unable to answer comprehension or sequencing questions. Some students are able to read out loud fluently, but struggle to make connections to the text and retain information. These deficits are discovered during Q and A, character webs, and other formative assessments.

3. Are these difficulties always a sign that ADD and ADHD might be a cause?

These difficulties are not necessarily a sign that ADHD is the cause. If a student's English level is below the level of the text she is reading, she may not be able to gain understanding due to her lack of vocabulary. A student who is fidgeting may have not had enough opportunities to release some of his energy that day and appear to be hyperactive.

Students who are inattentive may not be engaged in the text because they are uninterested in the material and feel bored. Or, changes at home, such as a divorce or a death may be on the forefront of their minds and the text they are reading is then put on the backburner.

As an educator or parent it is vital to look at the overall performance and behaviors a student displays in multiple settings over a period of time before assuming that ADHD is the cause.

4. How can parents and teachers make accommodations in reading to help their ADD or ADHD child overcome these hurdles?

First, engage! Students need a blend of conceptual, procedural,

kinesthetic, and social elements. Your student may be a visual, tactile, or an auditory learner. Most students need a combination of the three learning styles in order to absorb information. Group work, interactive activities, and demonstrations can be used in addition to direct instruction. The skill of reading can be daunting and it is important to try to make it intriguing so students will enjoy it. Acting out a story, creating plot twists, reading out loud with emphasized inflections, using props, playing comprehension games, and making predictions are fun ways to get students engaged.

Teachers can change the classroom layout to limit the amount of distractions, promoting an environment more conducive for that student. Seating a student away from doors and windows, utilizing fidget seats or other alternative seating, alternating seated activities to incorporate physical movement, and helping to organize and structure larger tasks into smaller steps can be beneficial.

Patience, consistency, and collaboration are all absolutely necessary. Students with ADHD are struggling to sit well, focus, and control their impulses. They want to do their best and have their teachers and parents proud of them. Teachers and parents need to openly communicate the difficulties and successes they are seeing with one another to make goals and track progress. The strategies will need to change as the student changes. Providing positive feedback for small successes and behaviors can boost confidence and be a motivator for the child.

Biography Information:

Originally from the US, Serrina Smith has spent the last two years teaching in Beijing. It was her experience as program specialist for children with developmental disabilities that sparked her interest to go back to school to pursue teaching. Smith believes that each child is unique, with different interests and skills; therefore she takes a holistic approach to teaching, with focus on the development of the child.



If Smith weren't in the classroom she would be jet-setting. She has a strong curiosity for learning about new cultures and travels any chance she gets.

Bringing the Library to Your Pocket

When phones and tablets transform into libraries.

By Annie Wang

Hot and humid temperatures won't keep your child from the library this summer. This month, *beijingkids* tested two apps that bring a whole world of books right to your hands. Read on as we introduce two dependable apps that allow your child to read old favorites and find new books too.

WaWaYaYa JoyReader

This free app includes high quality children's reading materials for ages 3 to 12. The app includes Chinese, English, and bilingual stories so that your child can access a wide range of tales from both languages. Books can be searched by age range, grade level, titles, publisher, Chinese/English, series, and theme.

The app also allows kids to interact with other readers by either "Following" other readers using the app or having "Followers." Once your child has followed someone, they can keep up with the person's 'moments' and see how many and which books they have read. The app also has a video recording function, a 'read-to-me' function, a Chinese dictionary with Chinese audio pronunciation and English definitions, and a Chinese phonetic guide.

Kids can participate in activities via the app, some of which include writing activities where children upload their written material and other readers vote on their favorite entries.

Kids can also record themselves reading their books or draw and upload pictures of their own picture book to the app and have their friends vote for their work. The app prompts kids after 15 minutes of reading to rest their eyes.

Platform: Android, iOS

Price: Free to download (and to view a large array of books), RMB 40/mo, RMB 198 for six months, RMB 388/year.



Pickatale

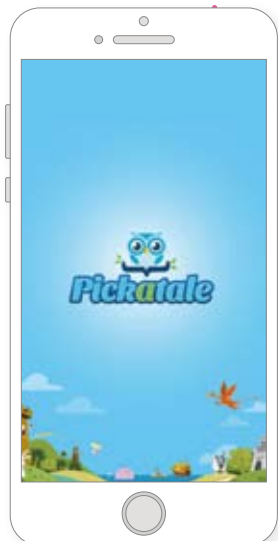
This app aims to improve children's reading and language learning skills while avoiding the potentially addictive nature of apps. Pickatale boasts 1000+ interactive children's books in English, Mandarin, Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish.

After subscribing, all books can be downloaded and read online or offline. The books have three reading options: read myself, read to me, and auto play. Read myself allows children to read at their own pace. Read to me and auto play both have narration and simultaneous word highlighting, though read to me allows kids to turn the page while auto read reads continuously. Children can click on various objects on each page to find out their names and pronunciations.

The app adds one new book a week at least, however, not all books are available in all five languages. Pickatale also adds its own original stories and content for children to peruse. Children can search for books by appropriate age range or subject and can access all their downloaded books in "My Library."

Platform: Android, iOS

Price: Free to download, USD 4.99/mo for English books, USD 7.99/mo for English + one other language, USD 9.99/mo for all five languages





Alex Germain together with (L-R) wife Melanie, twins Edouard and Jacob, and Maelie look for their next adventure.

Trip Studies

Canadian dad debriefs his 51,000-km homeschool journey with 3 kids

By Andy Peñafuerte III

"Thank you for giving us a debriefing," Canadian government employee Alexandre Germain told *beijingkids* when we wrapped up our chat about their most recent family travel. More than a year after driving 51,000 km and crossing nine countries in the Americas, Germain realized his family hasn't had a chance to summarize their 12-month journey.

Dreaming of the Trip

Earlier in the conversation, Germain said that their travel was not enough. "Interestingly, it sounds like very long but to have that time to discover, homeschool, and get yourself into the culture is actually short." But that short trip proved to be more valuable than anything the Germain family has experienced.

"I'm glad we did it for a year.
And then we got caught in the
'real' life routine."

Germain's spouse, Melanie, called herself the "brains" of the travel as she laid its groundwork altogether. Owing from her own childhood experience of a family trip to Europe, Melanie said she promised herself that she would make a similar travel with her own family. When the spouse started dating, and later married, their similar interest in traveling made their bond stronger. "We have always worked as a team," Melanie said, "[and] we have traveled a lot in the past 20 years together, and it's working."

