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April 2018

Cracking the Code

Can kids create their own video game?

Flying Solo

Some helpful tips for kids traveling alone this summer

Plus: Summer camp guide and Souky Souky's fabulous throw pillows

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2018
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雅艺之美 WHEN ELEGANCE MEETS ART

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今日美术馆
TODAY ART MUSEUM



WOMEN OF CHINA English Monthly
《中国妇女》英文月刊

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Summer Survival Guide

When I was a kid, summer meant playing lots of basketball with neighborhood friends, visiting family in other parts of the country, or getting involved in numerous activities like camps and community service projects. But, it also meant fighting boredom in all of its devious shapes and sizes. Despite all of the technological advancements that have been made since we were kids, boredom still remains a challenge. Those two words, "I'm bored," should strike fear into any parent.

We know we don't need to inform you but summer is just around the corner, and if you are planning on staying in the Jing this summer, there are plenty of options fun things your child should do, but it's a very good idea to stay informed and not act too late.

This issue is also full of helpful tips including how unaccompanied minors can travel internationally from Beijing (p44), as well as the importance of pushing your kids to find internships during the summer (p41). We also have three pages of exciting summer camp listings going on in June, July, and August (p54).

For our cover feature, we find out how some parents are sending their kids to camps or having them participate in clubs so that they will reconnect with the culture and language of their native country (p52). We also talk with the masters of

being prepared, our local Boy and Girl Scout troops in Beijing (p48). These youth-oriented groups are still going strong and offer a bunch of great wholesome activities for kids in this city to learn leadership, problem-solving, and other life skills that are core components to these scouting curricula.

This issue is our way of letting you know that summer and all of its delicious unstructured time free of strenuous academic pursuits is just around the corner. Whether you want to build your child's skillsets and prevent the summer slide or give them a much-needed break from the obvious pressures that come from being enrolled in one of the many challenging international curricula here in Beijing, here you can find a bit of everything to make this process a bit more manageable.

Kipp Whittaker

Kipp Whittaker
Chief Content Manager



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for all grade levels for the 2018-19 school year.

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ON THE COVER:

We can't thank Alfie, Luke, Lyndon, Allen, and Adam of Boy Scout Troop 943 enough for making our dream of doing a Goosebumps inspired beijingkids cover come true! If these kids don't make it in becoming Eagle Scouts, at least they have a possible future in fashion modeling.

Photo by Dave's Studio



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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 12 years, Marianne Daquet has always been passionate about art and education. She founded Atelier Art School 6 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.cn.com.



Dominika Mejia

Dominika is a career diplomat with a foothold on three continents. She shares a taste for food with a passion for books and travel. Loves Beijing and enjoys exploring its hidden gems. While she is full of hope to master Chinese while writing her PhD, she's also the mother of a two-year-old daughter.



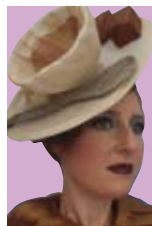
Caroline Nath

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 three 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



Lise Floris

Lise is originally from Denmark but has lived abroad since 1998. She took leave from her job in the EU when the family moved to China in December 2015. She also has her own blog (ninemillionbicycles.weebly.com) where she writes about her adventures in Beijing and is a freelance writer for various magazines and platforms including Global Times.



What's New



Puppets Against Plastic for Earth Day

Earth Day 2018 takes place on April 22, and the focus this year is on the problem of plastic pollution. Research suggests that China produces about 3.5 million tonnes of the 8 million tonnes of plastic waste which goes into our oceans every year, and we all have our part to play in reducing that shocking statistic. Beijing Hikers are organizing a clean-up hike along the Jiankou Great Wall. At Beijing 9 Theatre, meanwhile, there's a puppet performance called *When All Was Green*, to help little ones understand the importance of protecting our environment. Check out the events listings on our website to find out what else is taking place: www.beijing-kids.com/events



Fiery Fun at the Beijinger Hot & Spicy Festival

There's a new date in the calendar for Beijing foodies. Joining regular fixtures like the Pizza Festival and Burger Festival is the new venture from our sister magazine the Beijinger: the Hot and Spicy Festival. Over 40 vendors representing more than 20 different cuisines will descend on Galaxy Soho on the weekend of April 14-15, to tempt your taste buds with spicy treats and dare you to sample the hottest dishes around. There'll be family fun too – the *beijingkids* team will be there, and we hope to see you too!



Blossoming Beijing

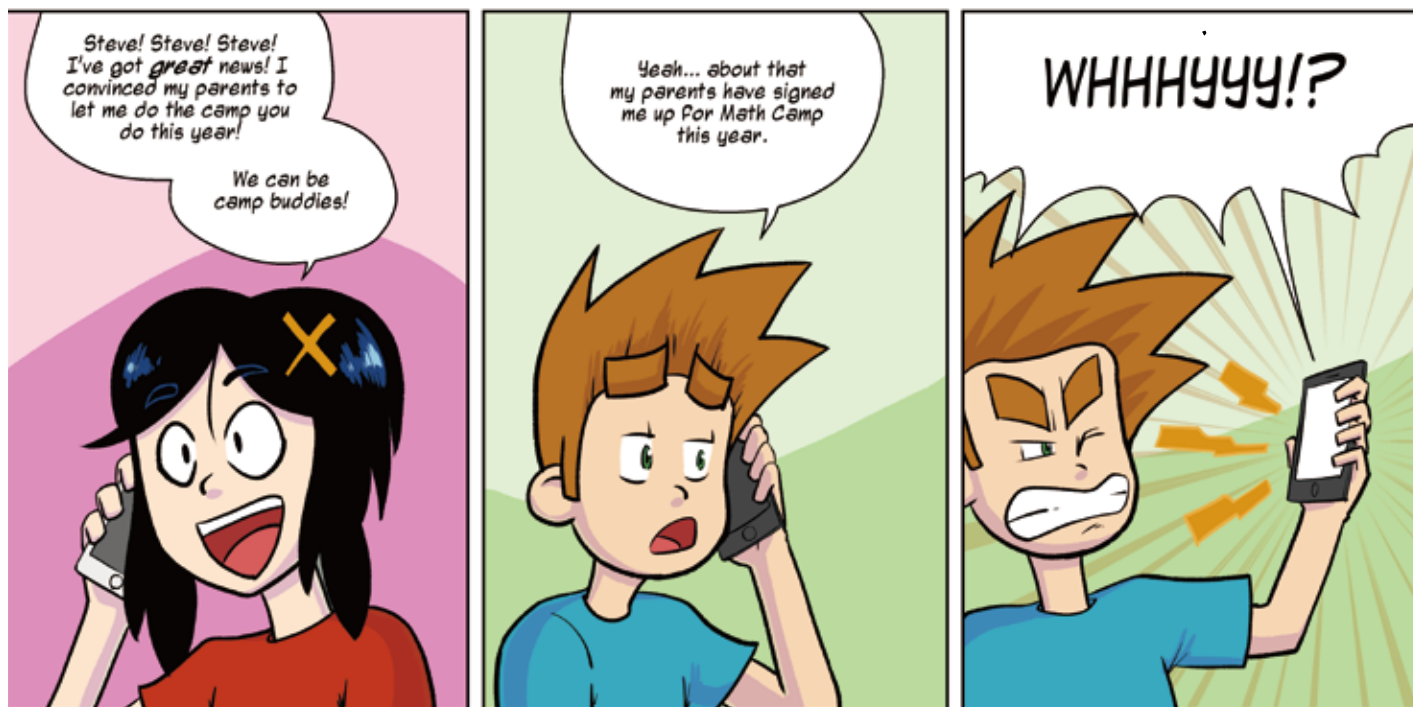
Just as spring is warming up nicely, April comes bookended with holidays. At the beginning are Qingming Festival and Easter, and the month ends with Labor Day weekend. Time to get out in the sunshine and enjoy the blossom! Beijing's most famous place for viewing the cherry blossom is Yuyuantan Park in Haidian, but you can see fabulous plum blossom at the Summer Palace, Fragrant Hills, and many other places. And of course, the Botanical Gardens are wonderful at this time of year.



To Market, to Market

Why trudge round the Wumart to buy low-quality groceries, when you can get fresh food and enjoy the bustle of a local market? International Newcomers' Network (INN) are holding their Spring Bazaar at Marriott Northeast on April 25. The hotel will be offering special lunch sets, and DJ Mookie-She will be providing the tunes, while you shop around the stalls of over 60 vendors. Meanwhile, Farm to Neighbors (F2N) Market is launching its new monthly market in Shunyi. You can find them at Peide School on the third Saturday of every month, from 11am to 4pm, and you'll be able to buy produce from local farms as well as artisanal foodstuffs made by local providers.

PHOTOS: BEIJING 9 THEATRE; EMBER SWIFT; CATRAMA NICHOLSON VIA FLICKR



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Chaoyang Park Campus: Victoria Gardens, 15 Chaoyang Park West Road, Beijing, China, 100025
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APRIL EVENTS



Promote your family-friendly event in the *beijingkids* magazine and website!

Submit your activity details before **April 10** to be considered in our May listings.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES: IAIN MILNE

Apr 10

All ages. Scottish rugby union player Iain Milne is visiting Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) to talk about his career and life. Known as "The Bear," Iain won a grand slam in 1984 and built a reputation for his work ethic, durability, hard tackling, and courage. Free. Western Academy of Beijing (5986 5588; wabinfo@wab.edu).



SUNGKYUNKWAN UNIVERSITY'S TALK AT BSB SHUNYI

Apr 12

All ages. The British School of Beijing (BSB), Shunyi welcomes admissions officers Jehoon Kwon and Hyejung Hong from Sungkyunkwan University. They will explain the admissions criteria and answer questions from parents and students. All are welcome to attend. Free. 2.30-3.30pm. BSB, Shunyi (8047 3588; georgette.small@britishschool.org.cn).



THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD'S TALK AT BSB SHUNYI

Apr 12

All ages. The British School of Beijing (BSB), Shunyi is pleased that The University of Oxford will be visiting their campus. Ms. Charlotte Hamilton from The University of Oxford will give a presentation on university procedures which will be followed by a question and answer session. All are welcome to attend. Free. 10-11am. BSB, Shunyi (8047 3588; georgette.small@britishschool.org.cn).

WILDERNESS FIRST AID COURSE

Apr 14

Ages 16+. Imagine will be hosting a WFA course (Wilderness First Aid) at Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) Wild's Miao Liang Centre in association with Wilderness Medical Associates International. Wilderness First Aid is a two-day introduction to general medical concepts and basic life support skills. The course will offer relevant and realistic first-aid training for seasonal outdoor activities or short-term wilderness endeavors and pursuits. RMB 3,000 (with transport), RMB 2,900 (without transport); RMB 2,200 (without transport and accommodation). Imagine (WeChat: Imagine24x7service).

BSB CAR BOOT SALE

Apr 15

All ages. Come and shop for great deals at The British School of Beijing (BSB), Shunyi Car Boot Sale. Interesting items will be on sale by students' parents at their parking lot. Part of the proceeds from this event will go to Roundabout.Coffee and snacks will be on sale too. Free entrance. 10am-1pm. BSB, Shunyi (8047 3588; marketing@bsbshunyi.com).




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Elementary: No.10 Lai Guang Ying East Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100102
小学部: 北京市朝阳区来广营东路10号
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USA School of the Art Institute of Chicago, The University of Texas at Austin

CANADA Capilano University, Concordia University, Humber College, Ryerson University, Simon Fraser University, University of Toronto, University of Victoria, University of Waterloo

EUROPE University of Amsterdam, University of Groningen

ASIA Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The University of Hong Kong

Come to our Open Day on 23rd April

www.bsbshunyi.com/openday

admissions@bsbshunyi.com

+86 (0)10 8047 3558

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

SEEDS OF HOPE CHARITY GALA CONCERT

Apr 21

All ages. The Yew Chung Education Foundation (YCEF) is celebrating its 85th anniversary this year in style, bringing together students and educators from campuses all around China. The Seeds of Hope Charity Gala Concert promises a magical evening filled with delicious food, great music, and many lasting memories. RMB 1,000. 5.30-9pm. Yew Chung International School of Beijing (8585 1836).

BIBA ROUNDABOUT BOOK FAIR

Apr 21

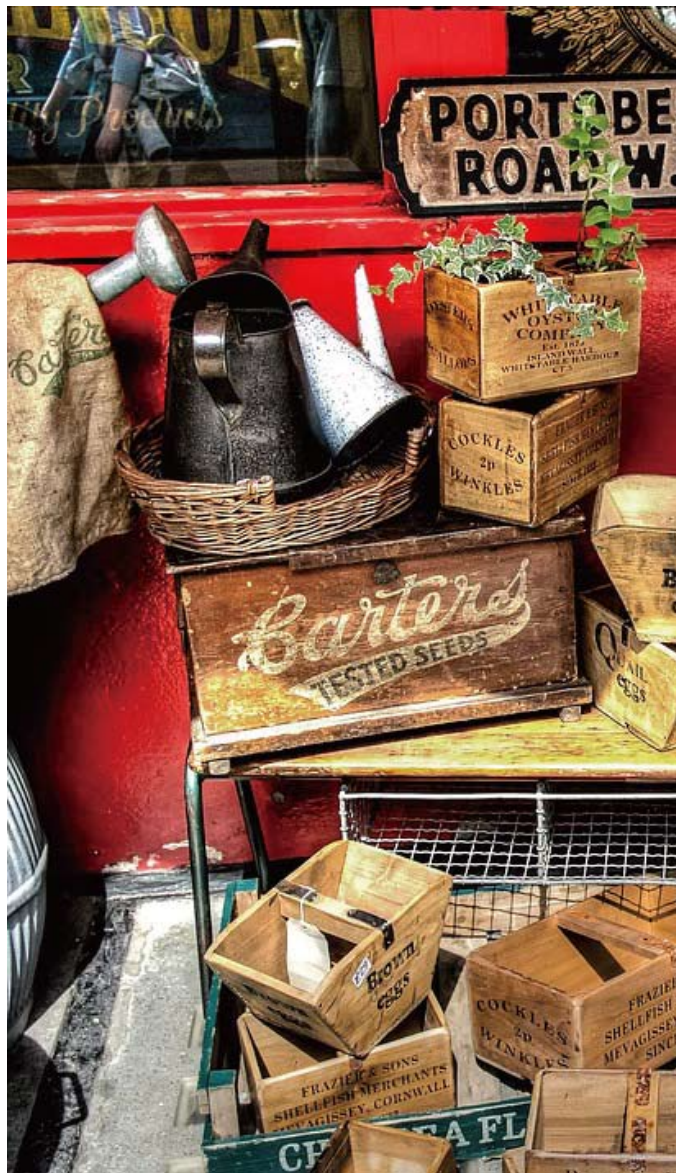
All ages. Come and attend Beijing International Bilingual Academy's (BIBA) annual Roundabout Charity Book Fair. Come and take a look at all the books available to purchase, with all profits being donated to the charity Roundabout Free. 10am-4pm. Contact 8041 0390 or adam@bibachina.org for more information. BIBA.



ATELIER CREATIVE WORKSHOP

Apr 23-27

Age 5+. For this French spring holiday, Atelier Sanlitun campus will present a creativity workshop for the topic inspired by *Les Machines de Nantes*. During the workshop, students will discover this marvelous world of the Machine de Nantes and especially learn more about the carousel they created for their exhibition of the Machines of the Isle in Nantes. RMB 1,800-4,000. 10am-4pm. Atelier Sanlitun (WeChat: atelier_apas).



