

Beijing's essential international family resource

# beijingkids

September 2016

## **Tighten Your Coin Purse**

How to save  
¥250,000 every year

*Plus:* Money isn't everything in *Off the Shelf*, financial skills apps for teens & kids, and a thrifty birthday bash

## **Give Us a Break**

A comprehensive roundup of international school scholarships

## **Raining Renminbi**

What to do to get more of the real red tender





# Etonkids

Educational Group 伊顿国际教育集团



## 伊顿国际幼儿园 北京名都园校园即将开园啦!

Etonkids International  
Kindergarten  
Capital Paradise  
Campus



伊顿国际双语幼儿园名都园校园，坐落于北京市顺义区后沙峪新国展榆阳路6号名都园别墅区内。该区域内云集众多高档社区，紧邻国展新馆。校园建筑面积1800平米，同时开设国际班与双语班。伊顿国际双语幼儿园为1.5至6岁的孩子提供了一流的国际教学环境和纯正的蒙台梭利课程，旨在积极鼓励并挖掘孩子的好奇心和求知欲，加强孩子的独立性、创造力和动手能力的培养，使他们在德、智、体、美、劳全方位都得到最大的发展。“十年树木，百年树人”，培养有爱心，有责任心，有创造力和世界水准的教育师资和教育伯乐是保证教育质量的前提。伊顿国际双语幼儿园的教师均是蒙台梭利教育者，伊顿艰辛师资力量的培养是赋予教育事业生命的源泉，因此在教师的选拔方面标准非常严格。伊顿国际双语幼儿园名都园校园于今年九月隆重开园，欢迎宝贝们入园参观。

Etonkids International Kindergarten Capital Paradise Campus is located in an upscale community next to the New Convention Center with a school area of 1,800 square feet. The campus has both international and bilingual classes, which provide authentic Montessori education to children from 1.5 to 6 years old in a premier international environment. We strive to develop children's independent identity while fostering their creativity and curiosity in all aspects. It takes ten years to grow trees, but a hundred to cultivate individuals. We believe that having responsible, professional, and creative education specialists builds a solid foundation for premier education quality. Therefore, we have high standards when it comes to choosing our teaching team. The grand opening for Etonkids International Kindergarten Capital Paradise Campus will be in September 2016. All families are welcome to visit our new campus with your children!

地址：北京市顺义区后沙峪新国展榆阳路6号名都园别墅区内

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A love of learning starts at Etonkids ... 爱上学习，从伊顿开始...





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

# Making Change

For the first year or so of life in Beijing

and using random toys

we chose to live simply using our bikes, buying little furniture,

For so many issues in my life, I feel like I could write a book "How NOT to do Such and Such" using my bad decisions as an example. Unfortunately, when it comes to finances, this has also been the case. My husband and I were attending an expensive, private Christian university when the 2008 US housing bubble busted. Then, my husband graduated in the winter of 2009 with an almost worthless liberal arts degree, and we had both foolishly signed on the dotted line of one too many college loans. [Might I add that this is where college counseling was at its finest, "Oh honey, you'll get a great job after you graduate, and that loan will pay itself off! Don't worry."]

Fast forward to 2013, with two littles in our brood and the loom of a layoff, we were desperate to find a secure financial landing pad. A sister of a coworker loved working in Beijing, and she had saved a significant amount of money while living here. We were intrigued, so we did what we could to make it happen to start over in these foreign lands. The major momentum of paying off our whopping USD 80,000 school debt didn't really start until the beginning of last year, when we had settled in and I also began working full time. For this year, our goal is to have every penny paid by my birthday in December. Thus far, we're on track to make that happen, with less than half of our debt remaining.

Other than having a dual income, which is the primary reason we're able to pay off our debt, changing our lifestyle to think about what we're able to live without has helped us to never miss a loan payment, even during times of extreme financial stress. We've also enjoyed being able to live a bit more creatively here, as we really don't need a car in this bus-and-subway-connected city with the sometimes-large bike lanes. Since we're foreigners and our friend circle is mostly local, we can also choose what cultural expectations we're going to live up to. A confession is that I'm no Martha Stewart, though I hail from the Southern land of perfect, tidy homes, and I'm happy to be free from that cultural yoke.

We know many expats have come here to save money or to live well, and that challenge seems monumental when children are going to school, so we researched scholarship options available in the city (p27). This is the perfect month to pick cheaper outside options for playing as the weather begins to cool (p22). We asked parents about pocket change, which we hope prompts you to begin the money talk with your kids now before they're making money mistakes they'll regret later (p38). We've also highlighted a new business specifically run by parents (p11) possibly to encourage those entrepreneurial ideas we all get from time to time.

Whether you only have a trickle of *renminbi* or you're swimming in those red bills, we hope this edition encourages you to stick to or even exceed your financial goals.

Vanessa Jencks

Vanessa Jencks  
Managing Editor





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# WOMEN OF CHINA



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BEIJING, CHINA

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UNDERSTANDING CHINESE  
CULTURE IN 24 SEGMENTS

# A LIFE CYCLE REVEALED



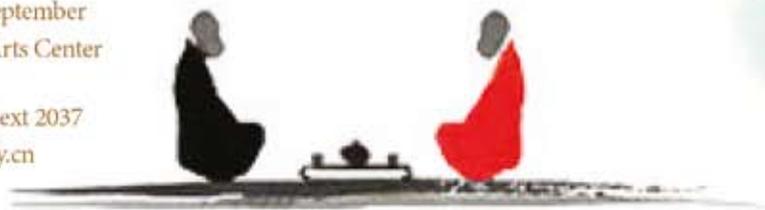
*Dong Mei, Associate  
Professor at the School of  
Humanities, China Central  
Academy of Fine Arts*

Professor Dong Mei reveals the beauty and magnificence of the Chinese system of the 24 solar terms, bringing you closer to Chinese culture through literature and art. She believes that by interpreting this natural cycle, and the ancient calendars, we return to nature, and find the key to understanding Chinese literary traditions and Eastern philosophy better. Join Professor Dong as she peels off the layers of Chinese culture through classical literature and art, and takes you on a journey of discovery to the origins of tradition. Come and be inspired to rethink modern life.

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## The *beijingkids* Board

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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](mailto:ajwarner@touchdown.org.cn).



### Mike Signorelli

Mike 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](mailto:mike@sigwine.com).



### Sara Wramner-Wang

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### Eyee Hsu

When CCTV talk show host and mom-preneur Eyee Hsu is not chasing after her two kids or the family dog, you might catch her at a Pilates studio, one of the Counting Sheep boutiques, or on TV. Find out more about the baby and maternity retailer she co-founded at [www.countingsheepboutique.com](http://www.countingsheepboutique.com).



### 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](mailto:kulfidoll@gmail.com).



## Want to Join?

We're looking for parents passionate about the Beijing family, kids, and school community. Find out what's in it for you along with the very minimal requirements by sending an email to [editor@beijing-kids.com](mailto:editor@beijing-kids.com).



### ON THE COVER:

Beauties and sisters, Tanya (age 6) and Alicia (3), both attend the British School of Beijing (Sanlitun). Mother Canthy works for Phoenix TV Channel while father Ray hails from London and works in the design industry. Tanya wants to be a fashion designer when she grows up while Alicia loves stuffed animals and being silly. Both girls already have a college fund they contribute to and are given a small allowance from money they make to spend on approved purchases.

Photography by Dave's Studio

# What's New

## A New Hope for Fall 2016



Secondary students at Hope International School (HIS) will be returning this fall not just to a new school year, but to a brand new building. The 1700 sqm development is next to the main campus on Crab Island, Chaoyang, and includes a new gym, new classrooms, a cafeteria, and a new library.



## Up for the Cup

Seen those red circles on the skin of athletes at the Rio Olympics? They're caused by "cupping", an ancient Chinese therapy enjoying a new surge in popularity thanks to Michael Phelps and others. A glass cup is placed on the skin, and a vacuum created, either by the traditional method of heating and cooling the air, or simply with a vacuum pump. This draws the skin into the cup, causing the characteristic red marks. Supporters of the practice claim that it draws out toxins and improves the flow of qi. Others though are more skeptical. Critics point to the limited scientific evidence for its effectiveness, and the risks if carried out by untrained practitioners. In June a Chengdu man was left with festering holes on his back after cupping therapy went horribly wrong. As always, we advise that you talk to a qualified medical professional before undergoing any sort of treatment.

## Classical Homecoming

Pianist Yuja Wang has returned to her hometown for a residency at the National Center for the Performing Arts. Wang, born in Beijing in 1987, started playing piano at six, and studied at the city's Central Conservatory of Music. At the age of 20 her big break came when she replaced the legendary Martha Argerich at short notice for a series of concerts, and wowed the audience with her performances. Wang is now one of the world's leading classical musicians, described by the San Francisco Chronicle as "quite simply, the most dazzlingly, uncannily gifted pianist in the concert world today". She will be performing a series of concerts and recitals at the "Egg" throughout the 2016/7 season.



## A Wish for the City



In August, author Hao Jingfang's story "Folding Beijing" won the 2016 Hugo Award for best novelette. The Hugos have been described as "the Oscars of science fiction", and Hao is only the second Chinese writer to win one since the awards began in 1953. "Folding Beijing" takes place in the near future, and satirizes the city's inequalities by showing residents being sedated and their homes folded away due to overcrowding. Hao, who was born in Tianjin in 1984 but now lives in Beijing, said on receiving the award, "I hope the real future will be brighter than my story."

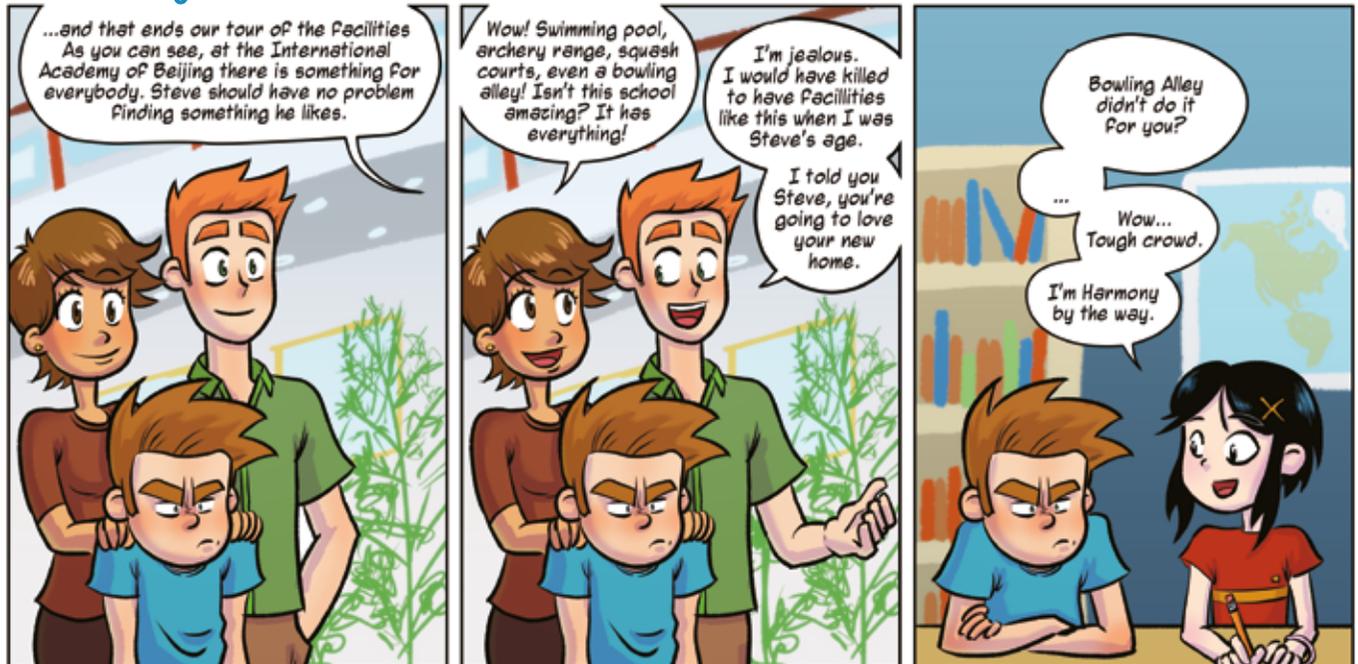


## Winning Threads

China won 70 medals at the Rio Olympics, and every award ceremony showcased the work of young Beijing-born fashion designer Masha Ma. Ma designed the Chinese team's "champion outfit", the special tracksuit worn by athletes while receiving their medals. "It is a long process of bargaining with the team to decide which is the most functional, stylish and suitable," Ma said of her creation. "The colors obviously come from the national flag and it had to be that way. I hope that the new design enables versatility of the champion outfit so that it can