Traveling across the Americas, as Germain said, was an idea that he and Melanie had mulled over for 10 years. The topic had many pauses and musings, like what type of mode of transportation to use. But ultimately, they settled on a land-based trip, taking their children as their primary consideration. "As the first baby came, the question was always, 'How can we travel with the baby?' When the twin followed, it was never an option that, 'We're not gonna do that [trip] as a family.'"

No Turning Back

Five years prior to the travel, Germain bought a recreational vehicle the couple named "Winnie." So endearing was the vehicle to Germain that he referred to Winnie as the sixth member of the family. In 2015, the couple finally took a sabbatical year and embarked on the trip in the middle of summer. They set off for Alaska in July, traveling to the western edge of continental North America from their home in Montreal, Canada.

As the day of the family travel went near, Germain said he felt it would take a toll on their children's education. "We're not teachers by trade or by any means but our kids [are] young enough that we can still teach them [the basics]," Germain said. Ultimately the couple used a homeschool program by the Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance, an agency under the French Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research. That allowed them to use educational materials during the entire journey. Aside from that, Germain shared his background in mathematics and the sciences with his kids; Melanie, who studied criminology, taught their children history and languages, including French and Creole.

That one year of homeschooling, or rather “motorhomeschooling,” was stressful for the couple. But not having a specific itinerary proved to be beneficial and reinforced the education of the three children. The Germaines visited museums and historical places, and met other families and kids as they traveled all the way to Alaska, several western US cities, Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Belize, then back to Montreal via eastern US.

“What seemed to be probably the most stressful thing turned out to be one of our most positive experiences. Teaching your own children was an amazing feeling. From not understanding a concept to acquiring and using that concept and being able to explain and apply it in real life, it’s amazing. From the first to the last day [of homeschooling], the growth of our children was evident,” Germain said.

Children’s Verdict of Homeschooling

The young Germaines, now 12-year-old Maelie (pronounced as Miley) and now 10-year-old fraternal twins Jacob and Edouard (pronounced similar to Edward) all described the homeschooling as “weird” but ended up liking it. “It was cool because not just learning about it but going to a museum where [we saw] what we learned was really cool. It was really fun,” Edouard added. Meanwhile, Maelie, who had been shy at first opened up with a big smile when she shared her experience. “Since there were not a lot of students, it’s really easy [to learn]. So if I don’t understand something, they tell me, and if I already know this, we pass it. So it’s much quicker.”

“It was kind of getting fun exploring new places ... we wrote a journal at the beginning of the year and we liked it,” Jacob said. That journal contained all of their experiences, which they wrote down every night. Their parents checked the grammar and commented on the musings of their children. By the time they went home in May 2016, Maelie, Jacob, and Edouard all had three journals. Germain had kept a record of the whole trip, with whopping 12,000 photos and countless hours of footage.

Towards the end of our conversation, Germain couldn’t help but to reminisce. “[The homeschooling part of the travel] was meant to be at that moment. I’m glad we did it for a year. And then we got caught in the ‘real’ life routine.”

Three months after the trip, Germain was posted in Beijing. Since they needed to organize their new home, Germain said they never



Tracing the journey. The Germaines' travel from Quebec down to Costa Rica took one year in mid 2015 to 2016.

had the opportunity for closure. “To revisit our trip with *beijingkids* has stirred up more memories. Although talking about it had created a feeling that we finally had a debriefing, I think that when I [finish posting] our videos on Facebook to celebrate exactly one year of our return, it will be perhaps the end of it... and the start of planning our next one!”



Taking a break. The family regularly stops at certain points to visit museums and camp.

Brought to Book

Parents talk about sharing the love of reading with their children

by Andrew Killeen

Yuwen works for a web company as a designer; she is a Beijinger and lives with her husband and son. She likes drawing so much, in her spare time, she just stays at home and draws. Owen, her son, is now 11 years old and studies at Beijing Chenjinglun High School. Owen is a sporty boy: he plays ice hockey and football. Yuwen loves Beijing, and often goes climbing, camping or fishing with her family.

At what age did you start reading to your child?

When he was two or three years old! We started to read to him about dinosaurs – he can identify various dinosaurs from different eras easily. At the same time, my husband started to read English books to him, like *Harry Potter*. Originally I didn't believe he could understand it, I thought it was too difficult for him to understand, until one day, he retold us a whole paragraph from the book! That left us shocked, it was amazing!

What books did he enjoy when he was little?

Books with dinosaurs, adventures and magic stories, like *Harry Potter* I just mentioned before. Another book he likes is *Man vs Wild*, he is interested in those amazing stories of wilderness survival. At first, we had to read it with an English dictionary, but now he can read the whole original English version by himself. Reading affects us a lot. After he read *Man vs Wild*, we often went walking, climbing, and camping in the wild in our spare time.

Did you consciously help your child learn to read?

Not really. I just brought a lot of books to him, most of them English original books. But of course I will consciously buy books which match with his age and his interests. For example, as he likes everything related to dinosaurs, then I buy dinosaur-related books. Then he concentrates on reading, because he likes those books so much.



Owen, 11, with his dad

What books did he first enjoy reading on his own?

Harry Potter. It has so much text and few pictures, but he really enjoys it. I think it because of the encouragement of my husband. He read it to him when my son was little, and when he grew up and learned to read, he chose *Harry Potter* as the first book he read by himself.

Where/ how do you find new books for your child?

Usually I borrow Chinese books from the library, it's convenient. For English original books, I buy them online or when I travel abroad. Also there are very good book fairs which are held by international schools, that's a great opportunity to buy good English books.

“Book fairs at international schools are a great opportunity to buy good English books.”

Do you recommend favorite books from your own childhood? If so, which ones, and did your son like them too?

Yes of course! When I was little, I read picture-story books like *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, and *Journey to the West*. Those stories are amazing and of course I recommend them to my son. And when he grew up a bit, I recommended kung fu novels like *The Legend of Condor Hero* to him. He likes it and we often discuss the characters in the novel.

Does your child read comics or magazines? If so which ones?

Definitely, not only does he like to read comics but also he enjoys drawing them! He reads a lot of comics like *Star Wars*, *Transformers*, the Japanese manga *One Piece*, etc. He is planning his birthday party this year at a *One Piece* themed restaurant.

Does your child have an e-reader? Would you consider getting him one?

Yes I have already bought one for him, because I found lots of good English e-books on Amazon. It's not expensive and very convenient, you can read some sample chapters before purchasing to make sure it is really what you want to read. And e-books are very convenient when we go out.

Are there any books which your children love but which you can't stand?

Hardly any. We care about every book he reads; if the content isn't good or not suitable for his age, we won't let him read it. My son likes comics, but I don't like those stories, such as *Star Wars*, *Transformers*, *Pokemon*, and *One Piece*. I just feel those stories are too cartoony, but definitely, the drawing is really good!