BEST OF BRITISH MARKET

Apr 22

All ages. The Best of British Market features over 30 vendors selling special British products and food, as well as provide a taste of the British culture. Come out to Plan B in Shuangjing to enjoy fish and chips, and many more of your favorite British dishes, afternoon tea, and activities for the kids. Free. Noon-6pm. (186 1035 7991).

A PEDIATRIC FIRST AIDE OVERVIEW

Apr 27

Adults. 3e International School's Tea Talk for April provides parents with an important overview of the latest information and best practices in pediatric first aid. This presentation provides an introductory overview and refresher for those who may consider attending a more in-depth first aid course in the future. The talk is presented by Yanfei Zhang, United Family Healthcare BLS instructor and Home Health nurse team supervisor. Free. 9-10.30am. 3e International School (6437 3344; community@3einternationalschool.org).

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BIBA, CULTURAL KEYS

SUNSHINE STUDIOS STREET DANCE CLASSES

Starts from Apr 1

Aged 4+. Sunshine Studios Street Dance Classes are taking place at Western Academy of Beijing and are open to all. The international dance company has set the gold standard for training with many of their students going on to work for movies, TV shows, concerts and famous theatre shows. Classes are every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from April 1 until June 13. RMB 130 per class. 10.30-8pm. Sunshine Studios (enquiries@sunshine-studios.co.uk).



EARTH DAY FAMILY THEATRE: WHEN ALL WAS GREEN

Apr 19

Ages 5+. Take your little one to join Tong Playroom to learn more about this inspiring performance at Beijing 9 Theatre. *When All Was Green* is a non-verbal, award-winning puppetry performance inspired by the famous children book, *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. Directly from Israel, The Key Theatre successfully delivers a poignant reflection on nature's generosity of spirit in spite of man's greed. RMB 260-280. 7-9pm. Beijing 9 Theatre (WeChat: janiceinbj).



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THE FOURTH "HIKICKER" INTERNATIONAL SOCCER CUP

Apr 29-30

All ages. Beijing International Polo Club invites everyone to the 2018 HiKicker Cup. Other than the game itself, the club will provide a well-designed after-game party, market/cuisine street, World Cup soccer gear sales, and "Field Sale" (where parents can bring used or set-aside toys/books to exchange) in order to build a unique event as of a true soccer festival. 12.30-8.30pm. Beijing International Polo Club (WeChat: Jun11).

THE BEIJINGER HOT & SPICY FESTIVAL

Apr 14-15

All ages. Our sister magazine, *the Beijinger*, is holding the first Hot & Spicy Festival with over 40 vendors representing cuisines from approximately 20 countries. They will sling their spiciest wares in the name of chili love. Expect food as varied as Texas hot wings to Yunnan fried tilapia, American barbecued spicy ribs to Sichuan pepper pork, Mexican quesadillas to Japanese "devil's" fried chicken. There will also have fiery cultural performances, and the annual Hot Chili Pepper Eating Contest. RMB 25 per day. Scan the QR code below to register. 11am-8pm. Galaxy Soho (5941 0368, sales@truerun.com).




**HOT & SPICY
FESTIVAL**

40+ spicy food vendors
from over 20 countries
9th Annual Hot Chili
Eating Contest
Fiery entertainment




RMB 25/day
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Note that we will only publish
photos of babies born in Beijing
in the last 12 months



Belle Xinyi Hu

Irish. Born on September 9 to
Levi Demi Price and Qinghui Hu at
OASIS International Hospital.



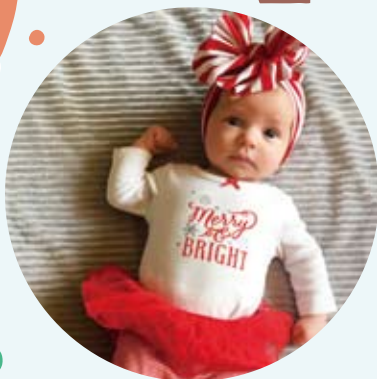
Mira Ansfield

US. Born on November 14 to
Amy Li and Jonathan Ansfield at
Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital.



Greta

German. Born on November 4 to
Alexandra and René Wolff at
Beijing United Family Hospital.



Eliana Ruth

American. Born on October 22 to
Katelyn and Cole Thomas at
Beijing United Family Hospital.



Valentine Susana To'omata

French/Samoan. Born on November 11 to
Anne-Valiha Lucron and Poesé To'omata at
OASIS International Hospital.

GLITZ AND



If there are two people in Beijing who are very detailed, extremely perfectionist, and good at their work, it's Leo T and Nadia Werlinich. Leo T is a hair guru and has just relocated to Xiao Mi Salon in Solana Mall. Werlinich is the owner of Little Eco One, where she makes teepees and other organic fabric miracles. She has been in Beijing since this summer and had no luck finding a hairdresser that she liked. We took her to see Leo T, who previously worked at London Loft.

Werlinich has very high standards for her looks, so Beijing salons can be somewhat challenging. Leo is a hairdresser who knows how to please, and he created a fresh-look balayage technique. He cut her hair touching her shoulders to give it some movement and swing. Leo has a cozy private room with amazing products like VSP's new traditional Chinese medicine shampoo. You might think this would smell "interesting," but we were surprised by its luscious scent. Leo showed us

some tricks when washing hair: after a wash and before you put in the conditioner, make sure to towel dry your hair so the conditioner sticks before you rinse it off.

We have featured several Beijing fashion and jewelry designers, but this time we wanted to showcase "slow fashion" and a movement called "Clothing Auctions" brought to Beijing by Rebecca Archer. We all have clothes in our wardrobes that we have not worn since forever, and sometimes even clothing with the



PHOTOS: UNI YOU

GLAMOR



tags still on. These clothing auctions happen on a regular basis, and women attending these nights together not only socialize but also sort through huge piles of clothing which they can buy for as low as RMB 10, depending on who else is bidding on it. The good part is that all the money raised is donated to charity and the women walk away with "new" clothing. In a time where we focus on zero waste and trying to keep the world a healthy place, these auctions are simply a great solution.

Archer helped us dress Werlinich by bringing a suitcase full of clothes-auction clothing! Archer specifically styled our model from top to bottom. Even the necklace is an auction piece! Werlinich worked the lens like a diva and we could not have made a better match in the client-hairdresser world. Bring in this magazine when you go to see Leo T at Xiaomi Salon in Solana Mall, to receive 20 percent off your visit. *Text by Pauline van Hasselt*

Get This Look

Salon: Beijing Xiaomi Salon, Shop 8-3/8-8, No. 6 Solana, Chaoyang Gongyuan Road, Chaoyang (5905 1800)

Little Eco One:

www.littleecoone.com

Clothes Auctions:

www.clothingauctions.xyz



INTERIOR ACCENTS

Turning your house into a home
with Souky Souky

By Pauline van Hasselt



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ELLEN DITTMAR

The talk of the town in the market scene last December was Souky Souky and her attractive throw pillows. Moms were raving on WeChat, and I was pretty hard on myself for not attending the biggest winter fair of 2017. Even so, I didn't forget about the fantastic original pillows that are made to be treasured and kept forever. Ellen Dittmar is another mother in Beijing who decided to run with her idea of starting a "make your house into a home" business.

Beijing is an easy place to get stuff made for your home on the cheap, or eventually get those same items mass produced in factories. However, this is not the Souky Souky way. Dittmar makes one-of-a-kind products which have the potential to spruce up any room in your home. She also is available to help you with design suggestions for your home over a glass of wine. Check out her website (www.soukysouky.com) for more information.

Why did you start Souky Souky?

Souky Souky was born out of my love for home décor and travel. Both of these things inspire me in equal measure, and I am fueled by the place where they intersect. Having lived overseas for over a decade, I have spent countless hours wandering through souks, bazaars, and markets around the world, collecting and gathering décor items. My home, as a result, contains this eclectic mix of vintage, globally-gathered and one-of-a-kind items; the kind of items you might find in a well-curated boutique shop.

One day it occurred to me that this "boutique shop" look was missing from the Beijing landscape. I loved this style, but I couldn't buy it anywhere! Beijing has abundant access to mass-produced home goods, but there seems to be very little in the way of handcrafted and vintage items; the type of items that instantly add so much character and depth to a room. I started Souky Souky to help fill the void in the Beijing marketplace. At Souky Souky we source vintage and handmade fabrics from all over the world and then transform them into beautiful throw pillows. By doing so, we provide our customers with both beautiful items that help them create that perfect "gathered" look, and an alternative to purchasing mass-produced home décor.

My other motivation for creating Souky Souky was to give back to the many communities that have played host to me during my travels; China included. I wanted to build a business that was socially responsible and made a genuine difference to the lives of others. With that in mind, Souky Souky invests 10 percent of its proceeds into Kiva grants and loans. We like to say that we are changing lives, one throw pillow at a time.

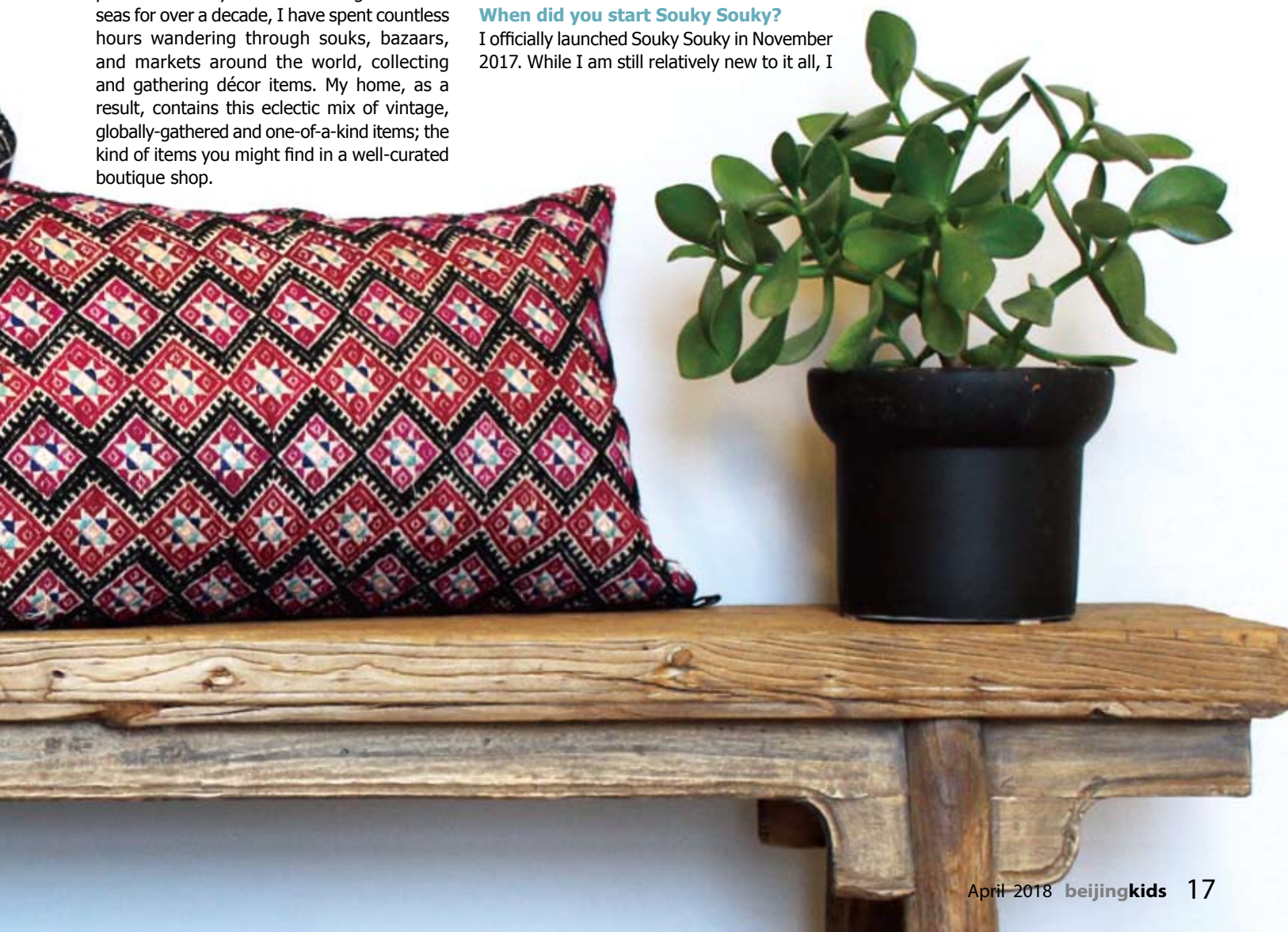
When did you start Souky Souky?

I officially launched Souky Souky in November 2017. While I am still relatively new to it all, I

can say that I am loving the process and the opportunities this business has afforded me. I have already learned so much and have met many inspiring people. It has been a lot of work but a really fun ride so far.

It must be complicated having your own business, how did it all begin for you?

It is hard to say exactly how I started this business. There were so many steps (both little and big) that I had to take to get Souky Souky off the ground, so to speak. But the most important (and probably the hardest) step was simply making the decision to start. Once I committed to that idea of opening a business, I simply made a list of everything I would need to do to make that happen. At first, there was not much on the list, mostly because I had no idea what I was doing. I took the baby steps approach. I would just tackle one item at a time and keep adding to-do items as I went along. After many (many!) months of doing, experimenting, learning, and mistaking, I had a sweet little business.





Herbal Remedy

A simple spring recipe for a healthy body

By Dr. Melissa Rodriguez

Spring is in the air! Temperatures have risen, flowers have started to bloom, trees are getting their leaves back, and birds are singing. The change of season is here.

According to Chinese medicine, winter is the most *yin* time of the year, while summer is the most *yang*. As winter becomes spring, *yin* becomes *yang* or when summer becomes fall, we are vulnerable to getting sick. There is a traditional Chinese remedy that is meant to support the body through this change. In English, we refer to it as "Change of Season Soup." It's a simple recipe that can be modified according to your needs. It contains four main herbs which can be purchased at any pharmacy where traditional Chinese medicine is sold.

Codonopsis root (党参 *dǎngshēn*) helps the body adapt to stress. According to traditional Chinese medicine, this herb acts on the spleen and lungs. It tonifies *qi*, helping to strengthen the immune system and increase energy in the body.

Astragalus root (黄耆 *huāngqí*) enhances immunity and strengthens our protective defenses. This tonic herb has anti-tumor activity and can increase vitality. *Astragalus* also benefits the lungs. Along with *codonopsis*, it is best taken to prevent a cold or flu so

avoid taking it when you are actively fighting an infection.

Dioscorea root (山药 *shānyào*) is a medicinal herb and food, also known as Chinese yam. You can find it in grocery stores or wet markets. You've probably tried *shānyào* in soups or in stir-fry meals. It's a long thin root, white on the inside with a rough, dark brown, almost hairy-looking skin. When chopped it becomes very slimy, thanks to its high content of saponins. Its medicinal effect is to nourish the lungs and tonify the kidneys.

Goji berries (枸杞子 *gǒuqǐzǐ*) are one of the most common herbs used in traditional Chinese medicine. They're also known as Chinese wolfberries and they contain immune-enhancing vitamin C and a long list of other nutrients and antioxidants. Traditionally, they have been used to treat respiratory conditions including cough and asthma.