## Harmony and Steve

by Jin Chan Yum Wai and AK





# September Events

**Fri, Sep 9**

**1 WABX to the MAX and Jazz Festival**



All ages. Head over to the Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) for two days of sports and music, as international school students compete in various disciplines such as tennis, rugby, and more. Community and student musicians will belt out jazz tunes. This takes place on September 9-10. Free. Fri 9am-7pm; Sat 8am-7pm. Free. Western Academy of Beijing (5986 5588)

**Sat, Sep 10**

**Loreli Affordable Art Market**



All ages. Back due to public demand, The Bookworm hosts local artists for your chance to get a few more new art pieces. Some of Beijing's finest local and foreign creatives will be selling prints, paintings, sketches, and photographs at prices every art lover can afford. Free. 2-7pm. The Bookworm (order@beijing-bookworm.com)

**2 Arts & Crafts Adventures at Kerry**



All ages. Learn and explore fun arts and crafts activities at Kerry Sports on September 10-11. Kids can pick one of the eight creative projects to try out, and will be guided by professional art teachers then take their masterpieces to show off. Afterwards head over to the Adventure Zone to get the adrenaline pumping on the giant drop slides, interactive games, role-play village, ball pool, climbing area, and more. RMB 388/day (1 child below 12 years old accompanied by 1 adult); RMB 300/day (for Adventure Zone members – 1 child accompanied by 1 adult); RMB 350/day for purchases via official WeChat account kerryhotelbeijing. 9am-6pm. Kerry Hotel, Beijing (8565 2664, comm.hbkc@thekerryhotels.com)

**Mon, Sep 12**

**Taking Care of Your Health in Beijing**



For adults. Learn about what to do in an emergency and how to stay healthy from two Beijing United Family Hospital specialists: Dr. Lucy Gao, Internal Medicine Physician, Nephrologist and Dr. Howard Bernstein, Emergency Medicine Physician. Registration encouraged but walk-ins accepted. Free. 9.30-11.30am. Beijing United Family Hospital (Jenifer.Sullivan@ufh.com.cn)

**Tue, Sep 13**

**WAB Distinguished Speaker Series: John Isaac**



Ages 8+. Award-winning photographer, author, and wildlife activist John Isaac discusses his career and inspiration. Isaac is recognized for his work as a photojournalist for the United Nations, and also for his work photographing celebrities. Free. 6-8pm. Western Academy of Beijing (5986 5588)

**Wed, Sep 14**

**3 MSB Parent Study Group: "How to Support Your Child in a Montessori Environment"**



For adults. In the first of a yearlong series of talks, Acting Interim Principal Sharon Keenan leads parents through the many ways in which they can support their children in a Montessori environment. Keenan will draw on her 42 years in Montessori education to impart practical skills in a lively, interactive environment. Open



1



2



3

to all. Registration required. Free. 8.30-10.15am. International Montessori School of Beijing (aislingobrien@msb.edu.cn)

**4 Mooncakes Cooking Class**



Ages 8+. Learn how to make the traditional sugary snack that is enjoyed all year round, but is ubiquitous in the lead-up to, and during, the Mid-Autumn Festival. That's Mandarin teaches the vocabulary associated with mooncakes and the festival. RMB 100. 6-8pm. That's Mandarin (5218 6432, info@thatsmandarin.com)

**Sat, Sep 24**

**5 HIS Fall Fair**



All ages. Hope International School (HIS) hosts its annual Fall Fair, which features fun games, a variety of Asian and Western food, HIS Moms' famous baked goodies, and much more. Free

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF WAB, MSB, KERRYHOTELBEIJING



Editor's Pick

Dining

Playing

Learning

Community

Living

Health

Parenting

Want your family-friendly event to appear in our October issue? Upload it at [www.beijing-kids.com/events](http://www.beijing-kids.com/events) by **September 9**.



to attend. 10am-4pm. Hope International School (400 800 8781 ext 245)

### Harvest Festival

All ages. Beijing City International School (BCIS) holds its Harvest Festival: a day of fun, food, entertainment, and more. The school will celebrate its Chinese roots and commemorate this important occasion in Chinese traditional culture. Free. 5.30-8-30pm. Beijing City International School (Yisha.Niu@bcis.cn.)

**Sun, Sep 24**

### Creative Writing Workshop In Fiction & Nonfiction

Ages 12+. This workshop is led by Xu Xi 許素細, author of ten books and essays. Xu Xi will focus on the nuts and bolts of solid writing of new stories. Participants are encouraged to submit a 250 word paragraph for an idea they would like to write about by September 18 to [xuxi@xuxiwriter.com](mailto:xuxi@xuxiwriter.com). Registration required. RMB 200. 5.30-7.30pm. The Bookworm (<https://yoopay.cn/event/89149771>)

**ONGOING**

### 6 Mid-Autumn Festival Treats

All ages. In the lead up to the Mid-Autumn Festival head to Comptoirs de France, hotels Langham Place, Beijing Capital Airport, Ritz-Carlton, Beijing, and many more places to get your

Chinese pastry to celebrate with family and friends. Varying prices. 10am-8pm. Various locations. (Check out [beijing-kids.com](http://beijing-kids.com) for event listings)

### Wild Family Camping Weekends

Ages 7+. Take your family on a true wilderness adventure out of town, camping by a beautiful river in the mountains of Miyun. Transportation, tents, mats, equipment, meals, water, and instructions will be provided (please bring what isn't on this list; meals will be dinner, breakfast, and lunch; need to carry packed lunch for the first day). Taking place September 10-11, 16-17, 24-25; October 3-4. Registration required. RMB 1,600 per person. 8am-5pm. Imagine. (5739 4933, [info@imagine-china.com](mailto:info@imagine-china.com))

### 7 Mid-Autumn and October Survival Camps

Ages 7-18. Imagine's popular Survival Camps continue into the autumn holidays. Kids learn skills such as shelter building, raft making, fire starting, orienteering, and more, based on a qualification system with various levels, and room to learn more. Teens get instructor training. The camps take place September 15-18, October 1-4, and 6-9. Transportation provided. Registration required. RMB 700 per day. Imagine. (5739 4933, [info@imagine-china.com](mailto:info@imagine-china.com))

# SAY HELLO TO BEIJING'S SMALLEST

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



**Houlton P Hsu**

American. Born Mar 27 to Claudia Sun and Vincent Hsu Beijing United Family Hospital.



**Ainhoa Shania Aponte Freire**

Spanish. Born on Mar 4 to Roxana Laritza Freire Veliz and Fraivan Aponte Barrios at Liulitun Community Health Center.



**Lucia Rae Alvarez-Liu**

American. Born May 31 at to Yiran Liu and Roberto Alvarez at Beijing Chaoyang Hospital.



**Veronica**

Chinese. Born Jul 9 to ct. and More Zhang at Beijing Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital.



**Zihang Zhou**

Chinese. Born Apr 13 to Jingwen Chai and Lei Zhou at Tongzhou Maternal & Child Health Hospital of Beijing.

# Swanky Swiss Care Package

## Baby and mom save time with a readymade box from Challet

by Anastasia Levina



example, will cost RMB 888 – not much once you calculate the cost of everything that you would otherwise have to purchase separately and the time spent doing so.

Uniquely for the Chinese market, Challet also provides bilingual, professional advice through WeChat, offering new parents answers to questions such as how to establish a good sleeping routine, or how to handle sibling rivalry. The company has become a network for young families – exchanging interests and enjoying regular events like baby yoga, healthy cooking, fashion, and baby related education.



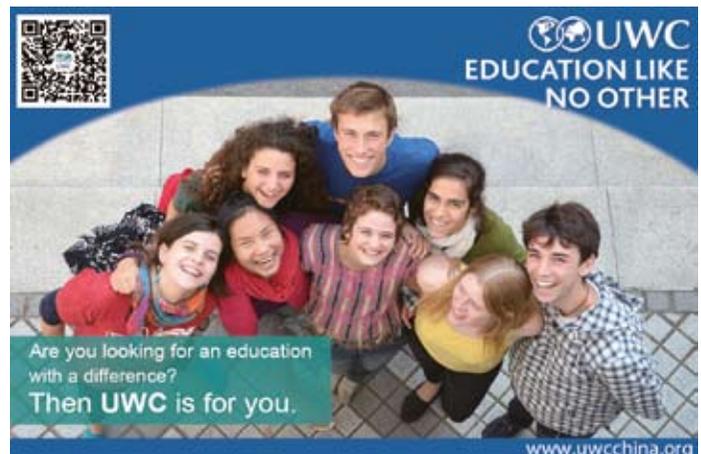
**F**ood safety is a major concern, particularly when you have young children. In addition, new parents are often anxious about choosing new products and can become overwhelmed through time consuming research or trial and error. In response to these concerns and experiences, a group of parents, Swiss Olaf Zilkens, Danish Camilla Simoni, Dutch Wouter de Haan, and Charis Choi from Hong Kong formed Challet Baby Care.

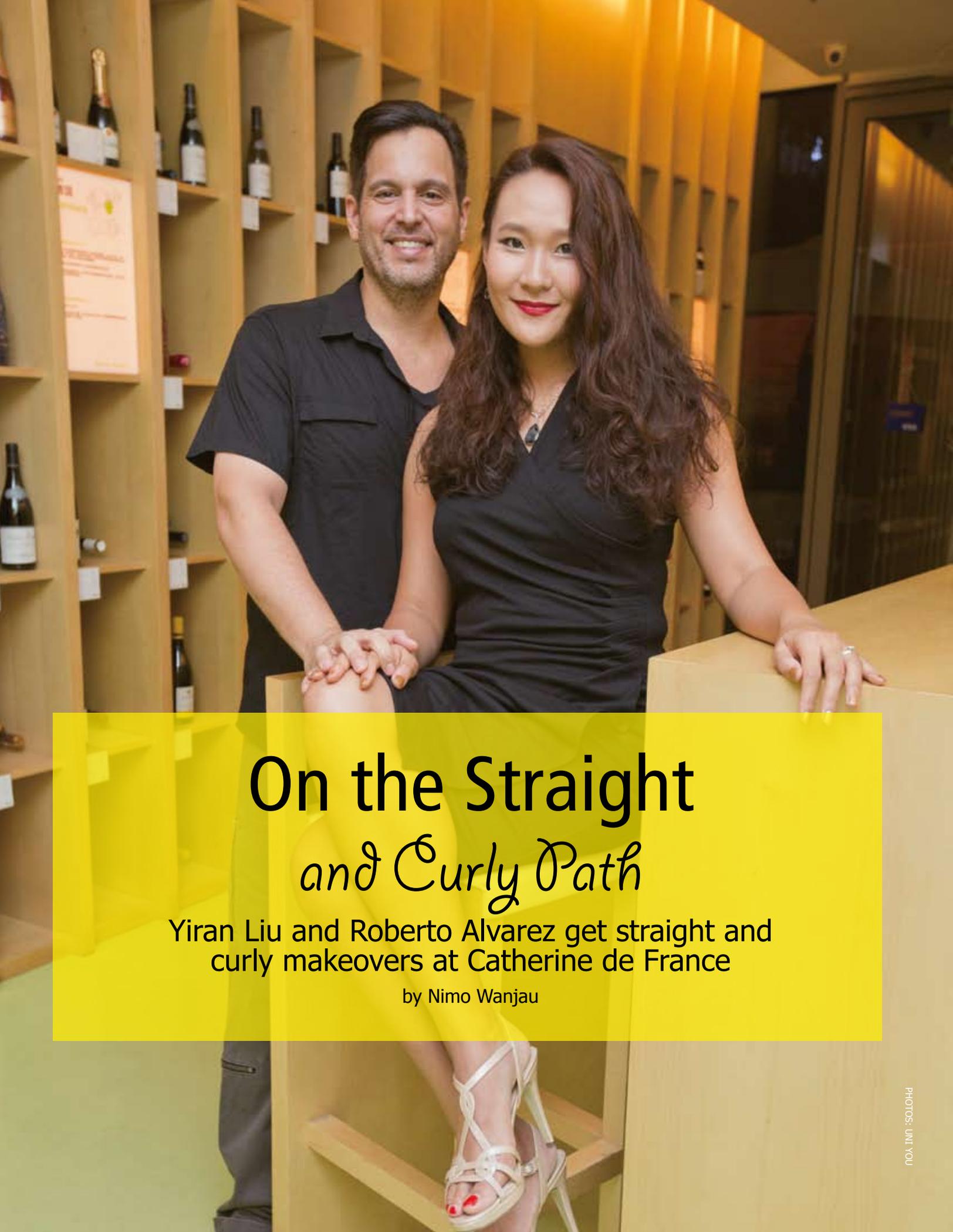
The idea of Challet is simple: every month a box is delivered containing Swiss-made essential products for mom and child from pregnancy up to toddler years. The products are chosen on the basis of professional recommendations, or Simoni's career experience as an obstetrician, paediatrician, and breastfeeding counsellor, to ensure the best set of products for each development stage. Challet ensures product compliance with European standards and competitive prices before delivering the box to your doorstep.