PHOTO: COURTESY OF YUWEN

Evelyn Lucero is the Literacy Coach and Curriculum Coordinator at Beijing International Bilingual Academy (BIBA). Originally from the US, she's been in Beijing for two years with her husband Roberto and three sons, all of whom attend BIBA: Michael (age 17), Dylan (15), and Nolan (13).

At what age did you start reading to your children?

We began reading to our three boys when they were babies but reading to active young boys is a challenge. So when my boys were young toddlers (they were all born within 3.5 years of each other), we would often listen to audio books and watch *Scholastic Storybook Treasures*, because the kids could still play and my husband and I were still free to run around after them.

What books did they enjoy when they were little?

We had the classics like *Good Night, Moon*, *Are You My Mother?*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Love You, Forever*, many of Dr. Seuss' books. One of their favorites was the *Winnie the Pooh* series that they received as a gift. As they grew older they enjoyed *Captain Underpants* books, Frannie K. Stein books, Rick Riordan books, and poetry from Shel Silverstein.

Did you consciously help your children learn to read?

As a teacher, I was always looking for ways to get my boys to enjoy reading while making it fun and interactive. When they were little, *The Leapster* gaming system came out and had a letter sound game which had a catchy song that they liked. My oldest two learned their letter sounds within a month or two, and soon after that they noticed that they could actually read their favorite books by reading the words and not just memorizing them. I couldn't stop them from then on.

What books did they first enjoy reading on their own?

They could all read early on but they would argue that they all wanted to read on their own for enjoyment at different times. My oldest started with "The Name of This Book is a Secret" by Pseudonymous Bosch in 2008 and wanted to read the whole series and that spurred on a drive to read other books in that genre. My middle child read *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan and then he considered reading for enjoyment. My youngest says that the *Myth-O-Mania* books by Kate McMullan in fourth grade made him interested in reading for fun.

Where/ how do you find new books for your children?

Nowadays, getting books is so easy! We spend a lot of time at books stores, looking through Scholastic book orders from school, and scouring Amazon and Goodreads for good book reviews. My all time favorite place to get books is from Audible.com, because listening to books while we do chores, go on long trips, or just to hang out has been a fun family activity. Luckily, we are not too picky and willing to try all sorts of new books. The great thing about being here in Beijing is that there are always new things to read.

Do you recommend favorite books from your own childhood? If so, which ones, and did your kids like them too?

I grew up in a household of avid readers and I had many books to choose from, but I found, like my own boys, that I did not feel like a real reader until I started reading more mature books that I picked on my own. When I was a teenager, I found out about Stephen King, and I was hooked from then on. Eventually, I offered my own copy of *It* to my 16 year old, and he was pleasantly horrified to read it.

Does your child read comics or magazines? If so which ones?

My boys love reading superhero comic books (Marvel and DC), *Archie Comics*, manga graphic novels, and they enjoyed reading *Highlights for Children* before we moved to China.

Do your children have an e-reader? Would you consider getting them one?

My youngest son was the only one to ask for an e-reader because we could get both the audio and reading versions of books on his Kindle through Amazon, but my other sons felt that they did not need an e-reader, they could read things on the computer or get the book themselves.

The Kindle has been great for the reading part of it but not so great since games can also be uploaded, and sometimes I find that the games are just too enticing not to play instead of the reading.

Are there any books which your children love but which you can't stand?

I can see how the *Captain Underpants* books appeal to the young but they have never really been a favorite of mine. Any book that you have to read one million times and has a plot that a young child can follow is bound to get on your nerves. The classics are still great and I can finally look back on them now and enjoy them for their content and for the memories they bring my family.



Clockwise from top left: mom Evelyn, Nolan (13), dad Roberto, Michael (17), Dylan (15)

The Doorway to Trilingualism

Headaches and fun with three languages at home

by Ember Swift

It's Thursday afternoon and we are sitting together with my daughter's new library book on my knees. My son, Paz, is on my right and Echo is doing somersaults off the couch to my left. I'm only on the second page.

"Why aren't you listening to Mommy reading?" I ask her, irritated. "Because," she says, as if this 5-year-old answer is adequate.

I can already determine that the book she has chosen is not what she expected. It's a complex story about Santa and a hibernating dormouse. There are too many words for her age level. Oh, and it's in French.

Echo goes to the French International School. When she began at age 3, she only had our brief visits to Montreal in which to frame the language. I speak French with her Quebecoise godmother (my best friend), but at home I have actively chosen to focus on English considering my minority status within our predominately Chinese household. Now, after two years of French school, she understands a lot more than she speaks, but it's still her weakest language.

"Aren't you enjoying the story?"

"But Mommy, why can't you read it in English?"

Every week, I have to trigger a toggle switch in my linguistic cortex

before I station myself on that couch. I use a "read / verify understanding / translate / re-read"—style approach that takes forever. I inwardly sigh in patient resignation. Today, I had to look up the word "loir" (dormouse) on the internet before even starting the story. Clearly my French animal names vocabulary needs some practice.

"Echo," I say gently, "first hear it in French then tell me what you think the words mean." Before I've finished the next sentence, she somersaults again and my patience falters. I shut the book.

"Mommy, why did you keep saying the loir was a 'door mouse'? There's no door on that mouse's house!"

This triggers Paz's complaints. He has been quietly absorbing the pictures and wants to continue. Echo climbs back up on the couch with exaggerated reluctance, whining about the French being "too hard."

"Well, you chose this book," I say, trying not to sound accusing. Then I ask, "What did you like about the cover?"

She perks up pointing to the "cute, fluffy little animals" pictured in the snowy forest with a bearded man in red.

"So what do you think the story's about?" I ask. A new tactic.

"Playing in the snow!" she shouts. My son yells "Nuts!" because he has seen the second page showing the dormouse with its hibernation stash.

"Let's find out!" I announce, opening the book once more. I directly translate page one into English to start the momentum rolling. I get to the second page, and she sees the nuts and exclaims that her brother is right, which makes him smile proudly. By the third page, I'm inserting more French words into my translation, and we have restored a rhythm. Eventually she is fully absorbed, and I can read the French sentences entirely back to back with their English translations. No more losing her to somersaults.

By the end, with book closed, her first comment is this: "Mommy, why did you keep saying the loir was a 'door mouse'? There's no door on that mouse's house!"

I laugh. "It's just what that kind of mouse is called in English," I say and then add: "*No porte on the maison du loir! Pourquoi? Pourquoi? Pourquoi?*" I stand up repeating this rhythmically until they're both up with me dancing and giggling.