This soup can be made in a variety of ways. You can boil the herbs alone in the water and make a simple broth or tea. It tastes a little bitter, but you can add some brown sugar or honey to improve the taste. You can also make it as a congee. With the addition of other vegetables or meat and bones, it can be prepared as a more substantial nourishing soup. The possibilities are endless.

Here is the basic recipe. I usually get the *astragalus* and *codonopsis* sliced; and use about 5-10 pieces of each depending on the thickness, less than 10g. Generally, you want to use equal amounts of each herb, but I tend to be more liberal with the goji berries and the *shānyào*. Add to 4 liters of water in a big pot over the stove. Cook for two hours or more on low heat. You can add more water if it boils down or becomes too concentrated for your taste. Enjoy!



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, visit her website at www.drmelissarodriguez.com.

PHOTO: VIVI4216 VIA PIXABAY

Camp Out!

How can teens learn self-awareness in camps?

By Dr. Dorothy Dexter

When I was thirteen, one of my parents' friends asked if I would like to help her as an assistant teacher at a two-week virtues camp she was putting together for children in a small jungle town in Ecuador. I was delighted at the opportunity to go with her as she always provided delicious food and the idea of taking a trip to the jungle town enhanced my summer holiday greatly.

Little did I know that this experience (which later would become a yearly routine) would be key in helping me develop a strong sense of social responsibility and self-esteem: character traits that helped me remain focused on elevated life goals and avoid picking up toxic habits that were common to many of my friends and classmates during high school and university.

Research conducted in Canada suggested that the habit of drinking alcohol and smoking usually starts before 18 and teenage girls who engaged in such activities had an increased risk of unwanted pregnancies. On the other hand, they found that participating in organized out-of-school activities such as sports, community service, and projects increased positive peer influence and self-esteem protecting adolescent boys and girls from engaging in risky behaviors.

Teenagers are full of energy and motivated to challenge the status quo. They begin to

question what their parents think and look to others (usually their peers) for a role model. During these years, they solidify their own identity and habits.

Many marketing companies are aware of this vulnerable and extraordinarily receptive age and invest millions in advertising directly to early teens. They know that if they are able to capture their attention and create a habit during these years, they will most likely have a lifelong customer.

It is exciting to see how most schools in Beijing offer multiple opportunities for their students to participate in community service projects as well as cultural and sports activities that provide safe environments for the students to explore their talents and develop not only intellectual but also life skills.

Spring and summer camps also are great at providing organized programs on various topics where teens may experience exposure to high ideals and strengthen friendships with other young people with common goals. They often offer occasions to connect with nature and engage in physical activity.

Aware that the teen years play such an important role in shaping the future, it is important for adolescents to ask themselves:

- *How can this receptive energetic period of my life be made the most of?*
- *How many hours am I spending watching TV or playing video games per day?*

- *What is the message/content of the activities I spend the most time on?*
- *Who am I spending most of my free time with?*
- *What do we do together?*
- *How often am I engaging in activities with community service-oriented goals that promote healthy lifestyle habits?*

I would like to end by saying that self-awareness is key in protecting us from unconsciously becoming victims of economically driven alcohol and cigarette companies that hope to make us into lifelong consumers of their products.



Need more info?

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

SURPRISINGLY VEGAN

*How healthy food can
also taste delicious*

*By Pauline van Hasselt
and Robin Salinas*



Robin Salinas is the picture of health, but how? He is a father to be and kindergarten teacher at Eton Kids. Salinas is vegan and also passionate about the environment. He learned it takes 2,500 gallons of water to make one pound of beef, so basically, the farm-to-table process has a huge effect on our environment.

His raw vegan diet is interesting, to say the least, and we were surprised by his knowledge and hunger for great vegan food. He makes these cakes for kids when they have birthday parties at school, and as parents ourselves, we were very happy to hear this. All the ingredients in these recipes are so healthy we had no space to list all the benefits. But here are the best ones: spirulina is filled with vitamins and minerals, *chlorella* supports your immune system, cashews are an antidepressant, and soaked almonds promote weight loss. We hear you think, these ingredients sound a bit funny but we can tell you that this cake is one of the tastiest we have eaten in a while, and we have our fair share.





Raw Vegan Neapolitan Cake

Ingredients

(Makes one 6 inch round cake, about 8-10 servings)

Crust

- 1 cup ground almonds (can be replaced or mixed with chestnut, pistachios, macadamias, pecans, walnuts, or hazelnuts)
- 1/2 cup dates, pitted
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 1 tbsp coconut oil
- Pinch of sea salt or Himalayan salt (optional)

Filling

- 1 1/2 cups (240g) raw cashews, soaked in water 4-6 hours then drained
- 1/2 cup organic maple syrup (other optional sweeteners: stevia leaves, Medjool dates)
- 5 tbsp lemon juice (juice of 1 large lemon)
- 1/2 cup coconut oil, melted
- 1 tbsp pure vanilla extract
- Pinch of sea salt or Himalayan salt
- 1 banana (optional)

Green Color:

- 1/2 tsp spirulina
- 1/2 tsp chlorella

Additional ingredients (chocolate layer)

- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 1 tbsp coconut oil, melted
- 1 tbsp liquid sweetener of your choice

Directions

1. Prepare the crust: Place dates, ground almonds, cocoa powder in the bowl of a food processor and blend until crumbs form. Add coconut oil and process some more until the mixture is well combined and stick together when squeezed between your fingers.
2. Press well the crust mixture into the bottom of a 6-inch spring-form pan using your fingers or the back of a tablespoon or even the bottom of a glass. Set aside while you prepare the filling.
3. Prepare the vanilla base: Add all ingredients for the vanilla base, presoaked cashews, lemon juice, liquid sweetener (maple syrup, stevia leaves, Medjool dates), melted coconut oil, vanilla extract and salt into the bowl of a blender and process until creamy and smooth.
4. Add *chlorella* and spirulina to the base (if you want another color instead it can be with berries, cocoa or any other fruit to make the base into your favorite color)
5. Place in the freezer to firm up for 15 minutes while you prepare the chocolate glaze if desired. If not just let it freeze for at least 2 or 3 hours. I let it overnight.
6. If you want to decorate the cake with some chocolate start preparing the chocolate topping by combining the ingredients into a bowl. Cut the corner of a small plastic bag making a 1/8 inch or even smaller hole, and place the mixture into the bag. Remove the pan from the freezer and create a chocolate spiral or drizzle it any way you desire over the cake. Place in the freezer until ready to serve.
7. Store the cake in the freezer, but leave it out for 15 minutes to thaw out before serving. Decorate the cake edges with cocoa nibs for a wonderful look and texture.



Pauline van Hasselt has worked successfully as a chef for 15 years and is passionate about cooking and eating food. Beijing surprised her with a new career writing for *beijingkids*, but the culinary world is never far away. Van Hasselt is on a mission to find hidden gems of home cooks in this vibrant city of Beijing.

Almond milk

Ingredients

- 4 cups (1 liter) water
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 tbsp sweetener, maple/date syrup or similar

Directions

1. Soak the almonds in salted water for 8 hours or overnight to sprout them. If you are short of time, a 1-hour soak is acceptable but less than ideal for maximum nutritional benefit.
2. Drain and rinse the almonds then place in a blender with fresh water.
3. Blend for a few minutes.
4. Pour into a cheesecloth, nut bag, or sieve and squeeze out the milk.
5. Stir in the vanilla and sweetener, if desired.



Every student at Harrow Beijing is part of a global Harrow family, and we honour our connection to the Harrow family through shared mission and values.

Harrow Beijing fully supports all our students through their educational pathways in achieving academic excellence, and develops their passions and interests through an extensive range of activities. Every student is encouraged to be an active and concerned member of our school, local and global communities. Through our commitment to holistic education and close personal tutoring, we educate our students to become the leaders of the future.

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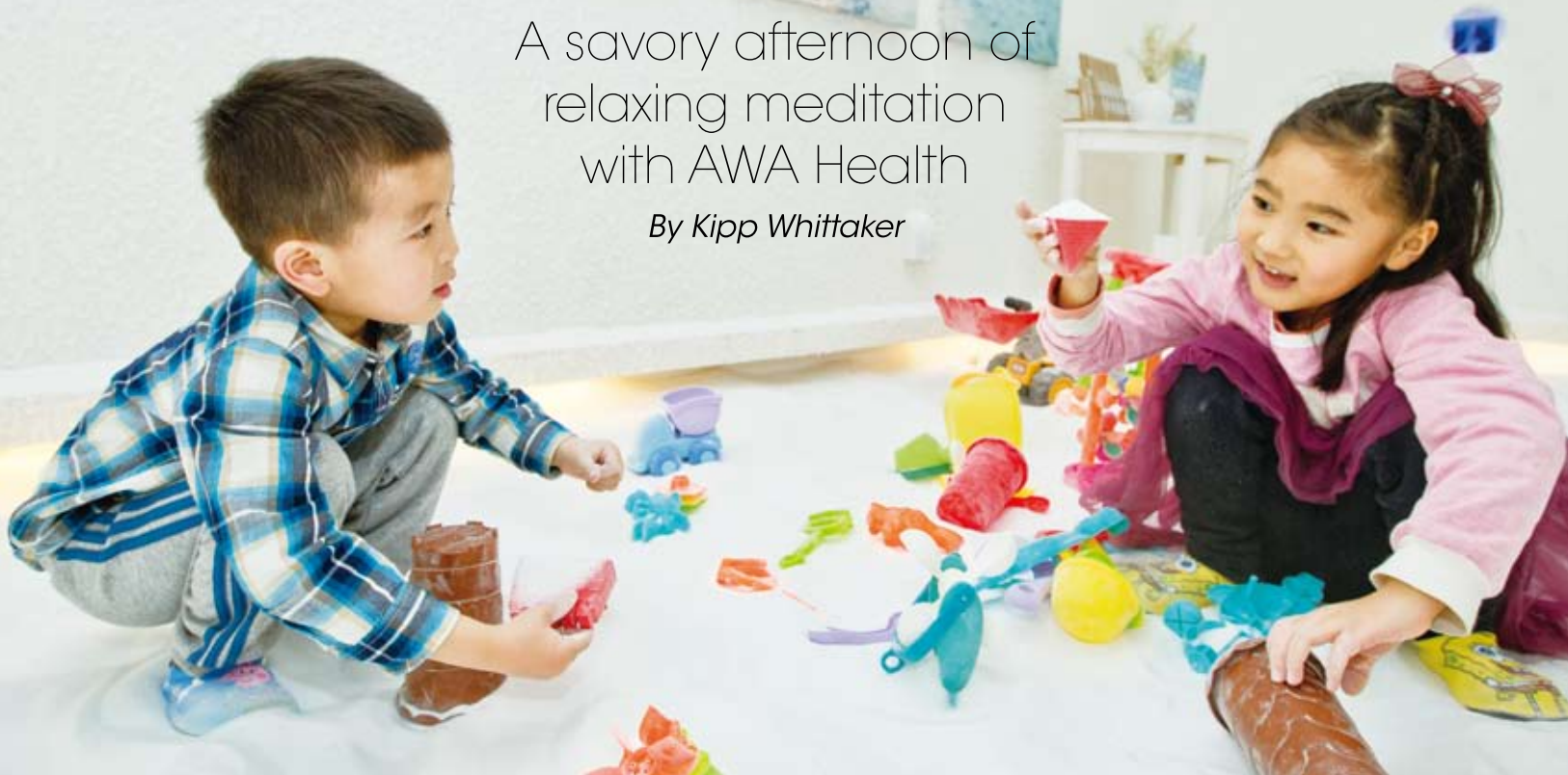
HARROW
BEIJING

Leadership for a better world

WORTH THEIR SALT

A savory afternoon of
relaxing meditation
with AWA Health

By Kipp Whittaker



You know what they say about Australia and how there are 1,000 things that can kill you? The same thing can be said about Beijing for the ways it can stress you out. There are the traffic and population issues that come along with living in a city this size, the health concerns raised when the AQI skyrockets, and let's not forget the noise! But, fortunately for us all, there are ways to counteract this stress, such as with the treatments that are being offered by AWA Health.

AWA Health, located at The Place, has a reputation for being one of the few places in Beijing with a sensory deprivation tank and a salt room, both of which are currently trending services that are gaining acknowledgment for their physical and mental health benefits. Luckily, on our visit, we were able to try both.

If you've never heard of sensory deprivation, this type of therapy helps to give you the feeling of weightlessness while floating in room temperature salt water. In complete darkness, and with no noise, you are able

to quickly enter a meditative state. It's here that your mind is free to roam and explore, without interruption (obviously you can't bring your cell phone). We loved getting away from WeChat for an hour. Though we were a bit nervous about spending upwards of an hour floating in complete darkness, we were surprised how the time flew by. We felt lighter mentally, after the session, and could have spent even more time if we were able.

While we had some experience meditating in the past, we had never had the privilege of doing it in our birthday suit, in a shallow tub of saltwater and absolute silence. It was truly an unforgettable experience.

If you come to AWA with children, it's their Salt Therapy (RMB 388 for 45 minutes, one adult, and one child) which will be their main attraction. Here you can sit on reclining chairs in their serene, dimly lit rooms filled with medical grade salt. The salts are continuously being pumped into the air in addition to being fixed on the walls and covering the floor. You are surrounded by the stuff.

This room is in a way a delivery system for

the salt, to act as a cleaning agent for your body and lungs. For years in Europe, salt rooms have been recognized for their potential health benefits including relief from respiratory ailments such as asthma, allergies, and bronchitis, as well as skin conditions like acne, eczema, psoriasis, rashes, and rosacea.

Unlike the sensory deprivation tanks which are available to only adults, the salt rooms are for kids and adults alike. Just sit back breathing in the salty lung-cleansing air, and get a massage or facial treatment while your kids play with a decent selection of salt shoveling toys. Not a terrible way to spend an afternoon, in our opinion.

AWA Salt and Floating Therapy

L411, 4/F, Bldg 1, The Place, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District (137 1618 2745) 朝阳区光华路9号世贸天阶1号楼南街4层L411

PHOTOS: UNI YOU



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It's still a couple of weeks before summer gets into full swing, but we better be ready when it comes! Beijing summer is usually hot and dry, but we can make it cool with our easy project. We got help from the boisterous youngsters of Swiss School Beijing: (opposite page from left to right) Jane, Edmund, and Emet. Teacher Cecile Ottiger (second from left) told *beijingkids* the t-shirts would certainly make a mark in the summer: we're using colorful permanent markers instead of the usual dye – and that will make it faster to finish the project.

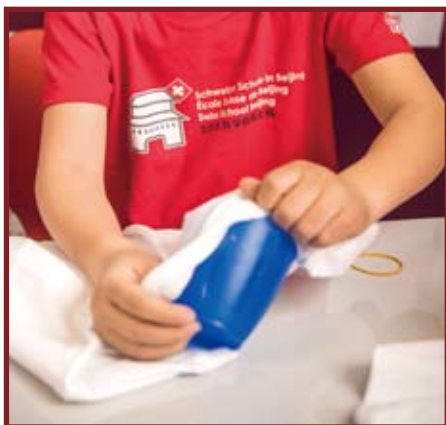
After finishing the t-shirts, the kids surprised us with an impromptu performance with their ukuleles and guitars! We loved how the summery clothing added flair to their mini-concert.

Note: The project takes about 20 minutes to finish. Parental supervision is also required since we'll use rubbing alcohol in the project. Also, do the project in a well-ventilated area.



Materials

Permanent markers (like Sharpies); cotton-based cloth items like t-shirts, socks, shoelaces or dish towels; rubber bands; eye droppers; cups; and 94% alcohol.