Everything in the box has been tested for quality by both Swiss and Chinese authorities. And prices are reasonable: a Premium Box, for



Deliveries can be ordered from the website [challet.walkthechat.com](http://challet.walkthechat.com) or WeChat account: challetbaby





# On the Straight *and Curly Path*

Yiran Liu and Roberto Alvarez get straight and curly makeovers at Catherine de France

by Nimo Wanjau



**F**un loving couple Yiran Liu and Roberto Alvarez are about to celebrate their wedding in September, so this makeover came at the perfect time. They first met in Seoul seven years ago where they were both teaching, and moved here four and a half years ago, then had a civil ceremony soon after. Liu is a *Beijinger* while Alvarez is a Cuban-American from Miami. He works at the British Council and Liu is a freelance translator.

Liu and Alvarez are the proud parents of 3-year-old Roe and 3-month-old Lucia. When we met up at Catherine de France, the couple was beaming, especially Liu, a stay-at-home-mom who had the day off and left her youngest with her mother. Later on as the day progressed, Lucia and big sister Roe joined us as we waited for mom to get her hair done.

Liu and Alvarez have opposite routines as Liu gets her hair blown and styled once a week, when Alvarez is a wash-and-gel man and hadn't had his hair cut for a year. Alvarez says, "Work and family commitments sometimes make it difficult to maintain a routine. Running after the kids and dealing with the everyday surprises that come up can be mentally and physically exhausting."

Catherine de France's team leader stylist, Aurelien Collard, wanted to get the couple ready for their wedding by giving more body and volume to Liu's hair through perming (RMB 1,500). Meanwhile, for Alvarez, Collard cut his hair shorter and straightened the hair using the keratin treatment, KeraStraight (RMB 550). David Bai and makeup artist Marie Deng assisted Collard.

Our couple didn't have any expectations, only to have fun.

They liked the staff and despite the long day due to the perm, they are planning to return to the salon. "Wow! Where's my husband?" exclaimed Liu. She was excited about her husband's new look and said he looked different. Alvarez kept gazing up and down at his wife, saying she looked incredible. As for 3-year-old Roe, she said she doesn't like the salon or hospital but was happy that her mommy's hair has become curly like hers. Lucia breastfeeding happily was her sign of approval. Grandmother was all too happy to smile and take photos of the couple every two minutes.



- Mac 6 Snowglobe Eye Shadows/Cool
- Sephora Almost Nude No. 9 Eye Shadow and Liner Palette
- Sephora Wild Safari No. 3 Eye Shadow and Liner Palette
- Christian Dior NudeTan compressed powder
- Mac Studio Fix loose powder
- Max Factor X No. 81 Crème Puff, Truly Fair, pressed powder
- Maybelline Dream Satin Skin Natural Ivory
- Clinique Even Better liquid foundation
- Yves Saint Laurent Rouge Pur Couture Satin Radiance Lipstick, No.1 Le Rouge



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

Step 1

Collard cuts the couple's hair. Liu gets a manicure and opts for the gold color.



Step 2

Liu's hair is permed while Alvarez is straightened using a keratin treatment.



Step 3

Collard, with the help of Bai, colors Liu and Alvarez's hair with reddish-brown and dark brown respectively.



Step 4

After applying moisturizer, foundation, and powder, Deng creates a smoky eye using dark purple eye shadow along the lashline fading to light brown in the crease, then a gold shadow on the lid and brow bone. Using black liquid eyeliner, Deng applies along the lashes then adds mascara to the bottom and top eyelashes. To finish off, she uses red lipstick. Collard cleans up Alvarez's chin with a quick trim.



# A Taobao Touch

Whether you need to save or not, themed birthday parties at home should still dazzle

by Lily Zhao

Although venues provide the easiest cleanup and protection for personal furniture, sometimes budget, weather, or distance limits birthday options. Whatever your reasons, we've provided you with the shop names so you can search now, or just wait until this article is released with links on our website, [www.beijing-kids.com](http://www.beijing-kids.com), later this week.



## 天天排队用品 (Tiāntiān Páiduì Yòngpǐn)

Even if you weren't the greatest fan of the 2014 film, young Peter Parker's appearance alongside his older fellow superheroes in *Captain America: Civil War* probably redeemed his image a bit in your mind, and there's still his 2017 film to look forward to. If you and your kids have always enjoyed watching him leap and crawl through his jungle of concrete and steel, then perhaps consider inviting him to your dining table too for a birthday celebration.

RMB 58 for a six person set, RMB 98 for a 12 person set both including 7-inch plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons, straws, noisemakers, party hats, napkins, eye-masks, gift bags, invitation cards, one tablecloth, and a line of party triangles

RMB 139 for an 18 person set including all the appropriate amounts of previous sets plus an additional tablecloth and line of party triangles

Listing title: 儿童生日派对用品创意派对套餐蜘蛛侠主题  
宝宝生日party布置装饰 értóngshēngrì pàiduìyòng pǐnchuàng  
yìpàiduì tàocān zhīzhū xiázhǔ tíbǎobǎo shēngrì party bùzhì  
zhuāngshì

## 沐子派对 (Mùzi Pàiduì)

Maybe Doreamon will produce a gift for you from his pocket. Maybe it'll be the shrinking gadget, or the time reversing gadget. There was bread that you could press against a textbook or notebook and then wash down with some water straight from the pot, and all of a sudden you magically know everything on the page the bread was pressed against. Don't forget the bumbling, reckless boy, the pretty girl, and the bully! If you'd like to recreate these Japanese cartoon archetypes on some birthday hats and banners, visit this Taobao shop.

RMB 228 for a set for ten people and comes with a "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" banner, welcome door sign, two decorative round cards, birthday hat, birthday child name tag/brooch, three regular party hats, bottle stickers, decorative cake posts, straws, two table placards, ten party favor tags with ribbons, and two little decorative wooden shelves.

Listing title: 蓝色哆啦A梦小叮当机器猫儿童宝宝生日派对  
装饰用品定制主题拉旗 lánseduō la yīgè mèng xiǎodīngdāng  
jīqimāoer tóngbǎobǎo shēngrì pàiduì zhuāngshìyòng pǐndìng  
zhìzhǔ tílāqí





### 嫣然知秋 (Yānrán Zhīqiū)

Was your child singing "Let It Go" weeks, even months after seeing *Frozen*? Invite Elsa, Ana, and Olaf to the party! At this Taobao shop you can purchase everything you need all printed with the faces of your child's favorite Disney movie characters.

A set for six people costs RMB 80.75 and includes cups, two plate sizes, knives, forks, spoons, straws, party hats, noisemakers, toy trumpets, (10) napkins, gift bags, invites, eye masks, one tablecloth, and a line of 12 party triangles.

Listing title: 生日主题派对装饰 宝宝周岁冰雪奇缘儿童party [sic]布置套餐 玩具用品 shēngrì zhǔtípài duìzhuāng shìbǎobǎo zhōusuibīng xuěqíyuánér tóngpàiduì party bùzhìtào cānwǎn jùyòngpǐn

### Partyqueen派对皇后 (Partyqueen Pàiduì Huánghòu)

Maybe your family loves a trip to the zoo. Maybe your kid travels to forests, jungles, and Sub-Saharan savannas while still in your living room. Bring those lush leaves and great, fierce animals in a small, diminutive form to your dining table this year for your child's birthday party. Drape green banners around the room and let lion cubs roam from table to cup to plate.

RMB 228 for a standard set containing a banner, welcome sign, birthday crown and brooch, 2 round signs, 3 guest party hats, 10 cake toppers, 10 bottle stickers, 10 straws, 2 guest placards, 10 party bags tag with ribbons, 2 sets of decorative little wooden shelves. RMB 389 for a luxury set with more items. For details and individual item prices visit the Taobao store online. Note most items in both sets are customizable.



Listing title: 热带雨林小动物森林主题儿童宝宝生日派对用品 装扮布置甜品台拉旗 rèdài yǔlín xiǎodòng wùsēnlín zhǔtítóng bǎobǎoshēngrì pàiduìyòng pǐnzhūāng bànùzhì tiánpǐntáilāqí



### 威威宝宝最帅啦 (Wēiwēi Bǎobǎo Zuìshuài La)

If cats and pinkness are among your child's favorite things, this is the set for your birthday party. With her simplicity of design and innocence of appearance, Hello Kitty shows little sign of fading away even though she might be older than you. Few of our lives have been untouched by her familiar image on shop windows, backpacks, pencil case. Why not bring this white kitten and her batch of colorful balloons to the birthday dinner? Maybe after dinner you can tell your kid a story about what Hello Kitty was like before the turn of the century.

RMB 42 for a set for 6 people containing birthday glasses, party hats, plates, decorated straws, noisemakers, tablecloth, and paper placemats.

Listing title: 仕彩生日派对用品儿童主题餐具6人套餐 宝宝周岁聚会party装饰布置 shìcǎishēngrì pàiduìyòng pǐnér tóng zhǔtí cānjù 6 réntàocān bǎobǎo zhōusuijù huì party zhuāngshìbùzhì



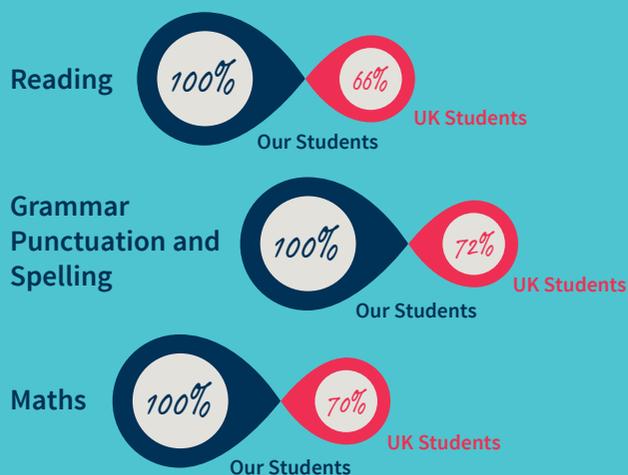
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# How Beijing's "Vicinity Rule" Is Raising Your Rent

by Jessica Suotmaa

Recently, a worn-down hutong passageway was put up for sale at RMB 1.5 million (USD 227,000). As it's unfit for living, one might wonder why anyone would bid for it, not to mention buy it for such an outrageous price. Until you realize the 29 Daer Hutong is in the district of Beijing First Experimental Primary School. The buyer of said hutong could register their household *hukou* and have their child study at the highly ranked primary school in Xicheng District.

### Vicinity Policy

The current "vicinity" policy where school places are given based on address was first introduced by the Ministry of Education in 2014, creating a competition for the homes surrounding top ranked schools. Needless to say, home prices have been skyrocketing ever since.

In April this year, Beijing's individual districts released new policies regarding primary and middle school admissions. Haidian district has adopted a "six years one seat" policy, which means that a single address can only be used for one school seat every six years. Xicheng District requires that the *hukou* registrant has been living at the address for a certain number of years before a child qualifies for a seat.

Did we mention the above only applies if you have Beijing *hukou*? Shijingshan District has ruled that Beijing resident permit ("green card") holders no longer qualify for education as Beijingers do. Fengtai District requires employment and housing status proof if applicants don't have Beijing *hukou*.

### Competition is Tough

To give an idea of why property prices have risen out of control and why even rental costs have gone up (for non-Beijingers), let's look at some statistics. In 2015, Beijing's primary schools had 160,000 registered students, of which 100,000 were local Beijingers, and 60,000 kids did not have Beijing *hukou*. Based on the China Education Newspaper statistics, the top 25 primary schools are in Dongcheng, Xicheng, and Haidian Districts, which only accepted 5,000 students.

This article first appeared on our website, [www.beijing-kids.com](http://www.beijing-kids.com), where new articles appear every day.

# Naturopathic Prevention

Since this issue is all about money matters, let's talk about the importance of investing in your health. Naturopathic medicine not only treats illnesses, but can also help prevent disease, saving you money, time, and energy. Let's face it; being sick can drain us both physically and financially. A study in 2007 found that over 62 percent of bankruptcy cases in the US were due to medical problems. Many of the most common diseases in the world are related to lifestyle and are actually preventable, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and certain cancers. Outlined below are three simple steps we can take to invest in our health and reduce medical costs in the long run.