Maybe simultaneously combining three languages for my kids might seem like a question of "Why? Why? Why?" but I simply must believe in the figurative doorway it will provide for their futures.



北京市中芯学校
Beijing SMIC Private School

品质第一 追求卓越 胸怀世界 快乐成长
Honor Excellence Community Joy

Tel: (+86 010) 67853030-2108
www.bjsmicschool.com



About the Writer

Ember Swift is a Canadian who has been living in Beijing since 2008. She has a daughter, Echo (5), and a son Paz (3). She spends a lot of time on stages making original music, writing blogs and columns, doing voice over work, and advocating for vegetarianism, LGBTQ rights and multilingualism. (www.emberswift.com).

Sorting the Treasure from the Trash

Should we try to guide our children's reading habits?

by Andrew Killeen

"What makes a good book?" I ask my boys. "That's easy," they say. "Excitement, romance, suspense, and it has to have a happy ending."

"Well, that's a very – wait a minute. Romance? Since when did you two care about romance?"

On further investigation, it turns out they're quoting Jake the Dog from *Adventure Time*.

"This is just the sort of book," he said, "which I would love, if I didn't have anything else to read."

I wouldn't want you to think though that my kids aren't into books. In fact they're voracious readers, tearing through piles of fat novels at an alarming rate. We are grateful for their school library for enabling us to feed this insatiable hunger, or we might struggle in a city where new English language books can be rare and expensive.

Like all parents I worry about what my children are reading. Perhaps I worry more since I'm a writer, with many writers among my friends and family. (Watch out for the forthcoming debut YA novel from Matt Killeen, my amazingly talented little brother! End of plug.) I'm currently venturing into writing for children myself, though my first effort was brilliantly damned with faint praise by Noah.

"This is just the sort of book," he said, "which I would love, if I didn't have anything else to read."

There is some fine writing in the world of children's fiction. Andy Stanton's anarchic *Mr. Gum* novels have some of the funniest prose I've read anywhere; SF Said's *Varjak Paw* and *Phoenix* are modern classics. Others, though, grieve me as a craftsman. *The Beast Quest* series, its formulaic plots determined by committee and hacked out by paid-by-the-word journeymen under the implausible pseudonym of Adam Blade, I find hard to stomach.

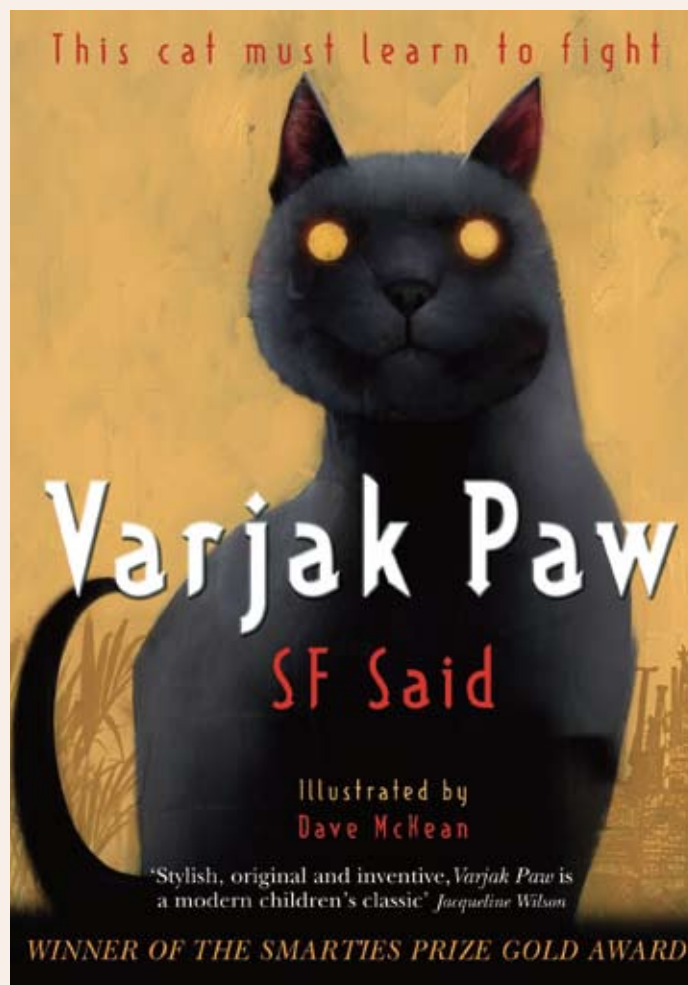
However I try to resist the temptation to carp. In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, there's a cautionary episode in which our hapless hero Greg's mother starts a "Reading is Fun" club. Greg's friends turn up with what they like to read: comics, video game guides, books of amazing facts... She condemns them all as not "proper" reading, and insists that they read classics instead.

Greg defines a classic as "a book written a long time ago in which someone or something dies," and his mother's choice of Charlotte's

Web ticks all those boxes. One by one his friends drop out, until the club is represented by a picture of Greg glumly scanning the book while his mother watches over him with a timer, under a huge banner which proclaims: "READING IS FUN."

Of course I recommend novels to my children which I enjoyed, and we share books together. Noah is now 11, but I still read to him at bedtime. We share and discuss older books which he might struggle with on his own, like *Sherlock Holmes*, but neither of us is prepared to give up that special time yet.

On the whole though, I try not to interfere. Left to their own devices, children will read a huge range of books, including both trash and treasure. But they will seek out quality for themselves, at a pace that suits them. And they will move towards adult literature too at their own pace, even if at times they go back to favorites which now seem insultingly simple; and they will self-censor things which disturb or frighten them. It's one of the wonders of the written word that it's a place where, unlike the internet, TV and film, and the real world itself, they can be left to wander and explore more or less unsupervised.



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 10) and Joseph (age 7). In between he was at various times a DJ, festival director, positive parenting practitioner, and homeless support worker. His critically acclaimed historical novels are available from Dedalus Books.





Reading Around the World

Leave Beijing through pages and pictures of culturally curated books

Text by Vanessa Jencks



Travel to INDIA

Jyoti Johari starts first with saying that “the culture of India is one of the oldest and unique.” Not only does almost every state has its own culture, but climate, geography, and religion of the people (mainly Hindu, Muslim, Christian, and Sikh) all play into making the vast amount of subcultures in the country. “India is called a country with ‘unity in diversity’.” This has all created an “exclusive culture” which is a “composite mixture of varying styles and influences,” Johari explained.