Step 1

To make your designs, stretch the cotton over the mouth of a jar or cup and secure it with rubber bands.



Step 2

Use permanent markers to make several patterns of colored dots on the stretched cotton.



Step 3

Using eye droppers with rubbing alcohol, slowly drip a drop onto the spots of color until the alcohol starts to soak outward, carrying the ink with it.



Step 4

Allow your design to dry. And make more patterns! But remember, don't expose the project to heat until it's dry as rubbing alcohol and its fumes are flammable.



Step 5

Now you can wear your marker-dyed shirt with the gang!

Make Your Mark This Summer!

Marker-dyed summer shirts made fancier
by kids from Swiss School Beijing

By Andy Penafuerte III



Keystone Academy Students Fill This Month's Blank Canvas



"Blooming" – Gabriel Cheng, Grade 5



"Purity" – Gemma Liu, Grade 12



"Technology Invasion" – Draven Zhao, Grade 12

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF KEYSTONE ACADEMY



"Decaying Hearts" – Sophia Wang, Grade 12



"Flower" – Coco Zhai, Grade 6



"Journal" – Anny Zhang, Grade 7



"Bullying" – Tina Chen, Christina Huang, Sarah Liu, Grade 8



Tiffany, 12 (China): What is the most important gear for rock climbing?

Hmmm, this is hard to say. It depends on what type of rock climbing you do – bouldering, sport climbing, traditional climbing, or big wall. The common gear to all of these is a pair of rock shoes, which are form-fitting to your foot and have special sticky rubber soles. But maybe the most important gear is your brain: having a clear state of mind is always the best.

Danny, 12 (China): Where's your next trip?

I love to climb smaller, technical (steep) peaks 5,000 to 6,000 meters high. Most of these peaks are ones that no one has heard of before. So my next trip will probably be to a peak like this in Sichuan Province. I also would love to climb the second highest mountain in the world. Do you know which one this is? Hint: on the border between Pakistan and China. I am planning on doing this peak within the next three years. It's tall, technically difficult, and a beautifully stunning pyramid-shaped mountain.

Lukas, 14 (China): Have you ever considered going to Mt. Everest?

Honestly, there's not much that attracts me to Mt. Everest. For one, it's too commercial. The sherpas do most of the work for you and you "simply" have to walk in a line following a long rope. There's not much real climbing. Also, it's not a very aesthetic mountain. However, from a career perspective, it could be good to climb. In many ways it's a pity that Everest is the tallest mountain in the world.

Jian, 12 (US): What do you do in your free time?

I spend time with my 11-year-old daughter. Sometimes we go outdoors, but overall she's not into climbing. She loves to camp and sleep in a tent. We'll go to a beautiful valley and she'll ride horses all day to a camping spot. She also loves to ski, so we do that together.

Top Story

Mountaineer Jon Otto helps Daystar students reach new heights

By Andy Penafuerte III

PHOTOS: DAVE'S STUDIO; COURTESY OF JON OTTO

Dante, 12 (Canada): How did you start your climbing school in China?

I was doing a lot of personal climbing in China, and during the years saw many accidents which could have been easily avoided if the victims had more basic knowledge and skills about the mountains. It moved me to do something to help the outdoor community within China. This impetus may also have to do with the fact that most of my family members are educators, so it runs in the blood. I wanted my climbing to be more than for me, to be for a greater good, so to speak.

Jonathan, 11 (US): How did you start climbing?

I started rock climbing in summer camp when I was 14 years old. I had no idea about climbing, but after the first time rappelling down a rope I was hooked. Then when I was 17, I convinced my mother to send me to a mountaineering camp in the Wind River mountain range of Wyoming, US. I learned many mountaineering skills and climbed six peaks within a month.

Joshua, 12 (UK): What's your favorite sport?

Well, climbing of course. But I want to do kitesurfing. I've never tried but it's the one sport that's not related to climbing that looks really fun and challenging.

Skye, 12 (Canada): What's the best place in the world to climb?

That's the million dollar question! And that's the wonderful thing about climbing: it's very personal. Everyone thinks their place is the best... and it is. Just like everyone has their favorite dessert and thinks it's the best, everyone has their favorite climbing place. It's completely subjective.

Reaching the top of the class perhaps is the recognition that many students want to achieve. But there's more to strive for than always getting academic accomplishments, such as staying happy and healthy. There are a lot of ways to attain that, but the most fun is playing outside and getting into sports.

We invited a sports enthusiast for this month's When I Grow Up, and his pursuit always takes him to new heights. Jon Otto is an American mountaineer who has reached a lot of peaks, including Mt. Muztagh Ata, the second highest of the mountains on the northern edge of the Tibetan Plateau. He is also an educator, and the current director of LeadClimb Mountaineering and Resource Center, an organization providing mountaineering courses for people of all abilities and ages. Daystar Academy students were excited to know what inspired Otto to stay on top of his game!





CELEBRATED SUMMER

Educators from Harrow Beijing and House of Knowledge tell us what makes their summer camps buzz

By Andrew Killeen

Kids go to summer camps for a variety of reasons. For some, it's a necessity as working parents can't take the summer off to look after them. For others, it's an adventure, taking the opportunity to develop new skills and grow more independent.

But learning is also a key aspect of summer camps. We've written before (June 2016 issue) about the risks of summer fallback, and

teachers often talk about the first few weeks of the autumn semester being spent recapping the lessons of the previous year. So how do camp providers combine quality education with summer fun?

We talked to senior educators at two very different Beijing schools, to find out how they plan and run their summer camps to meet the needs of both students and parents.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF HOK AND HARROW BEIJING; DAVE'S STUDIO

"For us, the primary thing is English," John Hopkins of Harrow Beijing told us. Hopkins is Assistant Head Master, Communications at the school, which is a branch of the famous Harrow School in England. "English is the number one concern of most parents, and the requirement for most kids to improve.

"We only have Harrow teachers at the summer camp. They're very experienced with local students and Asian students, bringing their language up to the level where they're able to integrate. We have a very strong EAL (English as an Additional Language) Department, and they understand the difference in culture. In Western education, we talk about learning as a communicative process, a 'to and fro'. That doesn't happen as much in local education, so we have to teach not just vocabulary and grammar, but a mode of communication.

"For local students, that works out well because they often have a strong base in grammar and vocabulary. We can draw on that, but we want to get them to speak, and take away any fear. It's important that students in a Western school express opinions, and learn to work in groups, to agree and disagree. Of course, that's a cultural point of view, not an absolute right, but if children want to enter international education they need to be aware of that."

There's more to the camp than just English lessons though.

"The younger students do a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) course, while the older students do a leadership course," Hopkins said. "That's run by the California Association of Student Councils, which does leadership courses all over the world. We also offer courses run by LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art), where students are able to study prose public speaking or acting. They are entered into LAMDA exams, for which we're the biggest test center in Asia. We're proud that we've had 1,200 students take the test with a 99.8% pass rate!

"What we do in the summer camp reflects



what happens in school overall. It can be a bridge for students wishing to enter Harrow."

Hopkins, who was born in Britain but spent his childhood in Australia, never attended summer camp himself as a child, saying he "grew up in a different era." But Amanda Micossi, Principal of House of Knowledge Schools and Kindergartens (HoK) Chaoyang Park Campus, has happy memories of her own time at camp.

"I went to Girl Scout summer camp every year as a student and absolutely loved it!" she told us. "We spent the whole time outside in the woods, hiking, swimming, and learning cool outdoor skills like how to build a fire, tie knots, and even shoot a bow and arrow. It was a sleep-away camp, and I loved feeling grown up enough to live with my friends in a cabin for a few weeks, away from our parents."

Although the 3- to 7-year-olds who attend

HoK's camps are too young for "sleep-away," Micossi brings the same sense of adventure to each session.

"As our camp is an 'Around the World' adventure, our first task is to choose the countries we'll explore," she said. "We make an effort to include a variety of countries, with different climates, languages, cultures, and traditions. The next step is choosing activities; each country gets a team of teachers who do some research to find a song, a game, and an activity (for example, art or cooking) that would be interesting for our age group. This year, the camp will probably include some German elements because we are doing an exclusive education trip to Germany for families, so that's a nice connection."

"House of Knowledge is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach. In our classes, students are involved in planning the activities and choosing the direction of projects, but for camps, we need a bit more advance planning! We keep the hands-on, active exploration aspect alive in our summer camp by carefully choosing activities that students can do without too much support from teachers."

We asked how she balances fun and learning in the camp, but Micossi soon put us right.

"Is this a trick question?" she said. "Learning is fun! Our goal is to have students engage with and explore different cultures from around the world, so we do things like design colorful mosaics, play hacky sack, and bake pumpkin empanadas. By doing these fun activities, students are learning important lessons about the world they live in.

"We hope to instill in our students an in-



"Learning is Fun" at HoK summer camp.



ternational awareness and cultural sensitivity by exposing them to many different cultures in a fun and interactive way. While they're busy playing games, cooking delicious food, trying on interesting clothes, or enjoying an art project, they're also getting a little taste of the wide variety of things the world has to offer. Students have a 'HoK Passport' and get stamps from the countries they've learned about—by the end, it is an impressive collection!"

Camping Language

In any international educational environment, different levels of ability in different languages can present a challenge. For Harrow's camps with their EAL focus, tackling this issue is particularly important.

"The students are divided into year groups," Hopkins said, "and there's an entry test. If their English is not good enough, they are not able to join the course. They have to meet a certain level of qualification, that's true of the school in general.

"But above and beyond that, in any class in any school, there will be different levels of ability. A good teacher should be able to differentiate. And there, I think, is one of the key values of having only professional teachers on the summer program."

Micossi agrees about the importance of skilled teachers in dealing with this problem.

"We're lucky to have a big, dedicated, and multilingual team of teachers in each summer camp group," she said. "Our language approach is, 'one teacher, one language,' so our Chinese teachers are always around to help."

Making the Team Work

Most students attending HoK camps also attend the school, but there are also new friends to get to know.

"Starting every day with a special Circle Time routine sets the students off on the right foot, bringing them together as a group

and letting everyone get to know each other before jumping off into activities," Micossi said. "We also give each class its own name, lending a sense of identity for the newly created group."

Camps at Harrow Beijing, where the mix of their own students and others is closer to 50:50, also use warm-up activities and icebreakers.

"It's a major challenge on two levels," Hopkins said. "Often students won't have any experience of teamwork in their own school. We have to set up activities well, we can't just say 'break into teams and do this'. It might be completely new to them.

"We talk about providing a 'scaffold' into the activity, to take them from where they are to where they need to be. We move gradually into teamwork over a week or two. So



(top, bottom) Children at HoK camp learn about the world.
(middle) Amanda Micossi, Principal of HoK Chaoyang Park Campus



on a very simple level, we might start with individual speeches, then work towards a debate."

The Importance of Summer Fun

We asked Hopkins what parents should look for when choosing a summer camp for their child.

"Most important," Hopkins answered, "is the school being realistic about the child's expectations of summer camp. There are some institutions where you walk in and every child is a genius who's going to Harvard... Students need responsible and realistic advice."

"Safeguarding policies are important too," he added. "Have all the teachers been checked? It goes back to the whole thing about using professional, experienced staff. Unqualified teachers will waste kids' time, and exhaust them. Spending hours and hours

with them is counterproductive. There's huge demand for our summer camps, we could double, triple, even quadruple the number of students. But we don't because we want to maintain quality."

Micossi emphasized the value of play for younger children.

"Some parents think of summer vacation as 'wasted time' which could be better spent studying—everyone deserves the chance to relax, run, play, be in the sun, and try a wide range of different activities. Kids need time to recharge before the next school year, so I would really encourage parents to consider a 'non-academic' camp. Remember that playing is learning for young kids, so let up on the pressure for a few weeks and have some fun!"

Hopkins too talked about the importance of summer fun.

"If at the end of two to four weeks, you see a bunch of smiling children who have learned, then that's a success. The last thing you want are kids who are more exhausted than at the end of summer term."

Despite the differences in the ages of the children and the focus of the camps, the definition of success looks very similar for both.

"A great summer camp," Micossi said, "is one where the kids leave each day excited, happy, and looking forward to the next adventure."

"A number of children come into the school," Hopkins told us, "and on the first day, they sit waiting to receive knowledge. By the end of two or three weeks, they're actively participating, asking questions, agreeing and disagreeing. It's remarkable how quickly you can change with the right scaffolding. We get parents coming back saying 'my child has changed'. I think some of them are bit shocked!"



(top) Students develop teamworking skills at Harrow Beijing.

(middle) John Hopkins, Assistant Head Master, Communications at Harrow Beijing.

(bottom) High-tech and traditional approaches combine at Harrow camp.



CRACKING THE CODE

Can kids who have never coded before write their own video game in just two days?

By Andrew Killeen

For many parents, video games are a source of concern. They're seen as a distraction from homework, as interfering with healthy active play; and for parents who don't play games themselves, they're a secret and mysterious world, where children might be subject to undesirable influences.

But games are part of our culture now, and increasingly becoming a valid means of artistic expression. Blockbuster games are as expensively and elaborately produced as movies, while the "indie"

scene can be experimental and subversive. And it's a massive global industry, expected to grow from USD 116 billion in 2017 to USD 143.5 billion by 2020.

So if our children are into video games, perhaps we should be encouraging them to start creating instead of just playing. But can kids cope with the complexities of computer code? The founders of "Kids Can Code!" workshops believe they can. I took my boys Noah (aged 12) and Joseph (9) along to find out.

The workshop takes place at a cafe in Sanlitun, and is led by professional software engineer Fernando Colaco. Colaco tells the kids that he began coding at the age of 14. Like many of his generation, he taught himself to program a ZX Spectrum, and this led to a successful career.

"The great thing about coding is that you can work anywhere," he says. "All you need is a laptop."

He backs up this message with a short video about the importance of coding. There is a global skills shortage in computer software, we learn, so coding can be lucrative as well as fun.

"Coders are the wizards of the future!" the video says. "It's like having superpowers."

Having got the kids motivated, Colaco explains what's involved in the workshop. Children are often taught "Scratch" coding, which involves dragging and dropping blocks which represent instructions, but this workshop is different.

"We're going to put our hands on real code," Colaco says.

The language used is Action Script 3, which can export to both Android and iOS.

"But the focus isn't on the language, it's just a tool," Colaco says. He shows the same code in five different languages; the differences are minimal, the basic structure identical.

"We need to use a language," he says, "but it's easy to change to different languages. Coding isn't complicated, because the computer is dumb. You have to tell it what to do."

As a demonstration of this, he gets my boys to put on robot heads and carry out sequences of instructions, causing much hilarity. But amid the laughter some basic concepts of coding are being taught: variables, functions, conditions, loops, and events. And there's another important principle being conveyed.

"If something fails," Colaco says, "you can't blame the computer! It's just doing what you told it to do."