The first step is to increase our consumption of fresh produce. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) low consumption of fruits and vegetables contributes to 1.7 million (2.8 percent) of deaths worldwide. That's a significant number! In a statement the WHO has written, "Moreover, insufficient intake of fruit and vegetables is estimated to cause around 14% of gastrointestinal cancer deaths, about 11% of ischaemic heart disease deaths, and about 9% of stroke deaths globally." I may sound like a broken record, but I can't emphasize enough the importance of these foods! Imagine if 50 percent of our diets were composed of fresh produce? We would likely have more energy, more regular bowel movements, and a clear contribution to achieving a healthy weight while preventing life threatening diseases.

## Many of the most common diseases in the world... are actually preventable...

The second step is to incorporate movement into our daily lives. Yes, you read correctly. Moving helps prevent disease. Stationary postures such as sitting or standing for long periods of time are linked to the development of conditions such as Type 2 diabetes, and acute traumas such as heart attacks and strokes. So even if you don't have time to go to the gym, be active throughout the day.

The third step is to see a naturopathic doctor. Naturopathic medicine uses individualized treatments for each patient, and can be focused on preventing specific conditions. As a naturopath, I take a lot of time with each patient to understand their lifestyle habits, their family and medical history, and everything that may contribute to ill health in the future. This allows me to provide a treatment plan that is customized to each patient's unique condition. My job is to also help patients implement lifestyle changes, which helps ensure success. Unfortunately, naturopathy is not always covered by insurance. For some people this can be a deterrent to seeking naturopathic care. However, I believe investing in our health can actually help us save money in the long run. Making a visit to a naturopath is money well spent.

In day-to-day life, preventing a problem is considerably easier than fixing it. Our health is no different and if we follow the steps outlined above, it can be as easy as one, two, and three.

### Got a question?

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



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# The Best Investment

Money and time are both well spent for the sake of your health

## Sleep

They say time is money. Well, give enough time to your body to clean, process, and restore tissue for another day of wear and tear. If you sleep with an empty stomach and bladder you will make the best of this rest, therefore eat your last meal at least 3 hours before you plan to sleep.

## Eat

When measured on a cost per serving, per weight, or per nutrition basis, fruits and vegetables beat out meat and junk food. Try to buy in season, as these will be the most appropriate for the climate, richer in nutrients, and at the best price. Replace butter and hydrogenated vegetable oils with olive oil and coconut oil, using virgin oil or coconut oil for hot cooking and extra virgin olive oil for cold foods. Research shows that 2 tablespoons of olive oil per day can reduce the risk of heart disease. To increase your good cholesterol, add avocado and nuts to your diet at least twice a week.

## Exercise

Exercise is one of the healthiest investments of you time and should happen at least 3-5 times a week, spaced out no more than two days apart. After two days of no exercise the muscles slow down their metabolic rhythm to a basal state (as if you had not exercised) so even if your week is very busy make sure you exercise throughout the week.

## Create Your Support Network

Humans are not like trees and can grow all by ourselves. We are social beings and thrive on the interaction that the community provides for us. Make a conscious effort to meet and talk to people that are sincere and trying to be better every day, those that inspire you and make you want to be a better human being.

## Do What You Like To Do

Make time for what you like to do. As your body relaxes and is happy all the organs and systems work at their best.

## Visit a Doctor and Dentist When Healthy

Book appointments for your kids and yourself to make sure you are up to date on all your vaccines, that your height and weight is appropriate, and that your teeth have not developed any cavities you are unaware of.

### 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](mailto:dorothy.dexter@ufh.com.cn).



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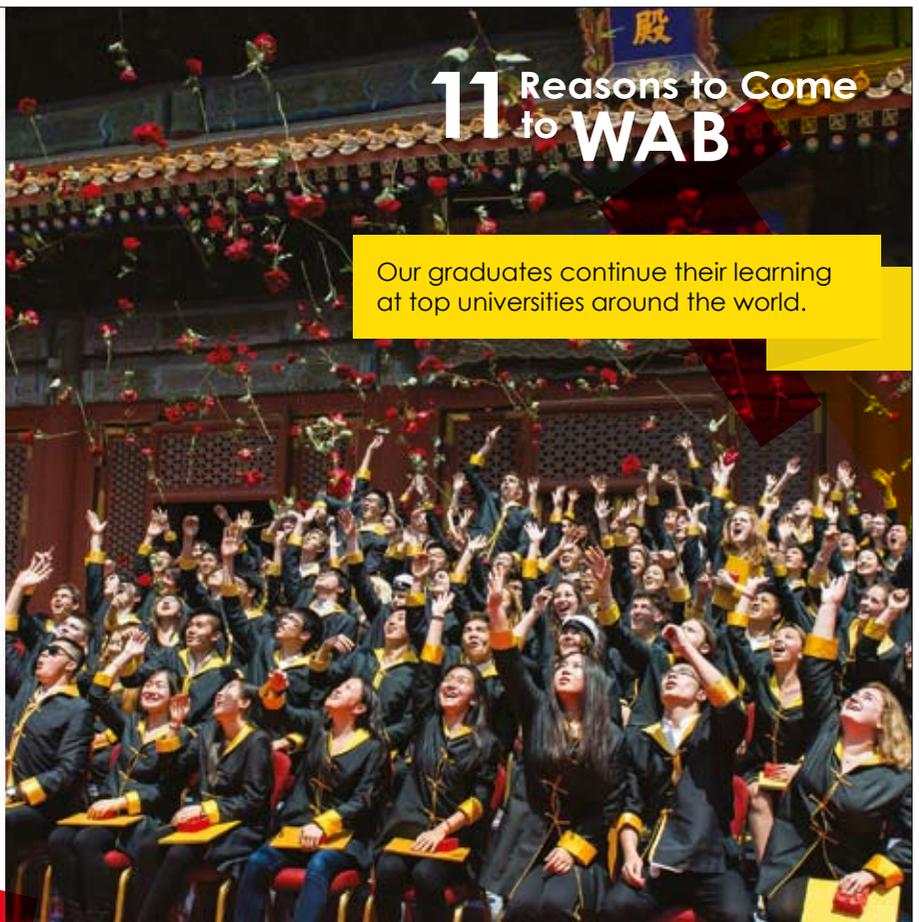
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# Fishy Fusion

Authentic Malaysian  
for a reasonable price  
at Malacca Legend Signature

by Vanessa Jencks



Fried Sotong Rings (RMB 38)

**B**efore I met the Conroy family, I confess I was a bit nervous about taking them to the Malaysian focused Malacca Legend Signature at The Place because of the dominance of seafood and spiciness when I previewed the menu. Those fears melted when I met Liam (age 7) and Annabelle (5), who have lived in Beijing with their parents for the past three years. Dad, Justin, soon prompted Liam to tell me all about the food adventures he had been on in Australia, Thailand, New Zealand, Singapore, the Philippines, Baltimore (Greek food!), and Malaysia. Later I learned Malaysian food has a mixture of cuisine cultures within the nation, making it a truly mixed heritage chow.

They all settled into a big, comfy booth and began to flip through the pictures of exotic drinks, coffees, teas, starters, and crab dishes on the restaurant's iPad menu. Liam and Justin had a tough time agreeing what to get since the menu offered curry, noodles, and calamari, all things Liam and Annabelle particularly enjoy. With a bit of nudging, the kids agreed with dad to make their own vegetable spring rolls (RMB 40). Annabelle happily discovered that the iPad menu could be exited and Angry Birds could be pulled up instead.

"What are these?" Liam asked as he tapped out a small amount of a crispy mystery onto his wrap. After an encouragement to try he stated, "They're onions."

"Liam likes duck sauce," Annabelle told me with beaming eyes as her brother spooned out a generous glob.

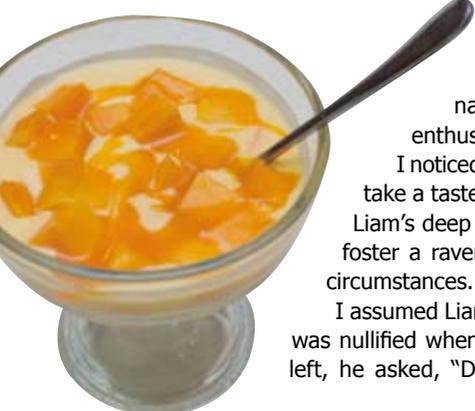
When the deep fried sotong rings (RMB 38) arrived, Annabelle and Liam

popped these into their mouths like popcorn.

"These are a bit salty, but they're really good," Annabelle said nodding her head enthusiastically.

I noticed that mom, Callie, barely got to take a taste of these, but Justin explained Liam's deep love of seafood has proven to foster a ravenous appetite under the right circumstances.

I assumed Liam's critique of the lack of spice was nullified when, once only tiny crumbs were left, he asked, "Dad, can we get another dish



of these?" (He did say he didn't want spicy ones before he ordered the first batch.)

The Penang fried flat rice noodles (RMB 48) were a hit with everyone except for their egg addition.

"I don't like the egg," Liam remarked, "I don't like things that are squishy."

"So it's a texture issue, then. But the taste is OK?" I asked.

"Yes," he said, taking another pinch of the noodles. Justin and Callie agreed the noodles tasted exactly like the fusion dishes they enjoyed in the Malaysian district in Singapore.



... Malaysian food has a mixture of cuisine cultures within the nation, making it a truly mixed heritage chow.

They finished the meal with mango and yogurt (RMB 30) and a black bear coke float (RMB 28). The children had never experienced what many would consider to be a popular American dessert, and Liam admitted he preferred the mango dish. "The yogurt is creamy and smooth. I liked the float when it was plain, but I didn't like it when [the Coke] started mixing with the chocolate." He explained later, "Mango is my third favorite fruit." I suppose floats also require a taste acquisition.

When the manager came to wish the family well and invited them to eat there again, Justin responded enthusiastically that they would definitely be coming back since he prefers this location to the Shunyi one, and food was great.

**Family-friendly Notes:** Other kids and toddlers walked around or sat in a baby chair. One boy was even playing with one of the classy plush monkeys used to decorate the restaurant. Nearby bathrooms are clean, elevators available for strollers, and a nearby wall fish tank offers some beautiful views for those toddlers who need to wander. Prices were reasonable for this meal, but this is also a great place for fancier occasions or a splurge as crab is available.



**Malacca Legend Signature**

Open Every Day. 11am-8pm. The Place, Level 2/F, Shop L203, 9 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang District (6587 1393)  
光华路9号世贸天阶北街2楼L203

**Malacca Legend**

Open Every Day. Noon-10pm. 1/F Bldg B, Ocean International Center, 58 Dongsihuan Lu Chaoyang District  
朝阳区东四环58号远洋国际中心B座1层



# The Franco-Russian Connection

The Rakhletsova-Quyen family shares their unique salad and chicken dishes.

Text by Nimo Wanjau, Photos by Dave's Studio

In the Rakhletsova-Quyén household, a standard family ritual is watching the "MasterChef" series (either the United States or Australia version), after which they like to go online, get the recipes, then try to make something similar. This Franco-Russian household is dad Dam Chi Quyén, mom Oksana Rakhletsova, and 4-year-old Nina. Quyén works as a salon director, Rakhletsova is the head of a pharmaceutical company, and Nina attends the French International School of Beijing (LFIP). Nina speaks fluent French, Russian, and Chinese; she understands English but was more than happy to teach us a little French and Russian while we were discussing her love of photography.

Quyén and Rakhletsova met on New Year's Eve 12 years ago in Beijing, and Quyén cooked for her. To this day he still cooks for the whole family when Rakhletsova is out of town for work. "His family refused to believe that he knew how to cook until they saw him in the kitchen," recalls Rakhletsova. They like to cook dishes from their respective countries and sometimes Chinese cuisines. Quyén learned how to cook here in Beijing and advises families to experiment with recipes. "You can follow the main recipe, but you can put your own twist by adding or replacing some ingredients of your choice according to your taste."