Tell Me About Festivals of India by Nita Mehta and Anurag Mehta

“Books on the topic of festivals of India help kids read about various festivals we celebrate in India. It is said that Indians have festivals all year round – that’s 365 festivals in a year! Every day is celebrated with some festival somewhere in some part of the country. Hence it’s very important to let kids know about these festivals, which directly connect them to culture of the country.”

All books available for purchase on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Ramayan Ki Kahaniyan by J.M. Mehta, and *Ramayana for Children* by Sudha Gupta

“*The Ramayana* (Sri Ramcharitmanas) is one of the greatest epics of Hindu mythology. *The Ramayana* is not just a story, but also an educational medium used by ancient sages to espouse the importance of doing your dharma (duty) in relationships. *The Ramayana* depicts characters that we should aspire to be like, the ideal father, son, brother, leader, wife, and on. *The Ramayana*, and *Mahabharata* especially, preach a lot of values that we would want our children to imbibe. Instead of simply commanding a child to respect his elders, we use examples from his favorite epics to teach him the same.”



Suggested by the Johari family. Daughter Vaariya attends Grade 1 at the British School of Beijing, Sanlitun (BSB, Sanlitun), while mother Jyoti doubles as a homemaker in Beijing and preschool owner in India. Father Anshul works as a manger for a semiconductor chip design company.

PHOTO: UNI YOU

Travel to GERMANY



Rico, Oskar und die Tieferschatten by Andreas Steinhöfel

"We cannot say what constitutes German culture, but we all agree that this is a great children's book that is set in contemporary Berlin. It tells the story of a wonderful friendship between two boys who are both outsiders; one participates in a special needs program and the other one, a real nerd. When one of them gets kidnapped, a fantastic mystery unravels. We think it shows a Germany beyond 'beer with sausages', rather, one that is funny and heartwarming."

Children's and Household Tales by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

"Everybody knows some fairytales of the Grimm brothers and they are, of course, an important part of our cultural heritage. We read them a lot to our younger kids."

Reckless Series, Lord of Thieves, and Inkheart Trilogy

"If, however, you think you are no longer scared of those evil witches, check again with Cornelia Funke. Many of her books are translated into English and very well received, like *Lord of Thieves* and the *Inkheart* trilogy. To connect again with Grimm's culture, we suggest her *Reckless* series for young adolescent readers, which tells about a boy who falls into fairy land and has a tough time with many of those familiar characters who are, in fact, pretty grim and fearsome. Expect suspense!"

All books available for purchase on Amazon.com or on borrow from WAB library.

Suggested by the Hein family. Mom, Weibke, works as a library technician at the Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) Elementary School. She has three children at WAB.

Travel to AUSTRALIA

The Ribbits by John Marsden and Shaun Tan

"Claire is always interested in different animal species stories. Although this book is partly an allegorical fable about colonization, it is a nice storybook for children and good book for adults too, to understand Australia as a country, how they come together in the past."

Tomorrow: When the War Began by John Marsden

"Popular for the last 20 years, this book is widely read by Australian youth. It is about when a future war comes, how Australian young adults react to what happens. We consider it a great series."

Both books available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Suggested by the Song family. Claire, 12, attends Grade 7 at Hyde Academy. Mother Jane and father Garry founded O'Formula Fashion Ltd, which makes custom cashmere sweaters.

PHOTO: DAVE'S STUDIO

— Travel to BOLIVIA and MEXICO —

Ruth Wise Maldonado explained that much of South American culture is similar, though there are slight differences from country to country. She chose these books because of the impact they have had on her family in continuing to uphold cultural values they share with other South American countries.



Azucar by Ivar Da Coll

"This is one of our favorite books in Spanish. This is the story of Celia Cruz, Cuban salsa singer, and how she develops the talent of singing to entertain her family. After going to college to be a teacher, she participates in a talent show contest that ends up marking the beginning of an exuberant singing career. Her music expands to the whole world, and even to this day we still hear her songs that carry so much of the fire and sweetness that salsa brings into the lives of many."

Julia by Georgina Lazaro

"This is the biography of Julia de Burgos (from Puerto Rico) one of the first Hispanic female poets. The book beautifully narrates the poverty and richness in to which she was born in 1914. The retellings of wide rivers and green land remind me of my own memories as a child in Bolivia. Her father eventually takes her on a trip and he tells her stories

of 'Don Quixote' and this inspires her to read more. After that and still at a young age, she starts composing poetry and finishing school ahead of her time. To continue her education, she separates from her parents and lives with a teacher. She then becomes a teacher and starts publishing her poetry."

Skippyjon Jones Series by Judy Schachner

"We always have a good laugh when we read these books, where the mix of Spanish and English always comes at the perfect time. This book is perfect for English/Spanish speaking children. The books are about a Siamese cat that believes he is a chihuahua dog, and his imagination takes him to countless places. He is the hero of other chihuahua dogs who chose him as their leader. Very funny and entertaining!!"

All three books can be found on Amazon.com

Suggested by the Wise Maldonado family. Ruth Wise Maldonado was born in Bolivia, lived in the US for several years, and now works as a dentist in Sunny Dental in Shine Hills. Her husband is Abraham Wise Hernández, who works for the American embassy. Her daughter Elizabeth, 11, attends the International School of Beijing (ISB), while Sariah, 9, and Joshua, 6, both attend the International Montessori School of Beijing (MSB).

Travel to ZAMBIA

Kristu Mu Nyimbo

"This is a Christian music hymnal with songs in the Zambian language. The hymnal is translated as "Christ in Songs." As parents we have grown with music and this is the heartbeat of our family. Prudence sings well, has won many competitions, and has been featured on TV. Msafiri and all the children like music. David plays the guitar, Vanessa plays the piano, and Esther would like to learn to play the violin."

The Tortoise's Gift by Lari Don

"This Zambian folktale about a wonderful tree with a very tricky name, and the hungry animals who seek to learn (and remember) that name, is adapted into a chapter book for early readers. The repetitious nature of the story is well suited to the format, while the colorful and playful illustrations have the appeal of a picture book."

Both books available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Suggested by the Sinkala family. Mom Prudence works for the Zambian embassy, and dad Msafiri works for the British Council. Their son David, 17, is a senior in high school in Zambia. Vanessa, 11, Grade 6, and Esther, 7, Grade 2, both attend the Pakistan College School. Baby Winnie is 5 months old and stays at home.

— Travel to PANAMA and PUERTO RICO —



***Oh, Wie Schon Ist Panama* by Janosch**

"My wife lived for a time in Germany, and when she was there, everyone thought Panama was a made up place. When she would show her passport for official procedures, she would be told it was a fake passport. So this book in German was helpful for her to teach others that Panama was in fact a real country."