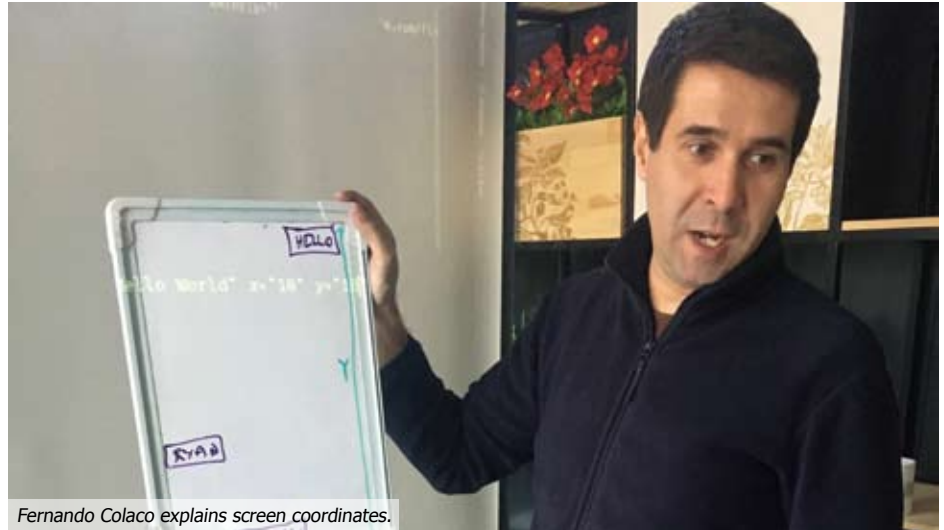
I look anxiously at Joseph, a perfectionist who hates to make mistakes.

"Bugs happen," Colaco continues. "Solving them is satisfying."

Having loaded up the software and shown some basic ways of moving around it, Colaco hands out pens and paper.

"Now we're going to brainstorm ideas," he says. "Coding isn't just a technical thing, it's a creative process."

During the workshop, the children are going to create a game. Although each of them has their own laptop and writes their own code, they'll be working collaboratively. Colaco tells them to go wild and be imaginative, and the kids take him at his word.



Fernando Colaco explains screen coordinates.



Green Robot and Red Robot carry out their instructions.

"It's going to be about a pig ninja," Joseph proclaims. "He shoots ninja stars with his tail and has swords in his ears. He has to defeat the Truffle Guardians and their giant Robo-Sheep."

As the children talk they draw pictures, and the ideas really begin to flow.

"The pig's so powerful, it has to have some challenge..."

"A salamander army! No, a platypus—now we're talking. An echidna that shoots spines!"

After ten minutes, the game has a name. It's called *Oinkmaster: Ninja Pirate Pig Pandemonium*.

After this flurry of creativity the kids take a break and blow off steam. Then the real business of coding begins.

They start with a simple button, and learn how to use X and Y coordinates to put it in different places on the screen. Then they

create labels with their names on, and are challenged to put them in specified places. The kids grasp the concepts intuitively; when one label disappears, they realize immediately that the coordinates are too large and it's off the screen.

By lunchtime they're already writing code. During the break Colaco is busy scanning their pictures, and when they return, Oinkmaster has appeared on their screens, to their great delight.

Colaco has also created an island for the ninja pig to defend, and the first challenge is to make Oinkmaster the right size and put him on his island. The kids quickly apply their learning, and complete the task. The next step is to get him moving from side to side, patrolling his territory.

Up till now the pig has been a single image moving around the screen, but Colaco explains that if Oinkmaster is to be animated,

then he needs to be broken up into different pieces and reassembled. The process of putting his head, body, legs and tail back together is accompanied by fits of giggles; if the kids get the numbers wrong, then parts of him are left floating in space. I am delighted to see that Joseph is unconcerned by making mistakes, able to laugh at the unintended outcome and then find and fix the problem. Even this perfectionist finds bug hunting fun.

By the end of the day the kids are able to make torrents of spinning pigs fall from the sky. The next morning there is much work left to do on the game, and they draw up a list of priority tasks.

Colaco has animated Oinkmaster overnight, so that the pig's legs now move as he walks. The first job is to get him under control, so that he moves in response to a finger on the screen. The kids are confident enough with the code now that they tinker with other things too: changing the color of the evil echidnas, for example. It's fascinating to see how they help and teach each other, swapping lines of code.

"How do you make the ninja star small?"

"Delete every line that makes it big."

At one point Noah writes a different line of code to the one Colaco is demonstrating.

"No, you don't need that part," Colaco says.

"Yes, you do," Noah replies confidently. "It won't work otherwise."

Colaco tests his code, and finds that Noah is right. Philip Johnson, co-founder of Kids Can Code!, is watching too.

"This is why it has to be a two day workshop," he tells me. "We get requests



Cracking the code for dad-son bonding.

to do one hour, but you don't get that 'I can do this' moment."

Joseph decides he wants Oinkmaster's tail-mounted ninja star to shoot off and come back like a boomerang. Making it fly is easy; getting it to return is a bit more tricky.

"My ninja star won't come back to my butt!" he complains.

"That's not something you hear often," Noah drily observes.

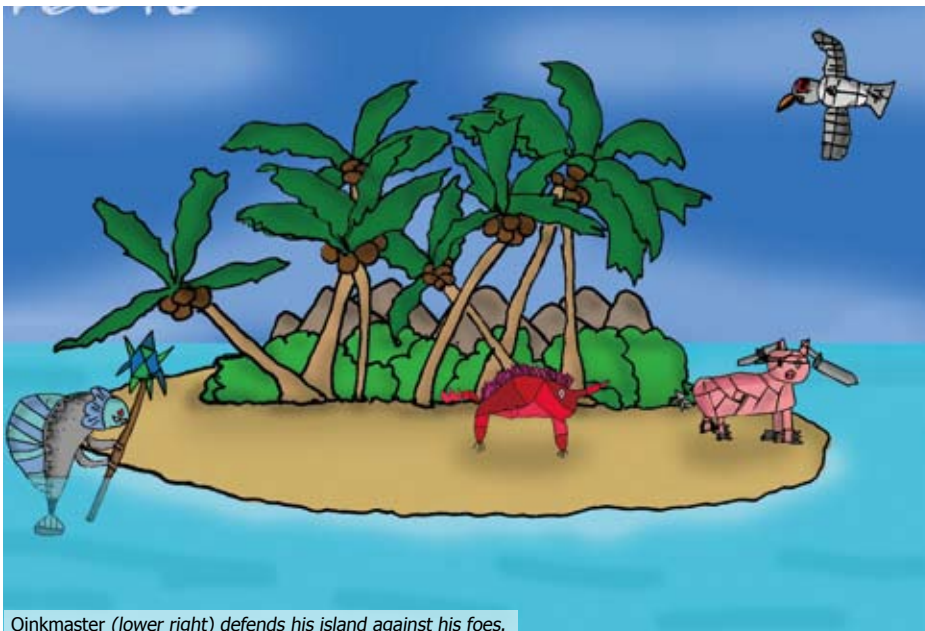
There's a similar problem with the pig. When they make him jump, he flies up in the air but is never seen again. What goes up doesn't necessarily come down, we learn, but we've also proved that pigs can fly. It's back to the code to make gravity work in the game's world.

By the end of the workshop, the basic

game is in place, and Colaco promises to polish it up so it can be made available on the iTunes and Google stores. The kids are excited to learn that their work will be available for their friends to download and play.

I doubt they will remember the specific details of Action Script in the years to come, but most importantly when they see a page of code they won't see something baffling and intimidating, like most of us would. They'll see potential, something you can get your hands into and make magic happen.

Whether or not coding becomes a career, or a hobby, they'll have a deeper understanding of how software works, as computers increasingly permeate every part of our lives. And they've certainly proved one thing: kids can, indeed, code.



Oinkmaster (lower right) defends his island against his foes.



Play the Game!

Scan the QR code to try out and download **Oinkmaster: Ninja Pirate Pig Pandemonium** for free on the iOS App Store or Google Play (VPN needed). If your kids want to be the game designers of the future, contact **Kids Can Code!** via Wechat: **fcolaco** or <http://kids.youcancode.net>.



By AJ Warner

In middle school, I took my first internship, which left a positive influence on me for the rest of my life. Every morning, I woke up at 5 am to prepare newspapers for delivery to homes along my paper route. Little did I know that the experience of working as a paperboy for a year would help me develop a strong work ethic, and would influence my academic and professional life for years to come.

Later in high school, I took many part-time jobs during the school year and over the summers which enabled me to buy a car and pay for the monthly car insurance. I had no choice because that was the deal with my parents. By the time I left for college, I had worked five different internships during high school while still being very involved in school activities. These experiences became key topics in my college application essays, and also enabled me to develop my business and leadership skills while helping me to get more precise about my future career goals.

We need to help our high schoolers gain more career experiences. While academic studies and college test preparation are very important, so are the experiences that students will gain from taking an internship at a company or small business. Some high schools in Beijing collaborate with companies to make

internship opportunities available to students. For example, Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) brings business leaders and companies to the campus to talk about career choices and offer students internship opportunities. This is a good start, but there are frankly not enough of these opportunities for young people. As work regulations for minors are very strict here in Beijing, getting a proper job is unrealistic, but unpaid internships are feasible, and helpful in guiding your teenager into a career that fits his or her unique interests.

As parents, we need to analyze our professional networks and seek out opportunities for our high schoolers to take on these internships. The director of the Harvard China Center gave a presentation at Daystar Academy and shared with parents his views about the importance of young students gaining work experiences. Even basic jobs provide valuable learning opportunities for students to build on in later internships. I followed his advice. A few years ago I brought my sons, then 12 and 9, to my office and gave them work projects to interact with the company's staff and to help them experience the workplace environment. It was also nice how the experience helped them gain an appreciation of what their parents need to do every day at work.

To help my now 14-year-old son figure

out whether a career in video game design is suitable for him, I arranged for him to attend a camp this summer where he will learn about making video games followed by a two-week internship at a friend's Beijing-based video game company. The combined training and internship will help my son know better if his vision of working in the video gaming industry matches his abilities and interests.

High school students today have too many choices ahead of them, which makes taking multiple internships in different fields and industry so valuable. Each internship they take will help them understand better what areas interest them. Colleges prefer applicants with career goals. Students who know what they plan to accomplish after college frequently take majors that are relevant to their future jobs, while those that are still trying to figure out their future sometimes take majors that they never fully utilize later on in their lives. Students benefit greatly by having more clarity about career choice, so taking a number of internships will prove valuable. A bonus for parents is that high school students who take internships often have new and interesting topics to talk about with their parents!

Experience of a Lifetime

Two moms from different backgrounds talk about sending their kids to summer camp

by Andrew Killeen and Jolie Wu

Elisabeth Kang and her husband George are both dental health professionals, originally from Oregon, US. They're recent arrivals in Beijing, where they work for United Family Healthcare. Their two older sons, Niko (aged 16) and Dante (14) attend Yucai Middle and High School, while the youngest, Baron, goes to Yucai Primary School.

Did you go to a summer camp yourself as a child? If so, what was your experience like?

As a child, I went to YMCA sleep away camps. These were outdoorsy type of camps that we could learn how to get up to the sound of a bugle, sleep in cabins, sing by the campfire and play mud soccer and capture the flag. The YMCA camps let me experience life without my parents and get my nails dirty. I also attended German language camp in the southern part of Germany where my father came from; a month-long immersion course during my high school summer break. I highly recommend this kind of camp for children of mixed families. I learned a lot of language skills that summer so much that even today I can recall needed vocabulary to order a beer.

How did you choose a summer camp for your children? What factors did you consider?

When choosing camps for my kids, it usually had educational priorities. I've sent them to zoo camps, chess camps, sports camps, and so on. I would also use camps as a way to secretly research schools. If I wasn't satisfied with the current school my son was attending then I'd look at a potential school I did like and sign them up for whatever spring/winter/summer week-long camp was available. During that week I had full access to the school campus to see what the teachers and school culture were like. Many times I'd "upgrade" schools during the following year as I had found a better school to fit my family's needs.

The most impactful camps I've chosen were month-long language camps, one in Guangzhou at a private Chinese school, the other at a university in Taipei. These were



amazing camps. All of my children had already been attending international Chinese immersion schools in America since preschool, but immersion camps boosted their fluency by huge strides. They also were able to experience the culture of their grandparents and be around people that looked as they did. These kinds of camps can help multiracial kids feel close to their roots and build confidence when learning a second language.

What did your children learn from the experience? Did they change in any way as a result of the experience?

The boys would complain at first when they went to Chinese language camps. It wasn't as exciting as a ziplining scuba diving camp that they could take pictures of, and share their glamorous vacation on Instagram. These days, the boys seem to remember the fun parts of the camps, to my surprise. I'll admit I bribed them with pizza dinners and gallons of ice cream, and many nights I wondered if

it was the right decision to invest in such an adventure. These days, I think I'm so thankful we had the opportunity. My eldest told me once "I'm Chinese, mama, and can speak Chinese." He told me that after a year attending a predominantly non-Asian international school and telling me he wanted to look like the others. When he told me he was proud of what he learned and his heritage, I knew it was the best decision to send the kids to the language camps.

What advice would you give to a parent thinking of sending their child to a summer camp?

If you're interested in doing this for your children, get ready to carve out a whole lot of time to research, plan, and go along with them. I booked an Airbnb close to the metro and camp, to save money and commute time. After that, we would visit a nice pool to unwind and then enjoy local cuisine; another reward for working their young brains every day.



Qian Lv is editor-in-chief at a publishing house, where her husband also works. Their 9-year-old daughter Ranran has already seen much of the world traveling with her parents. As she's grown older, they've started sending her to camps to develop her independence and so she can make new friends.

Did you go to a summer camp yourself as a child? If so, what was your experience like?

I went to summer camps in the third year of primary school, the second year of middle school, and the second year of high school. It was unforgettable and fun. The first time we went to Yuxi lake in Beijing. It felt like I traveled a long way, but actually, it's not very far – Beijing has changed a lot! I was a little nervous then and inhaled water while swimming. That made me afraid to swim for a long time. The second time, in middle school, I was really excited. I learned how to dance to disco from classmates. The third time was the most fun. It was organized by the school and it taught us about farming. We grew pine trees and helped in the kitchen. The cucumber slices were so delicious! At a party, the girls performed "Weave Flower Basket" (a folk song from Henan), while the boys performed a drama. The performances were vivid.

How did you choose a summer camp for your child? What factors did you consider?

Firstly, her interest, because she can enjoy it only if she likes it. I respect her choice. Second, focus on her strong points, like drawing camps. Third, the enjoyment and practicality of the course. Fourth, the organization's brand, faculty, and security. Fifth, continuity, sixth, cost.

What did your child learn from the experience? Did she change in any way as a result of the experience?

She has increased her knowledge, gained confidence, and learned to be friendly with her peers. She has changed a lot. When she was younger, she didn't like to talk. She retreated every time when facing problems. When she began to participate in activities, she didn't like taking the initiative when it came to communication. With the increasing number of experiences and the influence and encouragement of her peers, she has become optimistic and confident. She made a lot of friends. In these relationships, there will also be some small conflicts, but it lets the children learn to understand and tolerate. In addition, the scenery and folk customs of different regions and countries opened her eyes and stimulated her further interest in learning. For

example, before she went to the UK, she saw England as a gloomy country from the movies and she didn't like it much. After she came back, she told us that she loved it there. She loved the changeable weather, the different lifestyle, the grassy lawns, beautiful school, humorous teachers, interesting soccer class, and the quiet life in the town. She mentioned this experience a lot in her later writing and reading activities.

Chinese children are often the only child in their home. After school, they have few opportunities to communicate with their peers. They long for friends. In the camp, they eat together, live together, have lessons, play, help each other, learn from each other, suffer setbacks, tolerate each other, cooperate with each other... It is a very valuable opportunity to learn.

What advice would you give to a parent thinking of sending their child to a summer camp?