### Tomatoes Eggplant Mozzarella Salad 圣女果茄子奶酪沙拉

#### Ingredients 材料:

- Small tomatoes 圣女果
- Mozzarella 马苏里拉奶酪
- Italian parsley 意大利香菜
- Eggplant 茄子
- Olive oil 橄榄油
- Salt & pepper 盐和胡椒



#### Instructions 做法:

1. Cut the eggplant in thin slices and then panfry them with olive oil and salt and pepper on medium heat. 茄子切片，平底锅里放橄榄油，中火煎，撒适量盐和胡椒
2. Meanwhile, cut the tomatoes and put them in the plate or bowl. 圣女果切成两半，装盘
3. Take the mozzarella and tear into small chunks. 马苏里拉奶酪撕成小块
4. Once the eggplants have cooked let them rest for a few minutes. 茄子煎好后，放凉
5. Add some seasoning, drizzle of olive oil salt and pepper and then put the eggplants on the top as well as the mozzarella and some Italian parsley leaves and serve. 盘中加入调料——少许橄榄油、盐和胡椒，然后将茄子置于沙拉顶部，撒上马苏里拉奶酪，撒上意大利香菜。上桌。



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### Paprika and Turmeric Boneless Chicken Leg 香辣无骨鸡腿

#### Ingredients 材料:

- 1 boneless chicken leg 一个去骨鸡腿
- Paprika 辣椒粉
- Turmeric 黄姜粉
- Olive oil 橄榄油
- Salt & pepper 盐和胡椒

#### Instructions 做法:

1. Season the chicken leg with paprika, turmeric, salt, and pepper. 将鸡腿用辣椒粉、黄姜粉、盐和胡椒腌制。
2. Put a drizzle of olive oil and start to panfry the leg skin side down on low-medium heat; flip it over from time to time until it gets golden brown and caramelized. 平底锅里加入少许橄榄油，用中低火煎制鸡腿肉，多次翻面，直至两面都煎至焦黄色。
3. Once cooked, remove it from the pan, cut it into pieces and serve. 煎好后，将鸡腿切块，装盘。



# Take a Hike

Minimize expenditures and maximize enjoyment  
with Beijing's natural attractions

by Lily Zhao



## Scenic Mountain 景山 (Jing Shan)

Difficulty: 1

Occupying a central location in the city of Beijing, Jing Shan served as a garden for the imperial family in both the Ming and Qing Dynasties (960-1911). The peak within the park called Zhong Peak is the highest point in what is considered the old town area of Beijing. Upon that peak sits a pavilion called Wan Chun Ting 万春亭, meaning a pavilion of ten thousand spring times. The city has marked the literal center of the city of Beijing within this park. Another place of note is the tree where the Chongzhen Emperor, who was the last emperor of the Ming Dynasty, allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself with his belt when Beijing was invaded. The original tree was cut down during the "cultural revolution" of the last century, and the tree that is there now was planted as a replacement.

RMB 2, except during flower exhibitions or other special events, RMB 10. 6.30am-9pm, ticket sales stop at 8.30pm, except from November to March, 6.30am-8pm, ticket sales stop at 7.30pm. 44 Jing Shan Xi Jie (Jing Mountain West Street), Xicheng District. (6403 8098) 西城区景山西街44号



## Fragrant Mountain 香山 (Xiang Shan)

Difficulty: 1

Also called Jing Yi Yuan 静宜园, which means a quiet and delightful garden. Located about 25 kilometers outside of the city, its highest peak stands at about 557 meters tall. Xiang Shan is most renowned for its flaming red leaves in autumn. The slopes of Xiang Shan are covered with smoke trees, and when the air is brisk on a low pollution day, puffs of brilliant red hit against an azure fall sky. The cable car ride (RMB 80 for a one-way ticket) affords a stunning overhead view of the leaves. You may also visit Bi Yun Temple for RMB 10 and a combined entrance ticket for both Xiang Shan Park and Bi Yun Temple costs RMB 15. Mid-October to early-November is the best time to visit if you're going for the leaves.

RMB 10 except from November 16 to March 31, RMB 5. 6am-6.30pm, except in July and August, closes at 7pm, and November to March, closes at 6pm. 40 Mai Mai Street, Haidian District. (6259 9886) 海淀区买卖街40号



### Red Conch Temple 红螺寺 (Hong Luo Si)

Difficulty: 2

The largest Buddhist forest park in northeastern China, buddhists oft visit and pay their respects, even since ancient times. Large amounts of greenery and ancient trees with large canopies reaching outwards and providing refuge from the sunlight make this is a great summer destination for a family outing. There are many flowers and red leaves in the autumn for visitors to appreciate. The imperial bamboo forest in front of the entrance to the mountain has been there for over 600 years. In front of one of the main buildings called Da Xiong Bao Dian, there are two ancient ginkgo trees said to be a couple, with one of them that flowers but yields no fruit, while the other only yields fruits but never flowers. There is a mountain coaster ride available for RMB 50 one way and RMB 80 round trip.

RMB 54 except for with student ID, military service ID, or for senior citizens, RMB 27. 8am-4.30pm, except from October to March, 8.30am-4pm. Hongluo East Road, Huairou District. (6068 1175) 怀柔区红螺东路



### Mountain of Mystical Peaks 妙峰山 (Miao Feng Shan)

Difficulty: 3

Located about 60 kilometers outside CBD Beijing, it's well known for a temple that has been a popular destination for burning incense and sending good wishes and prayers for many generations. Hikes here are rewarded with views of pine trees and large rocks with fascinating shapes. In spring there are peach blossoms and in the autumn the leaves turn red and also makes for a lovely, scenic trek. The top of the mountain also affords a breathtaking view of the city of Beijing. If you want to get away from town for a weekend and get some exercise with your family amidst unusual trees and strange stones, and visit one of the most famous temples of Beijing, this is the place for you.

RMB 40, RMB 20 (students and visitors aged 60-69 with ID), Free (kids under 1.2m tall and visitors aged above 70 with ID). Mon-Sun 8am-5pm. Zhenjianggou Town, Miaofeng Mountain, Mentougou District. (6188 2936) 门头沟区妙峰山镇涧沟村



### Upper Mountain 上方山 (Shang Fang Shan)

Difficulty: 2

As a national forest park located 70 kilometers outside the city featuring dense forests, caves, and a great diversity in the species of plants, Shang Fang Mountain has plenty to offer the exploration-inclined mind. Among these plants are over 100 species of plants that has medicinal properties. There are also ancient trees that are aged over a thousand years old. On top of the mountain is a temple that may be reached only by climbing 262 stone steps. Within the mountain are nine caves, that most well known of which is called Yunshui cave, meaning "the cave of clouds and water." You may also see a spring inside the mountain, amongst other noteworthy sights.

RMB 40, RMB 32/person (groups of 30 and above) RMB 20 (students with ID and ages 60-65), Free (above 65, handicapped visitors, and children below 1.2m tall). 8.30am-4pm Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm Sat-Sun, Shuiyun Cave closes at 3.30pm. Shengshuiyu Village, Hancunhe Town, Fangshan District. (6131 5518, 6131 5309) 房山区韩村河镇圣水峪村上方山国家森林公园





# Motivating Kids to Save Money

Keystone Academy's creative bottle savings bank

Text by Jessica Suotmaa, Photos by Dave's Studio

*Visual Arts teacher, Yu Aixia, reminds her son, Gabriel, that every mao counts.*

One of the tools for teaching children to save money is to give them a piggy bank to stash their pennies. Today's kids might wonder what a piggy bank is, or why it's called what it's called. After all, how many pink pig-shaped saving banks are in stores these days? We've seen the one with attitude from Disney's *Toy Story*.

Rather than expect kids to want to display and treasure a fat pink piggy bank bought from the store, Keystone Academy's Visual Arts teacher has combined recycling and her son, Gabriel's, interests to create a spaceship savings bank!

Ten-year-old Gabriel demonstrates the craft for us with few materials for a simple decoration, but there is room to either simplify or complicate this craft. Use a thicker colored paper instead of tissue paper and draw the windows or use glitter pens and stickers to make a space shuttle so colorful saving money can't possibly be overlooked!

**Estimated time:**

60 minutes'

**Suitable for:**

7+

**Materials:**

1. Empty plastic water bottle
2. Colored paper
3. Tissue paper

4. Scissors

5. Permanent marker

6. White glue

7. Glue stick

8. Craft glue

9. Plate

10. Brushes

11. Circular objects in different sizes

**Prepare the body of the shuttle.**

1. Cut a hole on the plastic bottle.
2. Paint white glue on the water bottle with a brush.
3. Cover the plastic bottle with tissue paper.
4. Brush over the paper. Leave it to dry.



1

**Prepare the shuttle trappings.**

5. Trace a big circle on colored paper, cut the circle out, and fold it in half to then make a cone.
6. Trace and cut three bigger and three smaller circles with different colored paper.
7. Create fins out of colored paper by first folding the paper two times. Then, draw the shape of the fin and cut two out at once.
8. Fold the straight edge of fins to create a place to put glue.



5



8



9

**Prepare the shuttle for launch.**

9. Glue the cone on the cap with craft glue.
10. Glue three fins on the shuttle.
11. Glue two circles together to create windows. Attach the windows to the body of the shuttle with glue.
12. Decorate the rocket with permanent makers by drawing ladders, nails, symbols, or signs.



10

# Give Us A Break

## How Beijing International Schools can help you save money

by Jessica Suotmaa

Beijing's newcomers might be surprised to find international tuition fees equivalent to that of college tuition and lament the large portion education takes up of their overall budget. Over the last few years, schools have begun offering discounts and scholarships to either attract the finest of students in Beijing's competitive school market or to act on their values.

The good news is that Beijing's international school facilities and class offerings place them with the best internationally, but you know what they say: quality has a price. While no parent wants to choose their child's education based on cost, the reality is that every family has to consider what they can afford. However, there is hope. Many international schools offer merit scholarships to both new and existing students, helping you save money.



### Beijing City International School (BCIS)

Secondary students (age 14 and above) currently enrolled at the school, new students, as well as students of international families intending to relocate to Beijing are eligible for their annual merit and academic scholarships.

The merit scholarship is awarded based on sports, mathematics, science and technology, as well as the arts. Students must submit a portfolio showcasing their merits, an application essay, two letters commending their character, as well as previous academic records. Merit Scholarships, once awarded, renew each year until the student graduates.

The academic scholarship is awarded for academic achievements, proven with exemplary English, Math, and Chinese exam results. Students are to turn in a personal statement, two character references, and previous school records. Student recipients of the Academic Scholarship are subject for review for their academics, behavior, and community involvement each year.

**Age range:** 2-18

**Grades offered:** Toddler-Grade 12

**School type:** IB World School

**Admits:** Chinese and Foreign Passport Holders  
admissions@bcis.cn

### Yew Chung International School of Beijing (YCIS Beijing)

YCIS' Overall Achievement Scholarship can cover all of a student's tuition fees up to four years. Students must demonstrate both excellence in academics and a commitment to learning. Well-rounded students should have contributed via charity and service to their community, acting on YCIS values. Scholarship recipients are subject to annual review.

The Subject Specific Scholarship awards a 50 percent tuition discount, for the next school year, to passionate students of language and literature, music and performing arts, or sports. Applicants should show proficiency and zeal in their specific subject. For example, students (Year 7 and above) who have passed the Grade 4 at the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music can apply for YCIS Beijing's Music Scholarship.

**Age range:** 2-18

**Grades offered:** Kindergarten 2 to Year 13

**School type:** International K-12 school

**Admits:** Foreign Passport Holders Only  
enquiry@bj.ycef.com

### Beijing World Youth Academy (BWYA)

Existing students are awarded scholarships in the form of tuition fee reductions at the end of each school year. Students are evaluated based on their academic distinction, development in their chosen subjects, and dedication to the community.

**Age range:** 5-18;

**Grades offered:** Kindergarten -12

**School type:** Independent international school

**Admits:** Chinese and Foreign Passport Holders  
admissions@ibwya.net

### The British School of Beijing, Shunyi

Students at British School of Beijing, Shunyi can pay their tuition three times out of the year, but receive a 3 percent discount if paid in full at the beginning of the year. Families are also eligible sibling discounts, 5 percent for the third child and 10 percent for the fourth child. An academic scholarship policy is in place; further details are available from the school.

**Age range:** 1-18

**Grades offered:** Pre-Nursery to Year 13

**School type:** International school

**Admits:** Foreign Passport Holders Only  
admissions@britishschool.org.cn

### Canadian International School of Beijing (CISB)

Existing students can be nominated for a Merit Scholarship (sixth grade and up) or apply for an Academic Scholarship (high school only). The former is judged by a committee, which bases their decision on the student's behavior, contributions, academics, as well as skills and talents. The Merit Scholarship is awarded to students with positive attitudes and exemplary work ethic. The latter is based on academics and social contributions to both the school and global community. The Academic Scholarship is a tuition discount between 20 and 25 percent, depending on the candidate's test scores.

**Age range:** 18 months-18 years

**Grades offered:** Nursery to Grade 12

**School type:** International day school

**Admits:** Foreign Passport Holders Only  
admissions@cis-beijing.com

### Keystone Academy Beijing

Keystone Academy welcomes the best of candidates from all over the world, offering merit scholarships to offset tuition costs. All of their merit-based scholarship awards are RMB 25,000, but can be increased with need-based awards to cover the entire tuition.

A merit-based program, Founders' Scholarship, rewards applicants who excel academically, demonstrate good character, and show promise in contributing to the Academy's learning community.

The Junzi scholarship rewards students who resemble the original Confucian idea of a scholarly gentleman, or junzi, such as knowledge, compassion, discipline, and virtue. The committee chooses recipients who have both demonstrated leadership skills in their previous school environments and excelled in academics. The Junzi scholarship is only available to students applying for the International Baccalaureate Diploma program in grades 10 and 11, with a total amount from RMB 90,000 to RMB 180,000 and is valid for the entire diploma program as long as the recipient maintains their academic performance as a positive member of the school community.