***Magnificent Molas: The Art of the Kuna Indians* by Michel Perrin**

"The Molas are an important part of Panama's culture. When we went there two years ago, it was amazing to see the different things the Kuna Indians would recycle to make the Molas, like shoe strings and

plastic bottles. The Kuna have been supported and preserved by the Panamanian government. The children travel from their many small islands in boats to get to school everyday."

***En Dondequiera Coquies!* by Nancy Hooper**

"Everywhere in Puerto Rico you find coquis, which are small frogs that are the size of one of the tips of your fingers. They make a loud sound like *co-quis* (pronounced like the Chinese *kou* and English *key*). So this book, available in both Spanish and English, introduces you to these frogs."

All three books available on Amazon.com

Suggested by the Febles-Bula family. Dad Pedro works for a company that makes the mapping technology for self-driving cars. Mother Iris Bula is a professional chef. Daughter Tyra, 13, and son Pedro, 11, both attend Dulwich College Beijing.



Literature of the Middle Kingdom

A Chinese culture summer reading list

by Kipp Whittaker

There is a lot to learn about Chinese culture as a newcomer to Beijing. Across topics ranging from history, mythology, and philosophy going back thousands of years, we are not alone in not knowing where to get started.

While it's very unlikely for someone who isn't from this country to scratch the surface of China's 4,000 year history in a summer, at least you can say you gave it a try. We've compiled a list of literary essentials provided by educators from Keystone Academy, Beijing No. 55, Peide School, and Eduwings, to get your voracious young reader or Sinologist in the making started. So let's all begin chipping away at this massive endeavor of learning a bit about the place we currently call home through these fantastic examples of literature, featuring selections that are appropriate for readers of all age groups.

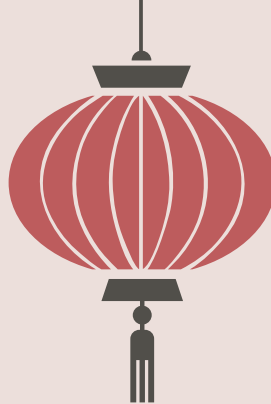
Best Books for Primary School Age

***Confucius Speaks: The Message of the Benevolent.* Chih-Chung Tsai, translated by Bryan Bruya**

This work is by the famous cartoonist Chih-Chung Tsai from Taiwan. It is based on the daily life of Confucius and *The Analects*. Confucius is a symbol of Chinese culture; there is an entire philosophy founded by him that has influenced Chinese thought for two thousand years, and *The Analects* are an epitome of Confucianism. Tsai has a deep understanding of Chinese culture and *The Analects*. He has created illustrations that are understandable and lively cartoons filled with humor, using a seasoned cartoon style. This work has provided a brand new door for youth to enter and understand Chinese traditional culture.



Wei Zhuo and Siying Huang of Peide School: "The thoughts generated from the original words of Confucius, along with the illustrations that support it and the humorous style makes the reading experience enjoyable and inspiring for all interested in learning the basics of this important segment of Chinese thought."



Tikki Tikki Tembo. Retold by Arlene Mosel and Illustrated by Blair Lent

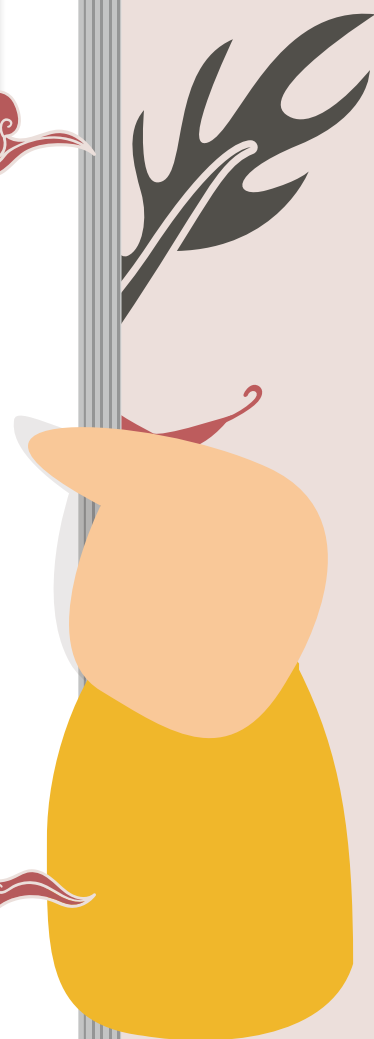
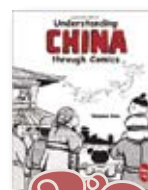
Many years ago it was a custom to give the first boy a honourable long name. This story is about two brothers, the eldest named Tikki tikki tembo-no sa rembo-chari bari ruchi-pip peri pembo and the younger brother named Chang. Both brothers were told not to play near the well or they could fall in. Chang had fallen in and his older brother managed to help him in time by notifying his mother and an old man with a ladder. However, a few months after Chang had fallen inside, Tikki tikki tembo-no sa rembo-chari bari ruchi-pip peri pembo also fell into the well. Chang went straightaway to help his brother but every time he said his name he ran out of breath. Eventually he and the old man with the ladder saved him but his recovery took considerably longer. From that point on, every Chinese parent decided to name their first child with shorter names.

Rachel Ing of Eduwings Kindergarten: "This is a very intriguing story as it takes an important aspect of Chinese culture and has incorporated slight humor into it. This book does a really good job in showing just how strong the bond is between two brothers, and their willingness to help each other out through tough, life-threatening circumstances."

Understanding China Through Comics, by Liu Jing

This addition to the list covers Chinese civilization in comic form, introducing geography, history, economics, politics, the examination system, famous emperors, and poets. It's a panoramic experience for whoever is interested in China's past.

Kacy Song, Director of Libraries, Keystone Academy: "Learning Chinese language and understanding China seems to be daunting task. But if you want to learn a little bit of 'everything' about China, this book can definitely serve as a great start. Liu Jing, who had wanted to create a comic book to introduce his homeland to his son, found himself spending more than ten years collecting, analyzing, drawing, and writing this series of books. This series is for both English and bilingual students, and its rigorous research and amusing details will intrigue readers of all ages."

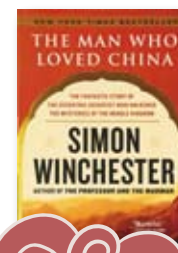


Best Books for Middle to High School Age

***The Grand Forbidden City- The Imperial Axis*, by Zhao Guangchao**

The Imperial Axis is a book that focuses on the architecture of the Forbidden City and is accompanied by illustrations on architectural details, that will give you a greater appreciation for this landmark that is literally the center of Beijing."