Sending children to summer camp is also a test for parents. Although all kinds of worries can't be avoided, it is still very pleasing for parents to see what their kids gain from the activity. It is well worth it. You should choose high-quality courses, run by credible organizations and teachers, and then give your children a chance to go away.

Going Solo

Unaccompanied kids crossing borders

By Elisabeth Koch

With my third child due just before the school holidays, I knew we couldn't go on a family holiday. There was no way we could get baby's passport and Chinese visa in time, nor did I want the stress of trying.

The best solution I could think of was to send the two older kids, aged 6 and 8, to fly by themselves to family in San Francisco. After all, my sister and I flew from Atlanta to Amsterdam and back every summer on our own, to spend two months with my grandparents. These summers left me with the best memories and an everlasting bond with my grandparents. We loved being at the airport with the airline hostess, though not so much the big pouches we had to wear around our necks with our important papers and passports. These did not look too cool.

I was sure things must have changed since the late 80's, so I started my research. Even finding the information isn't straightforward. It's usually under "Special needs travel" on the airline's website at the very bottom.

Unaccompanied minors (UMs) cannot make a stopover; the flight must be direct, which reduces the choice of airlines. Also, each airline has its age guidelines, but they almost all start at 5.

I decided to book with United Airlines directly on their website. Here, I selected their ages, and the UM fee was automatically added: USD 150 (RMB 950) each way (not per child, just per direction). I had to give detailed information on who would bring the children to Beijing airport (full name, relation to the children and passport details) and who would pick them up in San Francisco, and the

same for the return trip. These adults must take their passports with them when collecting the children.

I called United a few times to make sure they were all set to receive the kids at Terminal 3 on this date and time, and United assured us all was in order. When that day came, Albert (my husband) brought them to the airport while I was at home recovering with our new baby, but there was no one waiting for UMs at the check-in desk. United made some calls, and the three of them had to wait for at least an hour to get things sorted. So make sure you go early.

Eventually, when a lady came to take the kids, she didn't speak English. In our case, this was fine, but take note if you have children that don't understand Chinese. United had

told us the drop-off parent would be given a special pass to take the children all the way to the gate. This was not the case, nor did they give the kids the big pouch around the neck, even though Albert asked for it especially. All the important documents and visa info were given to the lady who took the kids to the plane.

He connected with her by WeChat so she could send him photos of the kids boarding their flight, which she kindly did. Everything went smoothly after that until it was time for my brother to drop the kids off at San Francisco airport. Here, he was forced to pay another UM fee of USD 150 or the children wouldn't be allowed to board, even though we had already paid it when booking our tickets at the very beginning.

Albert went to pick the kids up and waited behind the barrier; there's no special meeting-point or exit for UMs. The children were accompanied by a United staff member and Albert was asked to show his passport, which was checked thoroughly. It was a happy reunion.


He also went to the United office to have a word, but the blank-faced ladies there told him to fill out a complaint form online, which I had already done that morning. We're still waiting to hear from them and get that UM fee back.

The moral of this story is that sending your children unaccompanied to another country is, with planning, very doable, but there can be unexpected hiccups. Luckily, my children got safely there and back, which is the most important thing, and that gave me some much-needed time to recover from childbirth.



Diederik (7, left), and Bernadette at Industrial Light & Magic in San Francisco.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ELISABETH KOCH



Beyond the Pail

Saving water isn't a pipe dream in modern China

By Ember Swift

When people come over to our house, they are often confused by the large plastic pails of water on the floor in the bathrooms.

Each is filled with what appears to be dirty water and, to some, it's just that—waste water that should be dumped. The word “waste” is often synonymous with disposable—something that can be discarded. But, to be clear, this isn't smelly water. It's also not useless water. We use it to flush our toilets and mop the floors. Let me explain:

When I first moved to China, I was amazed at how the sinks in my apartment didn't have drains that led to pipes that disappeared into the wall. Of course, this tenement-block compound in which I live is thirty years old, but, nevertheless, these open sink systems are still quite common throughout the country. Water from the tap falls down freely from the sink's bottom into a square “floor” sink with raised cemented edges to avoid flooding, which act as a second catchment. Sometimes soapy water sprays against one's bare legs in the summertime as it splashes from sink to floor. It wasn't long before I started to understand why the sinks were designed this way.

My mother-in-law is very fierce about collecting grey water. When she came to visit us in the early days before kids, she was militant about it and I was moved by her environmentalism. Later, I realized she was actually just ardently frugal, so it was about saving money and not the Earth, but I was already a convert by then. When I saw her matter-of-factly put smaller plastic containers in the bottom drains and transfer them (when full) to the larger plastic pails in the corners of the bathrooms, it was the first time in my life I'd witnessed a simple, innovative urban water conservation system. Our shiny,

ceramic-covered, pipes-disappearing-into-the-wall, Western kitchen and bathroom designs disable this for us back home. We could do it there too! We just don't. No one does. (Well, except those installing expensive grey water systems in their enviro-homes.)

I moved to a new unit in the same compound nearly three years ago now but this time into an apartment that had been “modernized.” In our current world, you'd think household water conservation would be the most modern thing of all, but, alas, the renovated bathroom sinks didn't have accessible drains, thus contradicting the water- and cost-saving measures I'd learned to value in the previous apartment. So, to continue the water-saving practice, I collect the water from the washing machine and top it up with water saved from washing vegetables or hair or feet. And this is all accomplished by lining the sinks with plastic containers so that the catchment happens immediately.

As Earth Day comes up every year in April, I long for my old life as an environmental activist, but these days I'm ensconced in parenting and a crazy work schedule that rockets me through time. Staying on top of everything is hard enough, so this simple water-saving thing makes me feel better. And, my kids have become experts at it. That's something.

In fact, the other day when I casually drained the water from a can of corn, my daughter gasped and said: “Mommy, you're wasting water!” And, she was right. I could have used it for a soup stock or something but it was too late by then. That's the problem with imparting our ideal values to our children; they're the first to call us to task on our less-than-ideal practices.

I suppose that's when we really know we're doing this parenting thing right!

ALL YOU



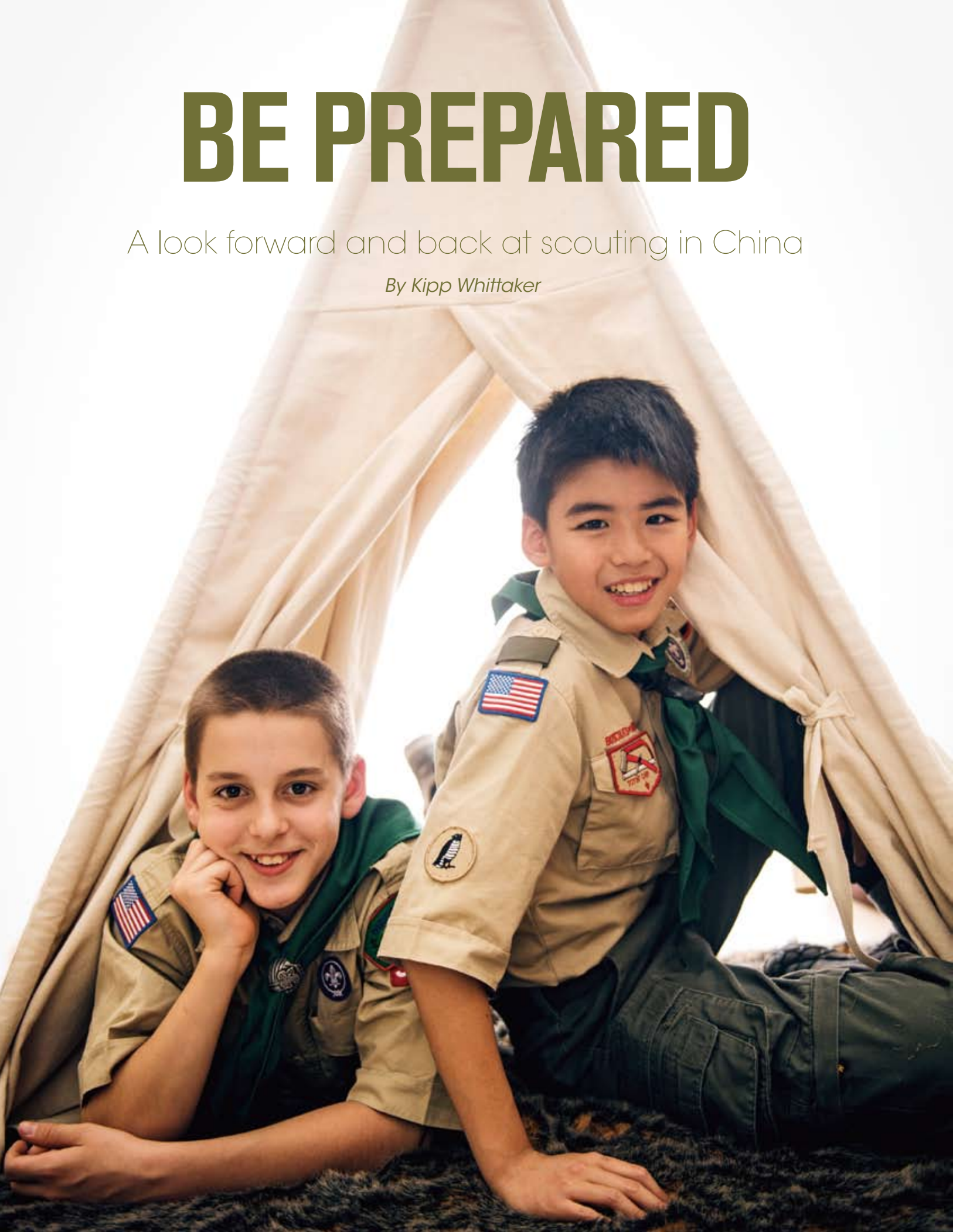
CAN BE



BE PREPARED

A look forward and back at scouting in China

By Kipp Whittaker



To most of us, scouting organizations like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts bring to mind a charmingly old-fashioned, roll-up-your-sleeves kind of attitude, seemingly incongruent to our jaded smartphone generation. Visions of outdoor adventures, childhood friendships, winning badges, awkwardly appropriated Native American traditions, and selling box after box of Samoa cookies to sweet tooth neighbors seem to be the makings of a healthy, wholesome "Andy Griffith Show" kind of childhood.

With a strong global presence ever since the original Boy Scouts were founded in England in the first years of the 20th century, scouting organizations are still with us today. Moreover, the twelve principles of the Scout Law, such as loyalty, friendliness, bravery, and cleanliness, seem timeless. Many of us fondly remember our days as a Brownie or Cub Scout and would like the same healthy habits instilled in our kids. Luckily the scouting tradition is very much alive and well here in China.

The history of scouting in China begins in 1912 during China's Republican period, when China's first Scout troop was organized by the American-educated Reverend Yen Chia-lin. It was a quick success. Four years later, a nationwide organization of the Boy Scouts of China was formed in Guangdong, then known as Canton, which soon spread rapidly all over China. The Scouting Movement, with its focus on obeying your elders, respecting nature, being loyal, trustworthy, and thrifty, had quick acceptance in the country that birthed Confucianism. Take the very Chinese practicality of the Scout Motto, "Be Prepared,"



Sixth-grade Scorpion Patrol

which translates directly as zhunbei.

The Scouting movement was banned by the Chinese Communist Party soon after the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949. Instead, Communist "Pioneer Movements" (actually inspired by the Scouts) cropped up in many Communist countries from the Soviet Union to Cuba to Vietnam and, of course, China.

Since the reinstatement of the Boy Scouts, with Troop 943 in 1997, and the founding of the Girl Scouts' Beijing council in 1970, these scout groups of foreign origins have flourished over the past couple of decades, at their

height reaching over a hundred members.

We talked to Elizabeth Thornton and Randy Williams from Troop 943, and Amy Kennedy-Penuel from the Girl Scouts, to learn more about how these organizations are operating in China, and how their principles can apply to a wide variety of people and interested parties from all sides of the globe.

Though you can still only join these organizations in China with a foreign passport, one of the perks of both the Girl and Boy Scout programs is that while they strive to maintain the traditions they are known for in their places of origin, these elements do not exclusively belong to any nation. They are very much international and endorse qualities that are important for all coming-of-age individuals. It's not always easy in Beijing to find ways to get your children involved in exciting trips, fundraising, experiencing the great outdoors, and doing community service projects.

Elizabeth Thornton explains: "Boy Scouts is designed to develop leadership in young men. We do that through teaching outdoor survival skills, helping the boys to develop leadership skills, and providing individual learning opportunities. The outdoor skills are taught at meetings, with the older boys instructing, the younger ones in first aid, knot tying and more and then attending two or three campouts per year to practice the skills. Leadership is developed as the boys take positions of responsibility in the troop and learn to lead each other. The individual learning opportunities are offered through merit badges- to reach the highest rank in scouting, Eagle Scout, boys must complete 21 badges."

Amy Kennedy-Penuel adds: "While it is for foreign passport holders only, girls from any



Roundabout Spring charity event in 2017



Erik and Julien of Troop 943



other country can join – though they do need to be comfortable speaking English. USA Girl Scouts Overseas is also a member of WAGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts), so we all have a lot in common with other Girl Guide groups around the world. They all typically are about girl empowerment and having good fun.”

This being said, there are some aspects of these organizations operating in a very foreign land like China that has its challenges. Whether it’s because of the religious component that is often associated with scouting is harder to continue here, or the diminishing number of US citizens in China, membership has fallen in recent years. Randy Williams explains: “Five to 10 years ago we were a troop of 100 scouts, with approximately 50 percent of the families having a tradition of scouting through fathers and grandfathers.”

While the Boy Scouts don’t have as many members as they once did, it isn’t because their program is any less exciting or challenging than their other Asian or Western counterparts. In recent years increased living costs and stagnated pay packages have made the capital a less viable option for many families. But the core philosophy of scouting

is ever present.

For the Girl Scouts, however, one of the obvious aspects missing that we will have to suffer for the foreseeable future is the absence of Girl Scout Cookies. “Very sadly, we cannot sell cookies in Beijing. In addition to import fees, customs rules, and so on, Girl Scout Overseas rules do not allow us to sell cookies abroad. A few select girls located near US military bases do sell cookies, but obviously not in China. It is by far, the question we are asked the most!” Kennedy-Penuel told us.

But what these scouts are lacking in numbers or upholding sweet-toothed fundraising traditions, they more than make up in the experience and adventure department. We can only imagine how envious the scouts from other countries are when they learn about the troop in Beijing which gets to explore the many cultural relics and exciting opportunities that exist in Beijing.

Scouts in Beijing enjoy hiking along the Great Wall, skiing in the winter, and backpacking, cycling, climbing, or working toward some of the 130 plus Merit Badges in their curriculum. They even have opportunities to engage with other international troops in Asia or beyond. Just last year eight boys

and four adults went to Philmont, which is a high adventure scout ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. The crew hiked 67 miles in 12 days while climbing three mountains. Last year there was also a scout camp in Nepal, and this year there is one in Mongolia.

For the Girl Scouts Kennedy-Penuel explained; “This week a group of Cadettes, who are in middle school, will be having a cooking class with a sushi chef to earn their Global Cuisine patch. A group of Juniors, who are in 4th and 5th grade, met with an artist to work on their drawing patch, while another group of Daisies, who are in kindergarten and first grade, will be writing notes to their Girl Scout sister pen pals in Cambodia, as they earn a petal patch, ‘be a sister to every Girl Scout.’”