**Age range:** 5-19

**Grades offered:** Foundation Year up to Grade 11 in 2016

**School type:** Local day and boarding School with an international curriculum

**Admits:** Chinese and Foreign Passport Holders  
admission@keystoneacademy.com

### House of Knowledge (HoK)

The school offers scholarships, discounts, and payment plans. Tuition payments can be paid in two installments, every six months. Their discounts are numerous, and we calculated that excluding possible embassy, corporate, and sibling discounts, parents can already reduce tuition by 28 percent.

In addition, HoK also offers the SME Scholarship for entrepreneurs and families working in smaller businesses. The scholarship is in the form of discounted tuition, up to sixty percent, and is available for children between the ages of 5 and 8.

**Age range:** 18 months -11 years

**Grades offered:** Pre-K - Elementary

**School type:** International School and Kindergarten

**Admits:** Chinese and Foreign Passport Holders  
admissions@hokschools.com

**Harrow International School Beijing (Harrow Beijing)**

Harrow Beijing offers the International Leaders' Scholarship for the best international students (foreign nationals only), which reduces tuition by 60 percent. Students must be age 5 and above, where lower school students are assessed with age-appropriate testing. Upper school applicants are assessed in five areas: English proficiency, modern foreign languages, sports, music and creative arts, community contribution, and leadership ability. The financial means of the family are taken into consideration on a case by case basis in the awarding of the scholarship.

**Age range:** 2-18 years old  
**Grades offered:** Pre-Nursery to Sixth Form  
**School type:** International school  
**Admits:** Qualified Chinese and Foreign Passport Holders  
 admissions@harrowbeijing.cn

**Western Academy of Beijing (WAB)**

They accept financial aid applications from all WAB families, new and old. The school processes applications one at a time, determining grants (if the grant can be full, half, or capped percentage) based on each individual case, and works flexibly with all families receiving support.

In addition, WAB students participate in the US National Merit Scholarship (NMSC) selection process, with the possibility of gaining USD 2,000-2,500 scholarship to be applied to tuition and other study expenses. US National Merit Scholarship is for students applying for universities in the US.

**Age range:** 3-18  
**Grades offered:** Early Years to Grade 12  
**School type:** Non-profit, independent international school  
**Admits:** Foreign Passport Holders Only

**Other Schools**

Quite a few Beijing international schools have need based scholarships and discounts that are awarded on a case by case basis. Ganeinu International School and MAC, for example, reviews need-based scholarships depending on space and individual circumstances. The French embassy has scholarship opportunities for citizens that, once received, can be applied to the International French School of Beijing (LFIP). Daystar Academy has offered scholarships in the past based on both need and fit, but at the time of publishing their policies were under review.

To find out if your desired school can work with your family's financial situation, visit the school of your choice, or contact admissions, and ask about the possibilities for a scholarship, discount, or payment plan.

Finally, if the international schools of your choice cost more than your wallet can handle, also consider Chinese schools with international departments. Such schools come with similar programs, such as the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP), but a much smaller price tag.

Check the 2016 School Choice Guide available on our website under the schools tab or in our official wechat account under bjkbest.

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Chris Buckley PhD founder of Torana Authorized dealer in Beijing



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Wechat Connection  
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**Buying in TORANA Store:**

**Euro Plaza Mall** (10am-8:30pm daily)  
 Unit LB09, Euro Plaza, No.89 Yuxiang Road, Tianzhu Town, Shunyi District, Beijing Tel: 010-84590755

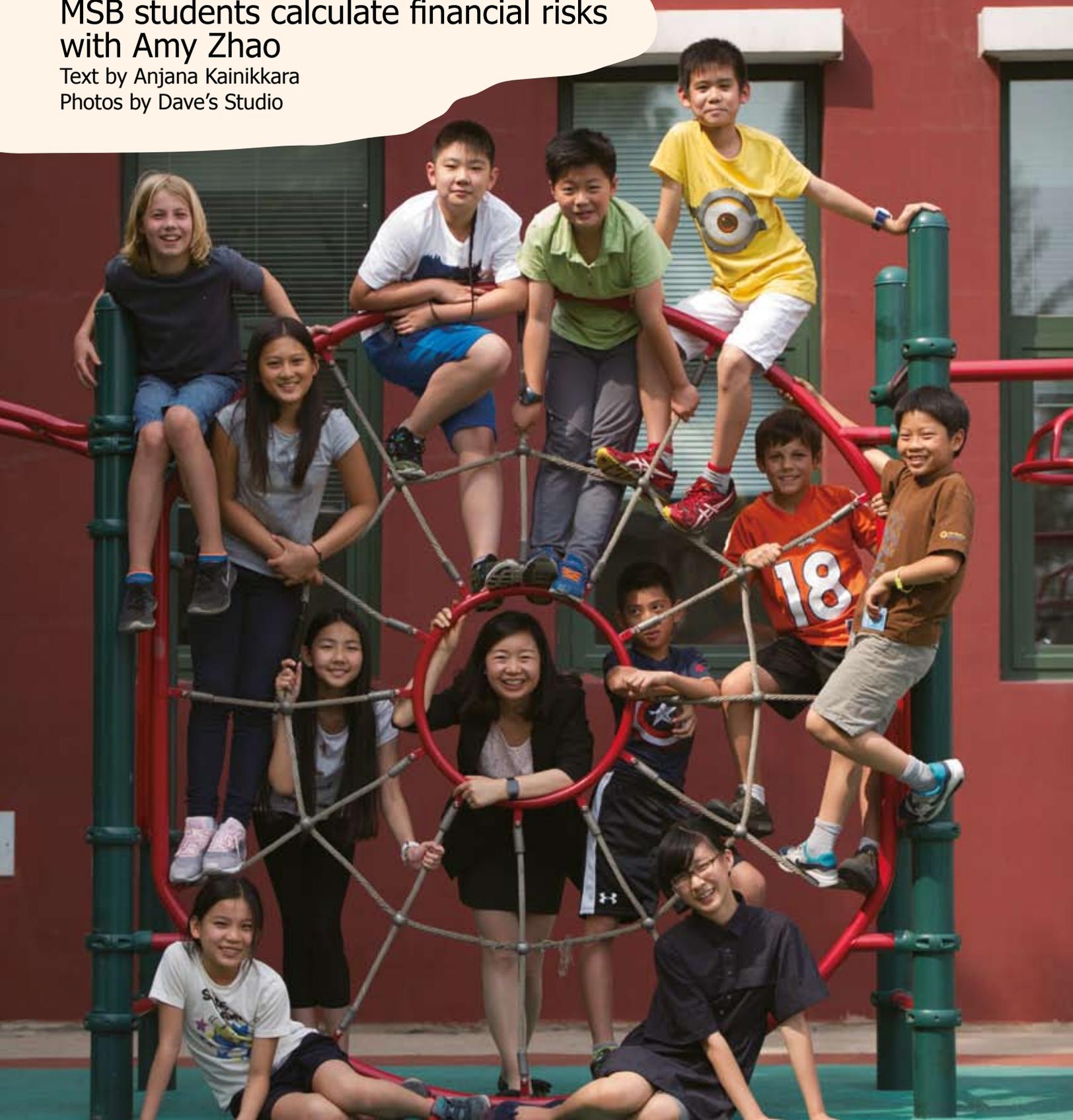
**Central Park** (10:30am-7pm daily)  
 Unit 106A, Central Park Tower 16 CBD Chaoyang District, Beijing Tel: 010-65879986

# I Want to Be a Banker

MSB students calculate financial risks with Amy Zhao

Text by Anjana Kainikkara

Photos by Dave's Studio



From left to right, top: Roman, Roxie, Kevin, Alex, Charlie, middle: Tina, Amy Zhao, Calvin, Jack, David, front: Florina, Sissi

**A**my Zhao, a client relationship manager from China Construction Bank (CCB), visited with a very curious and impressed group of kids at the International Montessori School of Beijing. From Qinghai province in western china, Zhao moved to Shandong province to study at the age of 15. She then moved to Beijing in 2002 for further studies and decided to stay on to work in Beijing. CCB is headquartered in Beijing, and Amy works in the asset custody division of the bank. She explained the workings of a bank to the children and talked about how client relationship managers help investors. The kids were very inquisitive and had lots of questions that Amy effortlessly answered, while shedding light on the entire banking industry from a high level for kids to understand. Read on to find out what kids think of banking in general and what their concerns are.

**Roman, 11, Canada**

*What is investment risk or risk appetite and is it like gambling?*

It is the degree of risk you are comfortable with, when you invest. It is a little like gambling, but less so, if you educate yourself about market trends.



**Erik, 12, USA**

*What are the various kinds of investment products?*

There are three dominant ones. Stocks, which are high risk and need a lot of knowledge, bonds (government bonds, with lower risk probability of losing money is low, financial institution bonds, and corporate bonds), and funds. They all offer different options to get a higher rate of return than what a bank might directly offer.



**Florina, 11, USA**

*Can kids have Credit Cards?*

They can get add-on cards on their parents' credit cards, but not of their own.



**Sally, 11, China**

*Can banks fail? Do banks invest our money that we deposit and lend it out?*

There are government bodies that regulate markets to ensure banks don't go bankrupt and they also have insurances to avoid such issues. Investing your money is every bank's basic business. That is what they primarily do. They do have other avenues to generate income too, though.



**Jennifer, 12, USA**

*What is a personal investor?*

A person or individual who banks directly and is a personal client, as opposed to corporate investor for a big company.



**Tina, 12, Hong Kong**

*What are the risks of credit card usage?*

People may steal it. We might use it more than needed and create financial problems for ourselves. Identity theft using different techniques is a huge problem too. However, banks have things in place like text messages for transactions, passwords on accounts, and freezing the account in case it's stolen.



**Ben, 10, Canada**

*What is the average age to open an account and how can one start a bank?*

The average age to start an account in China is 18 years. To start a bank, you need a license, you need to register with the government, get a location, and have enough funds to begin.



**Sissi, 12, China**

*Can we lose a line of credit?*

If we all deposit our money and then withdraw it for our expenses too, will the bank have no money and go bankrupt? Yes, it's based on your credit or track record. Credit cards mean that you've borrowed for a month. If you don't pay back on time you'll lose your credit line. Banks rarely go bankrupt if deposits equal withdrawals, because while that is their primary source of income, banks have other investments and avenues that bring in revenue.



**Roxie, 11, China**

*What is the limit of the amount for withdrawal?*

That depends on where you withdraw. ATM machines in China have RMB 20,000 per day limit. At the teller inside a bank though, you can withdraw your entire balance.



**Alex, 11, Singapore**

*How do they decide the rate of conversion for currency?*

That changes every day so it's different and all websites have that info. It's something that depends on the market and a lot of other factors. Each bank will then offer their rate for a day based on their calculations. They'll all be a little different.



**Ashley, 11, Singapore**

*What do I need to do in college to work in a bank?*

Most people need math, economics in college. Majors in finance, market and asset management are also quite popular for those seeking a career in finance.



**Charlie, 11, China**

*Stock risks are high but why do people still invest?*

Because those people have enough knowledge to make a calculated risk, they are open to taking a chance. The fact is that the higher the risk, the higher the return too, if it goes well.



**Calvin, 11, USA**

*What are the different jobs in banks?*

Client relationship manager, like me, account manager, bank tellers, accountants, management positions are a few examples.



# Students from Dulwich College Beijing balance out September's Blank Canvas

## Cherry Li, 19 – Hong Kong

Our hands are in constant physical contact with the rest of the world. Through constant wear they bear the inscriptions of our life experience, our passions, fears, and memories layered over one another like a palimpsest. The lines, patterns, and scars are unique to each individual. Stretching, shriveling, and creasing as we move through the stages of our lives— they serve as a topographical map of everything that has ever happened to us.



## Marijana Lemm, 18 - Germany

[These works] were initially inspired by the theme of forgotten people and overlooked places in our society. I chose this theme due to its prevalence within our youth culture; we are so focused on moving forward and caught up in our habit-orientated lives that we have ignored the peripheral – the traditions and micro-cultures that have blossomed and flourished underneath us, from the unnoticed cracks on the wall of a hutong to the unseen street sweeper.



### Melody Hsu, 18 – Taiwan

I have always been fascinated by the idea of how people can influence the atmosphere of their surroundings. For example, the pace or the scale of gestures of a single person can affect the mood and the feeling of a specific space, which then influences how others feel within the same space. I was especially interested in the daily movement of our bodies, as they were the ones that usually go unnoticed.