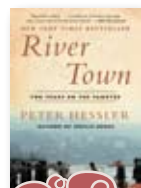
Kacy Song, Director of Libraries, Keystone Academy: "You may have visited the Forbidden City once as a tourist, or you may have visited it more than once and are familiar with its buildings and treasures in its exhibitions. But after you finish reading this book, you'll want to go back with a pair of 'refreshed eyes.' Zhao Guangchao's illustrations and writings provide an accessible and unique way for readers to understand how these earthly buildings correspond to heavens, how one architecture interacts with another, how lines and curves 'talk' to each other, and how spatial design reflects traditional customs and beliefs. The book is done with particular attention to every detail – it's a work of art in itself."



***The Man Who Loved China*, by Simon Winchester**

Simon Winchester brings to life the extraordinary story of Joseph Needham, the brilliant Cambridge scientist, freethinking intellectual, and 'Honorable Taoist', who unlocked the most closely held secrets of China, once the world's most technologically advanced country.

Kacy Song, Director of Libraries, Keystone Academy: "Many Chinese are familiar with this question, or paradox, even though they have never heard of Joseph Needham: 'Why had China (and India) been overtaken by the West in science and technology, despite their earlier successes?' It's also known as 'The Needham Question.' In the late 1930s when China was mired in the Anti-Japanese War, Joseph Needham embarked on the long and fruitful journey of seeking out these answers. He and his collaborators, Lu Guizhen (his Chinese lover), Wang Ling, and He Bingyu, and many other scholars, conducted substantial original investigations, compiled and wrote the massive *Science and Civilization in China*, which has changed and is still changing how the world sees China."



***River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*, by Peter Hessler**

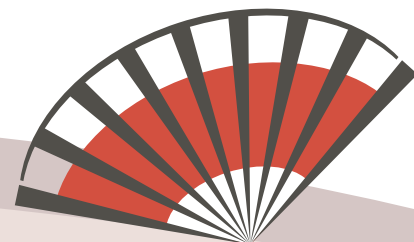
This compelling book is set in the heart of China's Sichuan province and tells the story of a young foreigner experiencing China for the first time. *River Town* is a work of non-fiction and an unforgettable portrait of a city that is seeking to understand both what it was and what it someday will be. Peter Hessler, who would later become a New Yorker correspondent, first arrived in China as a Peace Corps volunteer. He taught English and American literature at the local college, but it was his students who taught him about the complex processes of understanding that takes place when one is immersed in a radically different society.

Anna Lowenberg of Beijing No. 55 High School: "This poignant, thoughtful, funny book is a good read. Young people are sure to relate to the author, who is also young and discovering China for the first time."

***To Live*, by Yuhua, translated by Michael Berry**

This novel portrays one man's transformation from the spoiled son of a landlord to a kindhearted peasant. After squandering his family's fortune in gambling dens and brothels, the young, deeply penitent Fugui settles down to do the honest work of a farmer. Forced by the Nationalist Army to leave behind his family, he witnesses the Civil War, only to return years later to face a string of hardships. Left with an ox as his only companion for his final years, Fugui stands as a model of gritty authenticity, buoyed by his appreciation for life in this narrative of humbling power.

Anna Lowenberg of Beijing No. 55 High School: "This is an excellent novel for young readers because it illustrates the tumultuous history of China during the twentieth century through the life of an individual. Yuhua's authentic and sometimes humorous tale gives a face and a context for the major historical events that have shaped today's China. Zhang Yimou's celebrated film was also based on this novel."



SCHOOL NEWS



Custom Mask Design Board



FLAT ARTWORK



Winning Design

BSB, Sanlitun Student Brings Artistic Flair to Pollution Masks

The British School of Beijing, Sanlitun (BSB, Sanlitun) held a competition in partnership with Cambridge Masks for students to design their own pollution mask. Among the hundreds of entries, the design by Hudson Mitchell Denney from Year 4 topped the contest. His design shows a section of the Great Wall of China with greenery and blue skies and the characters for Beijing. It will be manufactured by Cambridge Masks and will soon be sold at the school.



TEDxYouth@BIBSShunyi Celebrates Ideas Worth Spreading

Beanstalk International Bilingual School, Shunyi (BIBS, Shunyi) has held its first TEDxYouth talk which featured four homegrown students as well as guest professionals who talked about the themes of spending time, educating people, and global sustainability. The event on May 5 was organized by BIBS Middle School-High School Student Council. "It strives to provide a dynamic platform for people within and beyond the Beanstalk community to meet and make a positive impact and difference in our world with ideas worth spreading," BIBS said.

Keystone Academy MYP Accredited

Keystone Academy has announced it received IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) accreditation from the International Baccalaureate (IB) in April 2017. It follows Keystone's IB Diploma Programme authorization last academic year (2015-2016). "The IB world schools share a common philosophy: a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that we believe is important for our students," Keystone said.

Harrow Beijing Charity Ball Raises RMB 500k

Harrow Beijing's first Charity Ball, "One Night in Beijing," has raised a total of RMB 501,482 for Educating Girls of Rural China (EGRC) and WATERisLIFE. "The successful Charity Ball was a great example to our students about growing their sense of social responsibility by collaborating with parents and staff to achieve a wonderful outcome for those less fortunate than ourselves," Harrow said.

WAB Approved to Offer Danish National Exams

Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) has announced that it has received permission from the Danish Ministry of Education to administer the Danish national Grade 9 exams, which mark the end of Danish schooling, Folkeskolen. This makes WAB the first school in Beijing to host the examinations for students looking to further their education in Denmark.



BSB Students to Present at UN Global Goals Summit

Four student ambassadors from the British School of Beijing, Shunyi (BSB, Shunyi) - Tildie, Helen, Sunny, and Sabrina (left to right) - are set to present their ideas on Sustainable Development goals of food security and ensuring healthy lives for everyone at the United Nations High Level Political Forum. The event will be held on July 10-19 in New York City.



The French Embassy Welcomes the LFIP

Ambassador of France in China Maurice Gourdault-Montagne and the Embassy of France to China have warmly received the Lycée Français International Charles de Gaulle de Pékin (LFIP). For the occasion, representatives from over 30 countries gathered on April 25 to celebrate the achievements of the international school.



YCIS Beijing Receives Recognition for Charitable Efforts

Yew Chung International School of Beijing (YCIS Beijing) has recently received a prestigious CSR Award in recognition of the school's contributions to charity in China. The school was selected by a panel of judges from the British and American Chambers of Commerce following efforts of Yew Chung Education Foundation's Seeds of Hope charity.