Service projects are still an integral component of the scouting curriculum. Troop 943 focuses on helping Roundabout Charity Shop, and there are other contributions from Cub Scout Pack 3944, and the Eagle Scout projects of the senior boys. Thornton explained:

“To earn the highest rank in Scouting, boys must complete their own service project from start to finish. This is the boy’s opportunity to demonstrate the leadership skills he has learned in the troop and give back to the



Girl Scouts camping in the wilds of China.



Brownies celebrating World Thinking Day.



Activities not only include camping (top and middle) but also participating in a LEGO Derby event (bottom).

community. Other scouts are recruited to help him with his project. Recent projects include shelving at Bread of Life and a playground at Morning Star."

Scouting in Beijing isn't only about the participation and growth of kids but also the parents. Parent volunteers are an integral part of these programs. They are not only required to be present at all meetings, but they are encouraged to help in various aspects of planning activities and promoting the core values of leadership and teamwork. It helps that meetings are in the evening, but this can still be difficult for some families where both of the parents work full time. According to Thornton, parents get to spend time with their sons and see them grow in their leadership. "New parents to the program have to make an effort to learn more about Boy Scouts, take some online training classes and find a way to help out the troop. Many parents choose to help plan our campouts, and serve as merit badge counselors or role models for the scouts in troop leadership," she adds.

Living in Beijing as an expat there are many

ways to find community. Scouting is just one possibility, though it is unique in the way that it combines so many interests ranging from a love of the outdoors, to community projects, and culture. The framework is time-tested and reliable though still developing with the times.

In October last year, The Boy Scouts of America became gender inclusive, possibly in hopes of bringing new recruits to an organization that has suffered steadily declining membership over the years.

Nobody knows if this downward trend in Beijing and beyond will continue in the years to come, but for the time being and from what we noticed from going to one of their meetings at the ISB (International School of Beijing) High School Cafeteria, the kids were loving their time as scouts, showing pride in all of all their badges, and sharing stories of their experiences in the program.



Be a Scout!

Get involved or sign your son or daughter up for scouting. Contact Amy Kennedy-Penuel (beijing-girlscouts@usagso.org) or Elizabeth Thornton (elizab.75@hotmail.com) for more information.

Note that registration normally begins in August.



BACK TO THEIR ROOTS

"This is me and some of my friends from camp. We're on our way to the daily morning assembly – I was completely lost when it came to singing Danish songs." Sixteen-year-old Coco flips through the photos on her phone and smiles as another good memory pops up. "This is from our day trip to Copenhagen. We got to go to Tivoli Gardens."

Coco studies at Dulwich College Beijing (DCB). Her mother is half-Chinese, half-German while her father is Danish. She has lived in Beijing almost all her life but when asked where she's from, she tends to reply, "I'm Danish."

"I was born in Denmark, and although I only lived there the first year of my life, I have always felt a special connection with Denmark." Coco loves spending time with friends and relatives in Denmark, and she can never get enough of Danish food.

It was Coco's mom Nina who first read about the Danes Worldwide summer camps. They are especially designed for children with a Danish background but living abroad. The emphasis of the school is to learn Danish, a language spoken by roughly 5.5 million people – the equivalent of the population of Chaoyang District. However, the bonding among students normally takes place outside the classroom, be it at the weekly bonfire, at Thai boxing class, at disco nights, or around the arts and crafts table.

When it was time for Coco to leave for camp in July 2017, she felt excited and scared at the same time. She knew that she would be the youngest participant in her age group, having just turned 15. And she worried about everything being in Danish.

"On the first day, I had two options," she recalls. "I could either accept my mom's offer to drop me off at camp or take the bus with the other students from Copenhagen. I chose the latter, well aware that it would be the first of many moments where I would feel be stepping out of my comfort zone."

Summer camp in the
name of linguistic
and cultural heritage

By Lise Floris



Coco (far right) and some of her friends from camp.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LISE FLORIS

Danish Full Immersion

Coco ended up making friends already on the three-hour bus ride from Copenhagen, and as she arrived at the beautiful facility on the island of Funen, she was shown to her room and introduced to her two roommates, both from France. One of the two girls spoke a bit of Danish, and as for Coco, she soon realized that she had no need to worry about her Danish skills.

"On the first day, we had to sit a language test, which is essentially designed to assess your level so you don't get lost, but you don't get bored either," she explains. She recalls the test as being surprisingly easy and started camp on a high and with a confidence boost as she was placed on the highest level.

As the three weeks went by, both the friendships and the cultural awareness grew stronger. Students were exposed to Danish culture and language every day, all day long. Coco was particularly happy to learn about Danish regional traditions that kids who live abroad are normally not familiar with.

"The only negative thing I can think of is that it was hard to, so to speak, break the linguistic groups outside the classroom," she says. "For example, there was a group of boys from Germany who preferred to always speak German together, and I sometimes found it difficult when the French girls started speaking French to each other even when I was around."

But at the end of the day, Coco doesn't blame them. She thinks it is only human to stick to what you know and to whatever makes you feel more comfortable; especially in a setting that is somehow both familiar and foreign at the same time. She is still in contact with many of her fellow students from summer school and knows for a fact that they all benefited immensely from the experience.

"Not only did our level of Danish improve, we also found a new sense of belonging in Denmark. I cannot wait to see my friends from summer school again this coming July. We will meet up in Denmark, since we all tend to go there on holidays every summer," she says.

Barça Forever

In the summer of 2017, 7-year-old Daniel and 10-year-old Giacomo (both students at

Giacomo (left) and Daniel ready for their first day at FC Barcelona Summer camp. FC Barcelona Summer camp.



DCB) saw their football dream come true when they went on a one-week football camp organized by FC Barcelona. It was a team they were introduced to as infants, with dad Cesar being not only a born and bred Barcelonian, but also a passionate fan of the world-famous local team.

On a steamy hot July morning in 2017, mom Alessia (who is Italian) dropped off the boys at the National Institute for Physical Education of Catalonia, and Daniel could hardly believe his luck when he realized he was going to be playing for the team named after his idol Lionel Messi.

The young players – of different nationalities but sharing the same dream – quickly got into the daily rhythm at camp.

"We would do a long warm-up followed by two hours of technical skills training," Giacomo says. "By the end of our warm-up, the heat was already almost unbearable."

Swimming classes took place right before lunch, and Daniel has particularly fond memories of the lunch served at camp.

"I loved the food. We would usually have fish or pasta, and we also got pizza one day," he recalls.

In the afternoon, teams would move off the pitch and into the classroom for a lesson, quiz or film about FC Barcelona and the club history. For Giacomo, the highlight of the week was the field trip to Camp Nou, the home stadium of FC Barcelona – and Europe's biggest stadium with a seating capacity of almost 100,000 people.

"Més que un club"- More Than a Club

"One might argue that signing our boys up for summer camp with FC Barcelona was all about the football," mom Alessia says, "but actually it was much more than that. Listening to Spanish language (and to Catalan) all day long was, without a doubt, good for the boys and from a cultural viewpoint, one should bear in mind that FC Barcelona, is an institution in itself. It is the pride of Barcelona and we felt that there was an added cultural value in this particular summer camp for us.

"We do our best to strengthen the boys' ties with Europe, and I should add that, for fairness, the boys went to an AC Roma football camp two years ago in my beloved home town Rome!" she laughs.



Team spirit!

Happy Campers

All the fun at your door this summer

By Huang Chenkuang

Arts and Culture



Little Architect Course

Mar 17-Jun 6

Ages 4-12. Pingo Space's The Little Architects course contains kid-friendly hands-on architectural projects. Kids will have the chance to build a bridge, design a house, make a blueprint, and much more! With a focus on solving real-world problems, this course shows kids how architects help shape and support strong communities. With tons of activities, kids will be soon building their dream! RMB 4,880 for 12-week courses. Pingo Space (WeChat ID: pingoc; service@pingospace.com).



Chinese Summer Camp

Early Jun to late Aug

Ages 8+. That's Mandarin once again runs a Chinese summer camp from June to August, with a variety of programs to choose from. It provides a fun and safe environment for your children to experience China for the first time. Kids will be guided by top teachers to get a chance to participate in engaging Mandarin classes and join in cultural activities. That's Mandarin (8448 9799 or info@thatsmandarin.com).

The Slab's [Movie Making]

Summer Camp

Jun 18-Aug 10

Ages 8+. Green T. House in Shunyi is hosting The Slab's [Movie Making] Summer Camp programs, in which they will work with students on the entire process of shooting a short film. Students experiment with scriptwriting, filming, directing, acting, and editing, exploring their creativity through a variety of teamwork activities. Professional equipment is provided, but students should bring in iPads or computers if possible. Limited to 10 students per class. RMB 4,888 (lunch included). The Slab (156 0120 1550; j.pohland@hotmail.com).



Fashion Design Camp at the Slab

Jul 2-Aug 3

Ages 7+. The Slab is running weekly Fashion Design camps: in [Sewing 101], students will learn how to design, operate sewing machines, and construct a bag; in [Fabric Printing, Embroidery, & Decorating] camp, students will be able to experiment with creative ways of embellishment; the [Accessories Design] workshop explores a wide array of ways students can design and create their own jewelry and accessories through leatherwork, beading, and wire-wrapping. RMB 2,888 per week. The Slab (156 0120 1550; j.pohland@hotmail.com).

Claude Monet and the Impressionist Movement

Jun 19-22, Jul 16-20

Ages 5+. Oscar-Claude Monet (known just as Claude Monet) was one of the most important French painters associated with the Impressionist movement. During this camp, kids will discover Monet and his place in art history, learn all about the Impressionist movement, and develop different techniques to create impressionist artworks. RMB 1,800 (ages 5-8), RMB 2,200 (ages 9+). Atelier Shunyi (5886 4243; shunyi@atelier.cn.com; WeChat: atelierishunyi).

Henri Rousseau and His Post-Impressionist Jungle World

Jul 9-13, Aug 13-17

Age 5+. French artist Henri Rousseau is mostly known for his richly colored and detailed paintings of lush jungles with wild beasts and exotic flowers. During this week, kids will discover the wonderful world of Rousseau. Each day, inspired by one artwork of the artist, they will learn new painting techniques and drawings skills, and discover how to create a painting and to improve creativity. RMB 1,800 (ages 5-8), RMB 2,200 (ages 9+). Atelier Shunyi (5886 4243; shunyi@atelier.cn.com; WeChat: atelierishunyi).



Explore Patterns through Art History and Architecture

Jul 2-6, Aug 27-31

Ages 9+. This is an Atelier Signature Camp, a unique creation of Atelier Art School and Atelier Fablab combining art and engineering. Students learn how to use the laser cutting machines to create stamps and paper-cuts, and develop their personal projects following their inspiration. During this camp, students will explore art history and architecture to learn and experiment different ways to create and use patterns. RMB 4,000. Atelier Sanlitun (6416 1614; contact@atelier.cn.com; WeChat: atelier_apas).

Academic



Marine Science STEAM program

Jul 16-27

Grades 3-5. Keystone Summer Archway Marine Science STEAM Program is a bilingual program, and students' learning is inquiry-based: they will work with the teachers to observe closely, ask good questions, investigate actively, and find answers to their own questions. During two weeks, 30 students will learn a lot about marine organisms and join interesting activities including diving and a sleepover in the aquarium. In doing so, they will achieve an understanding of the importance of environmental conservation. It is an important goal for the program that participants become more aware of these issues and more environmentally friendly in their lifestyle. RMB 12,900. Keystone Academy (8049 6008 ext. 2777 or summer@keystoneacademy.cn).



Summer Archway English Immersion Program

Jul 16-Aug 3

Grades 3-11. Keystone English Immersion program is designed for non-native English speaking students currently at or interested in attending a local private school or going abroad. During this 3-week program, 130 students will be divided into 9 classes, to develop a strong proficiency in their

academic English ability in the arts, sciences, and humanities. By participating in activity-based learning opportunities both in and outside the classroom, students will be well prepared for Keystone Academy and its peer institutions, and also develop and strengthen a genuine interest in learning as a personal quality. RMB 16,900. Keystone Academy (8049 6008 ext. 2777 or summer@keystoneacademy.cn).

BIBA STEAM Summer Program

Starts from early Jun
Grades 1-5. Beijing International Bilingual Academy (BIBA) is implementing their very first summer program, exclusive to BIBA elementary students this July 2018. BIBA has invited innovative and highly trained teachers from High Tech High Elementary in San Diego, US, where the film "Most Likely to Succeed" was filmed, to run a highly creative and educational STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) summer program. The students will experience 2 weeks of fun in a project-based learning environment. RMB 6,000 per student per week. BIBA (8041 0390; madison@bibachina.org).

Microcosmos: An Adventure in the Insect World

Jun 25-29
Ages 9+. During this week of camp, the students will discover different habitats and which kind of insects lives in there. Inspired by the 5-time award-winning movie *Microcosmos*, *People of the Grass*, they will recreate it through modeling diverse landscapes and make electronic moving insects interact in those habitats. The students will have the opportunity to visit an insect museum and learn more about all kinds of bugs. After observation and learning about insects, students will create simple moving insect robots to test on different terrains. RMB 4,000. Atelier Sanlitun (6416 1614; contact@atelier.cn.com; WeChat: atelier_apas).



Harrow Beijing Summer Programme 2018

Jul 23-Aug 3
Ages 6-11. Harrow Beijing integrates STEM and leadership classes into the summer school curriculum and continues to offer the Harrow experience with a focus on English. The summer program is designed for age 6-11 students who would like to improve their English proficiency and have a taste of international/British education in Harrow Beijing campus. RMB 18,600 per person for day students (lunch and materials included). Harrow Beijing (6444 8900 ext. 6851; harrowsaturdays@harrowbeijing.cn).



2018 CISB Summer Camp

Jun 25-Aug 3
Grades 5-12. The Canadian International School of Beijing (CISB) once again offers English and Chinese camps this year. Under the "Summer Enhancement program," a separate entity, CISB will offer SSAT training for middle school students and SAT training for high school students. RMB 24,800-25,800. Canadian International School of Beijing (6465 7788; summeradmissions@CISBeijing.com).

Hyde Academy Summer School

Jul 16-Aug 10
Grades 1-9. Hyde Academy's Summer School is designed to give students a short-term international immersion experience. All classes are taught in English (with support from bilingual speakers as needed) and the daily schedule includes a variety of academic classes. Both elementary and middle school students have an opportunity to work on a range of projects, discussions, and assessments that hone their critical and creative thinking skills in a positive and supportive environment. RMB 9,600 for two weeks (full-day); RMB 18,000 for four weeks (full-day). Hyde Academy (8046 3886; registration@hyde-education.com).

Da Vinci and Mechanical Engineering

Jul 9-13, Jul 16-20
Ages 6+. Leonardo Da Vinci may be famous for his Mona Lisa, but he spent more time working on scientific and technological inventions. During this 5-half-day camp, students will discover the wonderful world of mechanics through Da Vinci's experiments and discoveries. Students will learn how to make different types of mechanisms, imagine the inventions that could change the course of history and create their own moving machines. RMB 2,000 (ages 6-8), RMB 2,500 (ages 9+). Atelier Shunyi (5886 4243; shunyi@atelier.cn.com; WeChat: ateliersunyi).



Isaac Newton and Laws of Gravitation and Motions

Jun 19-22, Aug 20-24
Ages 6+. Isaac Newton is one of the most famous scientists of all time; most people know him for the fundamental laws of mechanics. During this camp, students will learn about Newton's discoveries, the laws of mechanics, and build their own water-propelled rocket in a mix of theory and experimentation. RMB 2,000 (ages 6-8), RMB 2,500 (ages 9+). Atelier Shunyi (5886 4243; shunyi@atelier.cn.com; WeChat: ateliersunyi).