### Sheng Wen, 18 – USA

The concept of my work is the idea of death; the final, eternal resting place as well as life and rebirth. This is a topic that has come up time and time again as my parents are much older than other parents in our community, and it is something that weighs very heavily on my heart, and because of that the concept of a peaceful death fascinated me.

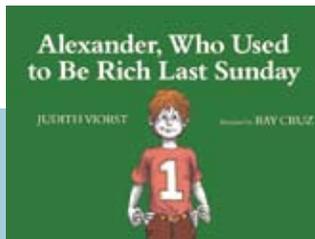


# Money is not Everything

Hyde Academy and TSL Britain educators offer reads for wads of wisdom

By Jessica Suotmaa

While educators agree that money lessons involving currency, addition, and savings are essential, they also remind us that there is more to money than cash and piggy banks.



Gerard Clyne

## Lessons in money management taught through trial and error

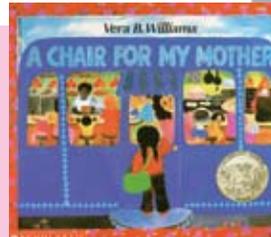
A story for children with generous grandparents, *Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday* by Judith Viorst, is a rags to riches story wherein Alexander receives a generous sum from his grandparents, but loses it almost as quickly as he received it.

Gerard Clyne, Headmaster and Co-founder of Hyde Academy, recommends the skillfully drawn black and white picture book for the “valuable lessons in money management, handling adversity, and dealing with the consequences of one’s actions.” More importantly, the book teaches the value of money using Alexander’s humorous interactions with those around him as he struggles to control his expenditure. Children learn that “impulse buying and instant rewards don’t always provide long-term happiness.” In Alexander’s case, it brings him poverty and a useless pile of junk.

In the story every child can identify with, Alexander begins with high hopes as he imagines the endless possibilities money can buy him. While “he knows that he should save his money so that he could buy a walkie-talkie at a later date, he gives up his long-term goal for short-term gratification.” In fact, Alexander is punished for each poor financial decision he makes, but each time he fails to recognize how his misfortune is a direct result of his own actions.

As the previous Math and Science Coordinator, Clyne recognizes a great tool for teaching integrated literacy and math when he sees it, and recommends it for teaching money use. Adults can encourage children to keep track of Alexander’s monetary spending by trying “to figure out how much each item costs, the amount of money Alexander has spent as the story moves along, and how much he has at the end of the story.” Children will enjoy keeping track of Alexander’s odd purchases, “from buying chewing gum, a one-eyed teddy bear, and a half-melted candle to rented snakes,” exercising real world math skills while improving their sense of money. As Alexander learns “how far his money can take him and what happens when it’s gone,” children learn the importance of saving money and developing good spending habits.

The ending of the story is foreshadowed in its title, and the story takes children in a full circle from rags to rags, challenging the reader to end the loop. “Every action has its consequences,” reminds Clyne, as he highlights how the story teaches the importance of responsibility and how facing up to one’s consequences is what growing up is all about—profound lessons in money management for children four to eight years old.



Carl Trewin

## The value of money is in using it to help others

The heart-warming narrative of *A Chair for my Mother* by Vera B. Williams is about how money can be used generously and selflessly. The main character, Rosa, is from a family consisting of only her mother and grandmother, and we learn that they are recovering from the tragedy of losing their home to a fire. Carl Trewin, Assistant Director of Studies at TSL Britain, recommends the uniquely illustrated picture book to children in grade three or higher, while emphasizing how its message of empathy can be appreciated by all ages.

In the story, Rosa’s mother works long days waitressing at a diner as the sole provider of the family, so Rosa and her grandmother help out by pooling their resources and putting all their pennies into the same jar. Their local community bigheartedly come together and raise funds to replace the furniture Rosa and her family had lost along with the rest of their belongings. Meanwhile, children can follow along as Rosa and her family try their best to fill up the coin jar—all the while wondering: will they be able to save enough money to buy Rosa’s grandmother a new armchair?

The story can be used to introduce a non-linear narrative to young readers, and open up a values-based discussion for older readers, says Trewin. “A number of wonderful conversations open up when reading this book with a young person: Why did the community buy new things for Rosa’s family? Why didn’t Rosa’s family have enough money?”

Trewin likes the book for the warm, comforting feelings it incites, the positive familial relationships it models, and the happy ending we all wait for. *A Chair for my Mother* emphasizes to students that money is not an end in itself but should be used as a means for people to share moments with ones they love.” Not only does the story create positive associations to money, but “it is dripping with examples through which to explore empathy, from the community banding together to replace Rosa’s family’s belongings after a house fire, to Rosa’s concern for the mother and grandmother raising her.” Young readers will especially appreciate how the story reinforces that no person or contribution is too small to make a difference.

# For a Rainy Day

TKè shares their favorite app to help with saving money

By Nimo Wanjau



Children can understand basic fundamentals of money and its value by age 7 according to a University of Cambridge study. We asked TKè, a company that provides workshops for children to get more hands on experience with technology, for an app recommendation to assist in this. TKè works with schools like 3e International School to provide technology-based afterschool activities. According to the organization, "We believe improving children's interpersonal skills and technological know-how will help them overcome the challenges and grasp the opportunities posed by 21st century technology."

The app they recommend is the **PiggyBot**, a free iOS application for teaching children about money. The major drawback of the app is that the app can't be synced across your iPhone, iPad, or iPod but can be downloaded on to each device. "This electronic piggybank's simple interface and limited vocabulary makes it easy for children ages 6 and up to navigate. However the app does not explain what an allowance is, nor the difference between spending and saving; it facilitates that conversation between parents and their children. Parents can use the app to indicate how much allowance each child gets, and how much of that allowance must be saved or shared."

"Once the electronic I owe you (IOU) is dispensed, each child can open his or her account and put the "money" into their respective "bins" (Spend, Share, Save). Children can then list their target purchases (e.g. a cupcake) and upload a picture of the item. They can also indicate who they want to share their "money" with, as well as remove "money" from their savings account (with parental permission). When a financial target is met, children can carry out the task with their parents' help (e.g. purchasing the cupcake) and then indicate their accomplishment on the app. Once parents confirm the accomplishment, the child receives a badge!"

"Finally, parents can tap on a child and add a list of bonus chores the child can complete for extra money. Privacy is not an issue with this app, as it asks for nothing other than a parent's email address for password recovery. No actual money is being transferred through the app, but it's a great way for children to get used to online banking, and thinking of money in more abstract terms (i.e. debt and credit cards)."

"If you're a busy parent, with older children, **Green\$treets** may be the better choice. In this virtual world, children complete electronic "chores" to earn in-game currency. They can then use the currency to decorate their virtual playroom and rescue endangered species. The app implicitly teaches children the difficulty of earning money, and the importance of saving and donating what you earn."

**Green\$treets**  
Platform: iOS  
Price: Free

**Piggy Bot**  
Platform: iOS  
Price: Free



Contact [Celia\\_y@tketech.co](mailto:Celia_y@tketech.co) for info on camps and classes.

# Prachi Gupta

YCIS Beijing's IBDP Coordinator and Economics Teacher  
inspires with real life examples

by Jessica Suotmaa



**A**s Beijing was enjoying the thrills of the 2008 summer Olympics, Prachi Gupta packed up with her family and moved from Bangkok after her husband was offered a job in the capital. Gupta was a stay-at-home mom of their daughter when she started working part time for the Yew Chung International School of Beijing (YCIS Beijing). She moved to a full time position shortly afterwards and has taught Business Management and Economics for the past seven years. Gupta shares with us her childhood memories and teaching experience thus far.

## What's was your favorite subject when you were a student? Why?

I liked mathematics and later on in high school I liked Accounting. I like numbers, so mathematics was relatively easy for me, and I got good grades.

## What did you want to be when you were a kid? What other career options did you explore before teaching?

As a kid, I had always wanted to be a teacher. After I finished my Masters in Management Studies (majoring in Finance), I joined a Securities Exchange firm as an Equity Research Analyst, where I learned a lot but did not enjoy the job much. I then joined a Private Sector Bank and got an opportunity to work in different departments: I worked in the Treasury and the Loans and Advances departments for a few years each. However, teaching was my calling, and now I am here – enjoying every single lesson.

## How would you (or your students) describe your teaching style?

Organized, focused, relaxed, persistent, caring, and funny. Very clear – explains theories very well. Uses a lot of examples and hands-on activities.

## What are some of the topics you cover?

IGCSE and IB are very curriculum driven and we cover all the topics in the syllabus and beyond; broadly, the topics include Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, International Economics, and Developmental

Economics.

## What topic was the most challenging to cover with children? Why?

Microeconomics is the most challenging to teach. This is mainly because it is taught very early in the course and forms the foundation to economic concepts learnt in the following units. At this stage, they lack a maturity of knowledge and find it difficult to understand – but this unit is the base on which all their knowledge is built.

## What topic was the most interesting to your students? Why?

Our students come from different countries and they quite enjoy the International Economics unit, mostly because they can easily relate to it and understand the different concepts. What really interests them the most is Developmental Economics; however, they can also get frustrated and emotional when we research and discuss poverty.

## How do you encourage your students to be passionate about Economics?

When we discuss real life examples and news articles, students are intrigued and able to relate to Economics, bringing the best out of a lesson. I think my passion for Economics just gets passed on to them through my words!

## What class project in your teaching career was the most meaningful to you?

In my first few years of teaching Economics, I would introduce the topics by explaining the concept, drawing the models on the white board, and felt that the students were getting impressed by my logical explanations. In recent years I have come to realize that students were not as engaged, for they were not made to "think". Now, with more experience and after sharing ideas with other teachers, I use activities where students try and build concepts with their own understanding and experiences. Most of the time they are correct with only minor errors! Hence over the years my teaching style has changed quite a lot.

# Meet Karen

## Pop quiz with a Grade 12 student at Beijing World Youth Academy

by Jessica Suotmaa

### How do you relax?

I normally watch hilarious YouTube videos (a few of my favorite YouTubers are Ryan Higa, TheFineBros, Superwoman/Lilly Singh, and Just for Laughs: Gags) or I read a book. Occasionally, I go to KTV with my friends and just scream – you do not sing at a KTV, you scream your head off into the microphone.

### What is your most treasured possession?

Although this may sound childish, I literally have three treasure boxes. I have a bunch of photographs, a stack of all the letters and cards I have received since kindergarten, and a collection of stickers in Treasure Box No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3, respectively.

### What would your super power be?

I would love to have a mega-brain. I want to be insanely smart – as smart as Einstein or Newton. Although I know it is false, I was inspired by the movie *Lucy*, starring Scarlett Johansson, which featured the theory that humans only use 10 percent of our brains.

### Which living person do you most admire, and why?

If I had been given this question two years ago, I would have said Amelia Earhart without giving it a second thought. However, recently, I have realized that the person I most admire is my father. He is more of a hero to me than any Marvel superheroes.

### If you could bring one extinct species back to life, what would you choose?

I would choose the woolly mammoth because they seem to be very cuddly. Plus, I am deeply in love with the Ice Age series.

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

I would like to put layers and layers of sunscreen on both my face and body because I have a relatively dark skin tone – I tan easily.

### What advice would you give other students at your school?

I do not have much advice except that one should never procrastinate, which I believe everyone will do anyway despite my advice.

Two, they should engage themselves in as many school activities as possible.

### What is your earliest memory?

My earliest memory is going out on a date with my dad when I was five. The one thing I remember clearly is getting disappointed at my dad's choice of menu: Chinese noodles. I was fantasizing about a luxurious meal at a five-star hotel.

### What is the most important lesson life has taught you so far?

The most important lesson my life has taught me so far is that my actions form others' opinions of me, meaning I should be careful of how I act. Especially because I am not a child anymore, I should always avoid acting like one.

### What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

I am quite satisfied with my life, but the one thing that would improve the quality of it is a waterbed. I dream of sleep floating.

### What trait do you most dislike in others?

The one trait I dislike in others is arrogance. I feel like puking when I meet extremely haughty people. These people do not simply overestimate themselves, but they also disregard others, which is the part I hate.

### What trait do you most dislike in yourself?

I dislike my hesitant personality. I have serious problems with decision-making. This is why I do not like the type of exam that asks me to pick one out of two answers.

### What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is insects. The mere sight of a cockroach sends me running around the house shrieking and crying. I heard that if there were to be an increase in the oxygen level, the bugs would become mind-blowingly huge. I just hope this never happens.



# Small Change

This month we talk to parents from different cultural backgrounds about kids and money

by Andrew Killeen



**Ellen Liu** is a native Beijinger. She's a stay-at-home mom, looking after son Thomas (age 7) while her husband is at work. Thomas attends Yizhuang First Central Primary School.