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



BJ No. 55 International Students Participate in CCTV Talent Competition

On April 17th, the organizing committee of CCTV's "Star of Outlook" English talent competition came to Beijing No. 55 High School International Students Section, for the first round of the interviews leading up to the competition. Fourteen pupils attended the interview, held in the form of a group debate, aimed at measuring their ability to express in English, language strain capacity, and personal charisma.



Keystone Poetry Recital Ignites Flames of the Soul

Keystone Academy's May 1 inaugural poetry recital showcased a convergence of rhythm, passion, and sounds around the event's theme: Flames of the Soul. Hundreds of poetry lovers and 25 poets of all ages shared and listened to the richness of the soul in a fairytale setting near the 798 Art District.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BEIJING NO. 55 HS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SECTION AND KEYSTONE ACADEMY

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 **June 10**



ISB Celebrates Class of 2017

On April 24, the International School of Beijing (ISB) community gathered to celebrate their class of 2017 with a favorite ISB tradition, the Seniors' Parade!



YCIS Beijing Introduces the Graduating Class of 2017

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2017 of Yew Chung International School of Beijing (YCIS Beijing) on completing their high school careers and achieving fantastic university offers!



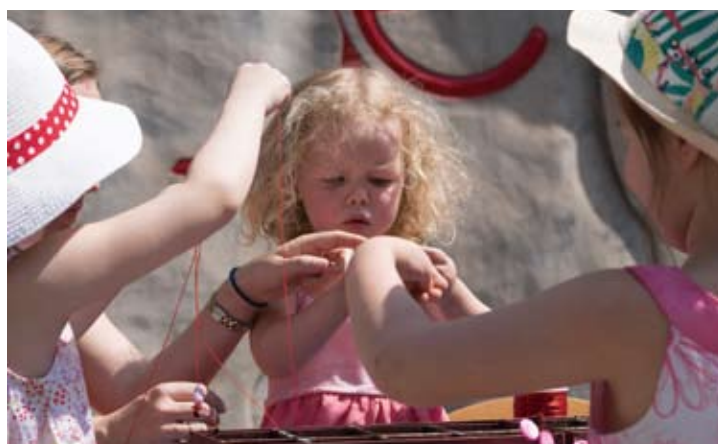


BSB Choirs in *Voices around the World*

The British School of Beijing, Shunyi's (BSB, Shunyi) choirs participated in the *Voices around the World* project on May 1. This combined video with choirs from around the world is a global project to help young people work together musically to "Sing Out! Speak Out! And Change the World!"

Raising funds for Roundabout at 3e

On April 22, 3e International School and Roundabout held the annual 3e Charity Community Day. Families enjoyed buying bargain toys, books, and other treasures, while children played games and were entertained with arts and crafts activities.





HOK School Trip to Chinese Ethnic Museum in Beijing

On April 27, kindergarten and Grade 1 students from House of Knowledge School (HOK) Shunyi campus visited the Chinese Ethnic Museum in Beijing as part of their investigation into museums and artifacts. Students also had the opportunity to appreciate Chinese culture and its diversity.



BSB, Sanlitun's MIT-Nord Anglia STEAM Festival

On April 30, four Year 6 students at the British School of Beijing, Sanlitun (BSB, Sanlitun), set off to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to take part in the MIT-Nord Anglia STEAM Festival. Chloe, Jai, Leroy, and Soyoon have joined the week-long program that will provide them unique learning opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).





HIS Students Impact the Community

More than 100 secondary students from Hope International School (HIS) participated in Enrichment Week on March 15. Students went out into the community, volunteering at charities like Shepherd's Field Children's Village, Canaan Farms, and a local blood bank.



A Week with the Amazing Author Julia Cook at BCIS

On April 24, Beijing City International School (BCIS) had the privilege of hosting the award-winning children's book author and parenting expert Julia Cook from the United States for a one-week residency.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND BCIS



Kindergarten Olympiads at LFIP

Lycée Français International Charles de Gaulle de Pékin (LFIP) held a kindergarten Olympiad on April 25, in support of the candidature of Paris to host the 2024 Olympic Games. The six continents were represented, with the teams parading in order and going from workshops to Olympic-style activities and games. The children discovered what the Olympic Games are and all that revolves around them: spirit, values, and sport.



WAB Students Design, Build, Race Boats

Grade 4 students at Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) put their knowledge of buoyancy, water displacement and surface area to the test in a unique project related to a unit on structures. They designed, built and then raced their boats against their classmates' in the WAB pool, in the activity held on May 5.



The Dukeshire Family

By Pauline van Hasselt

Denise Dukeshire and 5-year-old Geynoi hail from Canada, and have been living in Beijing for one year. Denise works as a teacher for an international school in Shunyi. She has worked in several countries and chose Beijing for its structures in place for single working parents. According to Denise, the support of aysis, telephone apps, and food deliveries services are some of those perks that makes life in Beijing perfect for single working parents of small kids. Now, she feels confident to venture from Shunyi and enjoy the great adventures the city has to offer.

Favorite Spot to Relax The Bookworm

Favorite Transportation
For daily commute to work and around Shunyi, a tuk tuk, and for longer distances, we use the metro.

Favorite Weekend Activity
The green space and sandbox within
Capital Paradise

Favorite Chinese Restaurant
The Noodle Shop in Shunyi features English descriptions of their dishes, lovely photos, and offers a plethora of vegetarian options.

Best Kid's Clothes Shop
Shunyi Kids Clothing Swap

Favorite Non-Chinese Restaurant
Red Fort for friendly staff, great food, and excellent entertainment.

Best Shop for Groceries
Jenny Wang's

Favorite Mommy's Night Out
Salsa Saturdays at Fella's

Best place to buy books in Beijing
Roundabout and Bookworm

beijingkids

[Too big for your pocket?]



Scan the QR code
to browse our updated
listings of over 60
Beijing school choices,
in a mobile friendly format
Anytime, any place



beijingkids

2017-2018 SCHOOL CHOICE GUIDE

BEIJING'S MOST COMPLETE GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICES



WHY FIT IN, WHEN YOU WERE BORN TO STAND OUT?

Keystone Academy offers a signature education that brings out leading skills in our children

In honor of our future leaders,
we offer two types of scholarships

Founders' Scholarship and Junzi Scholarship



For more information, please visit our website www.keystoneacademy.cn
or contact our Admission Team at (010) 80496008 ext 2028

A new WORLD SCHOOL 真正的世界学校 *A new* MODEL OF EDUCATION IN CHINA 全新的教育模式

www.keystoneacademy.cn