Thomas Edison and the Basics of Electronics

Jul 2-6, Aug 27-31
Ages 6+. Thomas Edison is a famous inventor and businessman, considered to be the greatest inventor of the US. During this camp, students will discover his life and famous inventions, like the telegraph and the light bulb. After an introduction to the principles of electricity, students will start to build electronic circuits, and design a telegraph and a light bulb. RMB 2,000 (ages 6-8), RMB 2,500 (ages 9+). Atelier Shunyi (5886 4243; shunyi@atelier.cn.com; WeChat: ateliersunyi).

Sports

South America Football Academy Summer Football Training

Jun 17-Jul 23
Ages 10-13. SAFA has two 9-day clinics coming up this summer. The clinic will offer the children who enroll a chance to train in Spain with experienced professional Real Madrid Foundation coaches, which provides an inside look at the daily life of an Academy player. The clinics in June and July will be divided into the following components: training with Real Madrid Foundation coaches at top facilities; playing competitive friendly matches; attending professional matches; touring professional stadiums and facilities such as Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, and sightseeing and visiting cultural attractions. South America Football Academy (8572 2785; info@nanmei-fa.com.cn).

Lax for Kids Spring and Summer Season

Until Jul 31
Ages 7+. Lax for Kids is a youth development program to grow the game of Lacrosse in China. They train kids ages 7+ the fundamentals to play in a real lacrosse game environment. Coaches are bilingual and the course will be taught mostly in English to help children improve their English speaking. RMB 4,500 (Starter package: 8 sessions); RMB 7,500 (Season package: 15 sessions); RMB 13,000 (Lax pro package: 30 sessions). Each package and session can be used until December 31, 2018, and comes with a lacrosse stick, a lacrosse ball, and a training jersey. Scan the QR code for registration.



Falcons Basketball Summer Camp

Jun 25-Aug 3
Ages 5-7. This summer, Falcons are offering 6 weeks of basketball camp at The British School of Beijing (BSB), Shunyi. The camp will introduce the fundamentals of the game and provide a positive, competitive environment to excite kids about the game of basketball. FIBA-licensed coaches from Euro, Canada and US will be working with players during the summer camp. RMB 2,400-4,600. BSB, Shunyi campus (WeChat: jordanthui; hui.tu@beijingfalconsbasketball.com).



Flips & Kicks Summer Camp

Jul 2-Aug 10
Ages 4-12. Adventure Zone and Kerry Sports, together with Flips & Kicks Plus, are offering Breezy Summer Camp to energize the body and mind of kids. Boost your skills in this multi-sports program offering fun sports such as gymnastics, martial arts, swimming, fencing, and more. Their expert English-speaking coaches will guide and train kids to be the best they can be while ensuring that they are having a fun and safe experience. Then, Adventure Zone playtime awaits with giant slides, ball pit, suspension bridges, multi-level challenges, and more! RMB 3,200-4,500. Kerry Hotel (8565 2460; adventurezonebeijing@thekerryhotels.com).

Fun and Outdoors

3e Summer Camp

Jun 17-22
Ages 6-12 years. Paris, one of the world's foremost art and cultural capitals, provides the perfect location to ignite children's learning and creativity, and further reinforce 3e's core value of experiential learning. This exclusive tour provides children and families with a once-in-a-lifetime, behind-the-scenes experience! EUR 2,573 per person (excluding insurance, international flights, and visas). 3e International School (6437 3344 ext. 107; community@3einternationalschool.org).



Imagine Festival: The Outdoor Week

Jun 25-29

Ages 8+-. Three day-trips and one overnight camp, all in one week! Over five days, kids will experience tons of Imagine's most exciting activities in wonderful locations all around Beijing. For the first three days, they take kids on buses from Beijing out to nature, back in time for dinner at home each night. Then on Days Four and Five, students will camp overnight, returning on Friday afternoon. The activities include water sports and strategy games, bubble football, a water fight, a Pirate Treasure Hunt, long-range archery, parkour, trampolining, an obstacle course, and a Survival Day and Civilization Game. RMB 4,000. Imagine (5739 4933 or info@imagine-china.com).



Summer Camp in Eduwings

Jul 2-20

Ages 2-8. This year's summer camp at Eduwings Kindergarten will be all about the rainforest. They offer many exciting and fun hands-on activities about the animals living in the rainforest, as well as its vegetation and climate. Outdoor play and field trips will be an integral part of the program. RMB 2,400 per week. Eduwings Kindergarten (6450 8384; eduwings2016@126.com).



IDEAS 2018 U-Motion Camp

July 15-28

Ages 15-17. The IDEAS 2018 U-Motion camp is jointly organized by IDEAS Camp Education and UWC Changshu China. It will take place at the United World Colleges China campus in Changshu, Suzhou. The campus is located at Kun Cheng Lake in Changshu. U-Motion camp offers a challenging experiential learning opportunity, as well as an immersive living environment for excellent global youth to learn about the world, to gain the ability of interdisciplinary learning and cross-cultural collaboration, to improve proactivity and productivity, and to maintain a global social network. RMB 22,800 (pay by March 31 to get RMB 1,000 off). IDEAS Camp (185 1070 5119).



The Children's House International Montessori Kindergarten Summer Day Camp

Jul 2-Aug 4

Ages 1.5-6. The Children's House Summer Camp at its Lufthansa Center, Central Park, Upper East Side, Sun Palace, and Easy Home campuses will be holding its summer day camp in Chinese and English, helping children build communication skills through sports, team games, and activities, as well as introducing camping and nature walks. Daily programs include nature arts and crafts, music, story tales, and lots more. RMB 2,000 (morning program), RMB 2,500 (half-day program), RMB 3,500 (full-day program). The Children's House International Montessori Kindergarten (138 1083 8492; info@montessoribeijing.com).



Pingo Space Survival Camp

Jul 23-Aug 3

Ages 7-14. This five-day, four-night camp at the scenic area in Huairou District is for kids who want to unplug and immerse in nature right near Beijing city center. Activities include raft building, shelter building, fire making, building an animal trap, water filtering, first-aid knowledge, and a lot more! RMB 7,980 (RMB 1,000 discount registering by March 31). Pingo Space (WeChat pingokefu).



2018 IDEAS Changshu Camp

Jul 29-Aug 11

Age 7-10. Campers will come to Changshu, a famous city with more than 3,000 years of history, and visit historic sites, including the Square Tower, the Tomb of Yanzi, the ancient city wall, and the Yan Park, to have a better understanding of the cities of the Wu Yue area. Campers will also experience traditional Chinese cultural activities including the tea ceremony, Chinese zither, calligraphy, and tai chi. Campers will participate in the Changshu Challenge in teams, in which they will compete to answer questions about the city along the way. RMB 18,600. IDEAS Camp (185 1070 5119).



Exploring Hawaii Summer Camp

Jul 2-6, Aug 6-10

Ages 5+-. Well known for its extraordinary beauty and tropical climate, Hawaii is also a home of ferocious volcanic activity, which has had a major effect on the islands' wildlife, as well as the culture and beliefs of the original Hawaiian people. During this camp, kids will explore all these different facets of Hawaiian life, discover Hawaiian art and culture, and create a body of work that conjures up the environment and spirit of the islands. RMB 1,800 (ages 5-8), RMB 2,200 (ages 9+). Atelier Shunyi (5886 4243; shunyi@atelier.cn.com; WeChat: atelier-shunyi).

SCHOOL NEWS



BSB Sanlitun Announces New Early Years Building

The British School of Beijing (BSB) Sanlitun held a special parents evening on March 1 to mark the next phase in the development of the school. Principal David Laird gave a detailed presentation to the parent community and shared the plans for the school's new Early Years Building with facilities for the Primary School. The new building will be inaugurated in August 2018.



Save the Elephants: Students Lead a Voice for Change

During a unit on "living things," teachers at Yew Chung International School of Beijing (YCIS Beijing) decided to bring real-world issues into the classroom. Inspired by a recent ban on the ivory trade, teachers prompted students to study the issue of endangered elephants and to be a voice for change.



Schools Team Up to Fight Cancer

Fella's Skate Against Cancer, a hockey game and community skate to raise money in the fight against childhood leukemia, marked the first-ever hockey game between Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) and rival International School of Beijing (ISB), who formed teams of staff, alumni, and parents.



British Ambassador to China Visits DCB for DIMUN VIII

Over 300 students from 13 different schools in Asia came together at Dulwich College Beijing (DCB) for Dulwich International Model United Nations (DIMUN) VIII on March 2. This year at DIMUN, DCB was extremely privileged to host British Ambassador to China, Dame Barbara Woodard DCMG OBE, as the honored keynote speaker for the opening ceremony.

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



Spotlight Shines on Regional Theater Festival at WAB

It was an inspiring week of performance and theater, as more than 50 high school students from around the Asia-Pacific region joined the 2018 APAC Theatre Festival at Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) on March 3. The students took workshops and created original performances over the three-day event.



BSB MIT Challenge – Greener Skies

As part of our collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the British School of Beijing (BSB), Shunyi's Year 7 students completed the MIT challenge to reduce the impact of airplanes to the environment. They built creative and intelligent models and tested the efficiency of their new designs.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF WAB AND BSB SHUNYI

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 **April 10**



YCIS Beijing Talents Galore: IGCSE Music & Drama Celebration

Students of Yew Chung International School of Beijing (YCIS Beijing) took part in this year's IGCSE Music & Drama Celebration on February 28. Featuring performances as varied as scenes from Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, a violin concerto by Vivaldi, and renditions of modern rock songs, the school community joined together to celebrate the talents and hard work of their classmates.



Irish Music and Dancing at BSB Sanlitun

As part of the St. Patrick's Festival in Beijing, The British School of Beijing (BSB), Sanlitun hosted an exhibition of Irish music and dancing on March 12. Primary children sang beautifully with the Upducky band and even got to learn some dance steps for themselves!





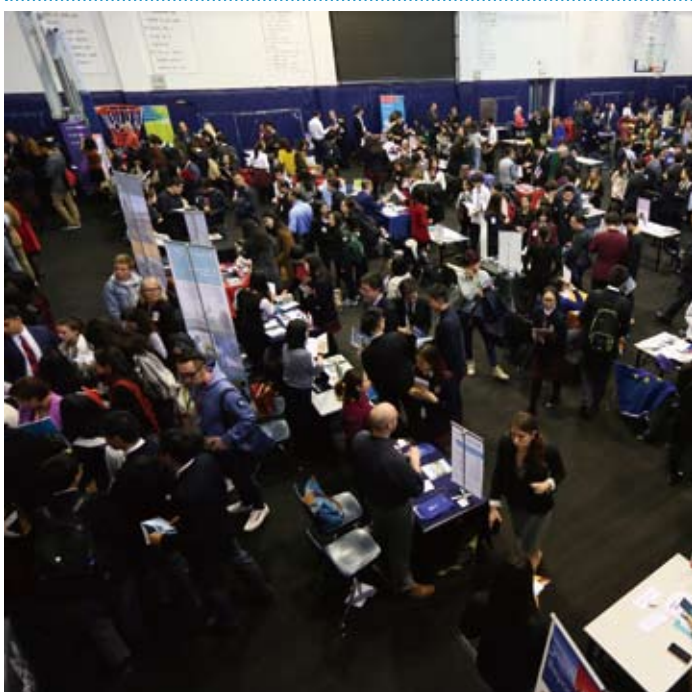
BWYA Primary School Takes Center Stage

On February 9, primary school students of Beijing World Youth Academy (BWYA) performed in their Winter Festival, with 27 acts wowing the audience at The Beijing Theatre. These included traditional and classical music pieces, as well as pop songs from China and around the world, dance routines, singing and instrumentals.



Over 100 Universities at DCB

Dulwich College Beijing (DCB) recently hosted the Beijing International Schools' University Fair 2018. Students from each of the six organizing high schools and other international schools in Beijing had the opportunity to meet face to face with the admissions officers from over 100 universities around the world.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BWYA AND DCB



Outstanding Exhibition by ISB's IB Art Students

The International School of Beijing's (ISB) IB Art students showcased their final exhibition for the 2017-18 school year with a gallery opening for the community on March 9.



Harrow Beijing Collaboration-Creativity-Curiosity Week

From March 5 to 9, students in Years 4 to 8 at Harrow Beijing experienced enquiry-based learning through the lens of a thematic project entitled "The Silk Road," in order to better develop their independent and collaborative learning skills.





House of Knowledge Holds Grand "Oscars"

House of Knowledge Schools and Kindergartens Shunyi campus hosted a star-filled "Oscar Ceremony" on January 19. The "Oscar Ceremony" is part of the IPC's exhibition section for Grade 2, where students spend nine weeks studying "Magic Media."



Chinese New Year Temple Fair at 3e

3e International School celebrated the Chinese New Year with the annual Dragon Parade and lively Temple Fair on February 9. Students collaborated to produce amazing colourful dragons for their parades and engaged in a temple fair full of traditional Chinese arts, crafts, and snacks, culminating with the much-anticipated lion dance.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF HOK AND 3E



BCIS Grade 10 Jewelry Exhibition Amazes!

Grade 10 students of Beijing City International School (BCIS) recently put on an amazing jewelry exhibition at the ID Gallery and SS Building Lobby that showcased pieces as part of their work from their Design and Technology (DT) lesson.



Ivy Bilingual School Orchid Garden Campus Celebrates Lantern Festival

Ivy Bilingual Schools Orchid Garden campus celebrated Lantern Festival on March 2. This event proved fun and educational for everyone. In each of the classrooms, children were able to get involved with crafts and games which are traditional to China as well as a great deal of fun.



Favorite weekend activity

We love to go hiking out by the wall.

Favorite spot to relax

With two kids, two businesses and a baby? No time to relax!

Favorite way to transport the family around the city

On foot, by bike, or in a Didi

Family rituals

Weekend movie night!

Adopted Chinese Culture

We have lucky red decorations on our front door and visit Taisui's statue every year.

Favorite website

ElisabethKoch.net, *beijingkids*, and of course, Taobao.

Favorite Chinese restaurant

As a family, it has got to be Haidilao. The staff is wonderful, plus kids love the playroom and noodle man.

Favorite non-Chinese restaurant

GungHo! Pizza. The best pizza hands down. We have been fans from the start!

Favorite museum

The Natural History Museum and the National Museum of China at Tian'anmen.

Favorite shop for groceries

The local market for fruit and vegetables, Jingkelong for local things, April Gourmet for foreign goods.

Favorite place for date night

I'm afraid we don't have time for this, but I wish it were Hatsune.

Favorite place to play indoors

Kerry Center's Adventure Zone

Favorite place to play outdoors

Boating or playing football in Chaoyang Park

Favorite neighborhood

Our neighborhood, Xingfucun

Best daytrip

Dongyuemiao (Temple)

Hats Up with the van Lawick van Pabst Family

Text by Pauline van Hasselt, Photography by Uni You

Albert and Elisabeth van Lawick van Pabst are in their 11th year in Beijing. In these years, they have had three kids, Bernadette (9, center), Diederik (7, second from left), and new addition Constance (4 months, rightmost). This family hails from the Netherlands. Albert founded and runs a growing sustainable technology business and Elisabeth is a milliner (hatmaker) of some repute, running numerous workshops around Beijing for those wanting to learn the art of proper head decor.



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