**Do you give your child pocket money? If so, how much and at what age did he begin to receive it?**

Currently, we don't regularly give him pocket money. I'm considering giving him regular pocket money when he gets to 10. Maybe RMB 20 per week.

**Does he get paid for chores?**

We have tried this method before, but not always. My son likes to get involved with chores, but doesn't expect to get money, though we have paid him sometimes for doing chores.

**Do you control how he spends his money?**

He gets money as bonus. He had a deal with his dad on how much money he gets depends on the total scores of the final exams at the end of every semester. For example, if he gets 200 marks in total, he will get RMB 20. His dad said that in this way, he will have to earn money through his effort. Then he'll know that one has to work hard to make money. He will treat the money made through his effort more carefully and rationally.

**Does your child have a bank account?**

My son has his own bank account. We created a bank account in his name the year he was born, and deposit all the hongbao money he got in it.

**Does your child take any part in family budgeting or shopping?**

We provide daily necessities and things he needs for study. Other than that, he has to pay for the toys he wants to get.

**Does your child run errands?**

When I was a little girl, I ran errands in the hutongs all the time, though my parents never gave me any money for that. For now, times are different, and the social environment has changed. I once intended to send my seven-year-old son to buy things in the neighborhood, but my husband and the grandparents opposed the idea. So my son has never run errands so far.

**Do you talk to your child about money, and financial planning?**

We once talked about how to spend money wisely. I compared the product he wants to buy to his favorite toys. For example, I told him that an expensive Lego kit will cost many toy cars.

**Do you talk to in-laws or grandparents about how much money they should give to your child, as presents or hongbao?**

I don't talk to grandparents about giving him money or not, or how much money they should give him. I don't want him to take that money, but if the grandparents insist, I will put the money in his bank account.

**Does your child give to or collect money for charity?**

My son has given money to charity.

**Does the Tooth Fairy visit your home? If so, how much does she leave?**

I have told my son stories about the Tooth Fairy, but it's not Chinese tradition to put money under his pillow.



**Michelle**

**Hrabar (USA)** has

lived in Beijing for seven years, with her husband Craig (Australia) and two daughters, Corinna (age 14) and Abbie (9). Michelle is a housewife while Craig works in management at an energy company. Corinna and Abbie are students at Dulwich College Beijing (DCB).

**Do you give your children pocket money? If so, how much? At what age did they start getting it?**

Corinna, our 14-year-old daughter, has a bank account in Australia for university. Corinna has only ever saved her pocket money so we later decided to bank it for university. A

monthly amount is deposited. She only gets spending money now for outings with her friends. Abbie, our 9-year-old, gets RMB 20 per week to spend in her school store, to buy toys or school supplies. Any other spending, I buy for her as they come up and are agreed on. The only exceptions for both are summer holidays, where they are allocated an amount for spending.

**Do they get paid for chores?**

No. Chores are part of being a family and are not rewarded with money. Honestly, we do more chores than some, but our lovely ayi does the majority.

**Do you control how they spend their money?**

I will advise them what I think when they spend their money, but I let them choose what they buy more often than not, unless it is something I feel they will not use or is unnecessary.

**Do your children have bank accounts?**

Corinna has a college fund. Abigail will be getting one this year.

**Do your children take any part in family budgeting or shopping?**

Both girls help with grocery shopping and clothes shopping. They are very aware of the cost of things and how it compares with their home country. They are also very good at price comparison.

**Do your children run errands?**

Corinna and Abbie sometimes will go to the shop within our compound and buy something needed last minute.

**Do you talk to your children about money, and financial planning?**

We have not talked to the girls about financial planning. A great question and one I think I will look at seriously moving forward.

**Do you talk to in-laws or grandparents about how much money they should give to your children, as presents or hongbao?**

No, what our families decide to give is fine. I don't believe we would ever do that unless they were overindulging our daughters, which is not the case.

**Do your children give to or collect money for charity?**

They have been involved in charity since arriving in China seven years ago. One year Corinna asked for all her presents to be money given to a foster home, and Abbie has raised funds for Roundabout.

**Does the Tooth Fairy visit your home? If so, how much does she leave?**

We have a very overindulgent Tooth Fairy. She has been known to give up to RMB 30 per tooth. I have thought seriously about discussing appropriate amounts to give children but who can argue with the Tooth Fairy?

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MICHELLE HRABAR

# Money, Music and Motherhood

by Ember Swift

Modern, working musicians can never focus on money. Sustainability is key in the arts, and longevity in the field usually qualifies as “making it.” If we continue making music as our main vocation over many years, eventually this industry rewards us.

Nevertheless, after moving to Beijing in 2008, I learned that diversity is the key to survival as an expat in China. As a native English speaker who also speaks Mandarin, it wasn't long before I discovered that many project-based companies were seeking my skill set. And many were connected to music. So, music and money were made together. Let the choir sing!

But the purpose of making money shifted when I became a parent in 2012 and 2013. No longer was it just to sustain as an individual artist; money became essential to ensuring their futures. And before I could strum that changed chord to my perspective, my daughter went from infancy to kindergarten and school fees loomed. Suddenly, there was a third reason to make money: to meet the demands of an international school education—our choice, yes, but also our burden. With free public schooling and an extremely high standard of education in Canada, you can imagine how hard it was to accept such an expense in my artist's life.

But, flip global perspectives a moment and let me take you back to Canada with me this summer. In July, I had a week of teaching work at a songwriting course in Toronto. It was a great opportunity, but one for which I needed daytime childcare. Since I came back to my home country alone with two kids (husband unavailable, extended Canadian family not living in Toronto directly), I had to find someone in Toronto who could help me. Luckily, my dear friend's partner is a childcare worker. She is fully certified, gentle-natured, and my kids already knew and loved her so she was naturally my first choice. Embarrassingly, I booked the kids into the week with her before I even inquired into her fees. We have a full-time ayi in Beijing for our domestic and childcare needs, and so I am familiar with paying for support. Surely it wouldn't be that much more expensive!

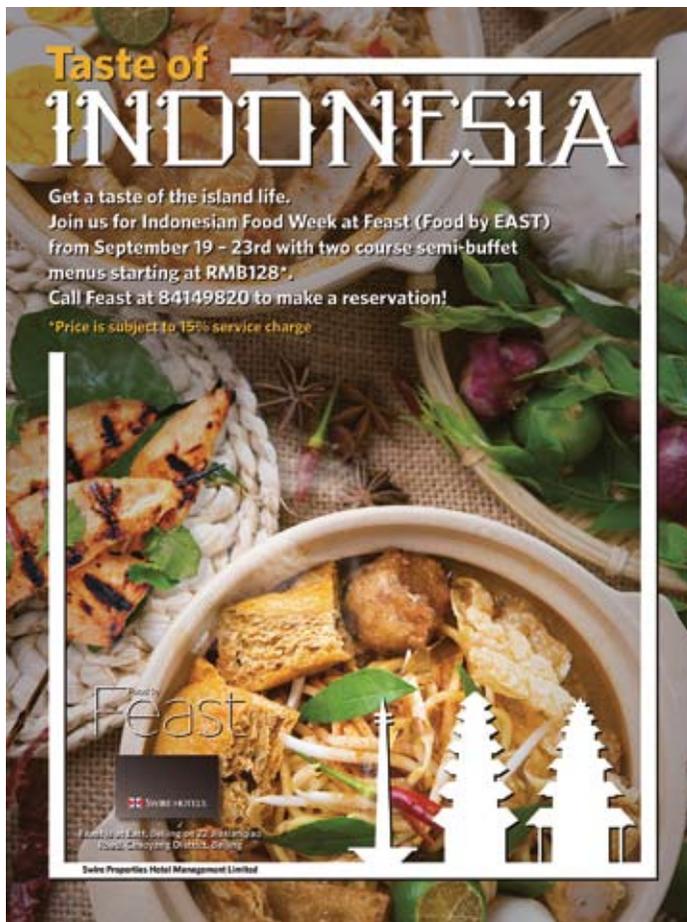
Sustainability is key in the arts, and longevity in the field usually qualifies as “making it.”

The volume of Western childcare fees blasted me like cheap China speakers. Four and a half days of childcare costs for both kids cost me the same as one month of Beijing ayi fees, not to mention two-thirds of my income as a teacher for the week. It was, as you can imagine, very sobering. But necessary, for the sake of music making. Unquestionably. The songs must get written, no matter what the costs.

And so after the week had come and gone, I took pause. I turned down all the music and listened to the silence of reason that long-term planning brings.

Childcare is very expensive in Canada, but it's affordable in China. Schooling is very expensive in China, but it's free in Canada. It's a no-brainer. For now, with one kid needing daytime childcare, we stay in Beijing. We can afford one set of international school fees and a full-time ayi. But two years from now when both kids will be school age, there is no other choice—financially—but to come back to Canada.

So this is the beginning of a long goodbye. And already, I know, I will miss my ayi the way a song misses a singer. She will have gone the long haul with us and, as I said, longevity is key to a successful music career. Thanks to her, we will have “made it.”



## About the Writer

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

# A Monopoly Far, Far Away

by Andrew Killeen

It's Monopoly night. Because nothing brings a family together like trying to drive each other to bankruptcy.

Unfortunately our Monopoly set is Star Wars themed, so while I try to set up the game, Joseph engages the pieces in a furious lightsaber battle, with Batman-style sound effects.

"Wha-poosh!" he cries, as Darth Vader skids across the board.

"No wha-poosh," I tell him, picking up the scattered cards.

"Wha-pompom!"

One of the joys of parenthood is that as your children get older, they become lawyers, picking through every word you say for loopholes.

"No wha-pompom either."

"Lanko! Dondy! Triple somersault dive!"

Finally order is restored, and the game begins.

"You owe me 26 credits rent," Noah tells Joseph.

"Why?"

"Because you landed on my planet."

"Why does that mean I owe you rent?" Joseph asks, not unreasonably. "I don't live there."

"Because that's the way it is," Noah says. "Make that 30 for arguing."

Monopoly is instructive about money, in more ways than one. Its forerunner, The Landlord's Game, was designed by left wing radicals to warn people of the evils of capitalism.

"There are those who argue that it may be a dangerous thing to teach children how to get the advantage of their fellows, but let me tell you there are no fairer-minded beings in the world than our own little American children," wrote its inventor Elizabeth Magie, optimistically. "Let the children once see clearly the gross injustice of our present land system, and when they grow up, the evil will soon be remedied."

## Monopoly is instructive about money, in more ways than one

Capitalism struck back though. Unemployed heater salesman Charles Darrow stole the idea and sold it to Parker Brothers as his own invention. When Magie protested, she was paid USD 500 for the rights to her game. Magie was subsequently written out of the history of Monopoly, which was recast as a Depression-era rags to riches tale of American "can do" spirit. Darrow became a millionaire.

### About the Writer

Andrew Killeen is a novelist and creative writing teacher. Originally from Birmingham, England, he studied at Cambridge University and now lives in Beijing with his wife and two crazy boys, Noah (age 10) and Joseph (age 7). In between he was at various times a DJ, festival director, positive parenting practitioner, and homeless support worker. His critically acclaimed historical novels are available from Dedalus Books.



Back on the board, Noah has persuaded Joseph to sell him the Coruscant Senate (that's Boardwalk or Mayfair to you traditionalists), and settlements have sprung up all over the planet. When Joseph touches down there, it's game over for him. He happily returns to his lightsaber battles.

"Wha-schmoofah!"

I, however, know the secret of Monopoly. It's not flashy Boardwalk that wins you the game, but another, apparently undistinguished set, which you can usually snap up without fuss. (No, I'm not telling you which one. I might play you some time.)

While Noah builds expensively on the dark blues, I gradually spread my grip across the board, and wear him down by degrees. He ends his days penniless in Mos Eisley, which is, as everybody knows, a wretched hive of scum and villainy.

So, boys, what have you learned from this game?

"Money is important," Noah observes thoughtfully, "when it comes to buying things."

"And never play games with Dad," Joseph adds. "Because he always wins."

Good. The evening has not been wasted.

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# Smart Money

How to save a quarter million kuai a year

Text by Andrew Killeen

Photo by Dave's Studio

“...it must be possible to live well in Beijing and still save money, right?”



For many international families, their time in China is an opportunity to save money, or to send it back home as a nest egg for the future. However, expat life can be expensive. Beijing was this year named as “the most expensive global city to rent in” by the Global Cities Business Alliance. And those little luxuries, or comforts to alleviate homesickness, can quickly add up, leaving you with little or no spare cash.

Yet most international families are wealthy compared to ordinary

Beijingers. According to the Bureau of Statistics, the average salary in the city is RMB 6,500 a month. Expat packages can be six times that or more. So it must be possible to live well in Beijing and still save money, right?

Of course. Let *beijingkids* show you how you can save over RMB 250,000 a year, by living more like a local. And you get the authentic Beijing experience too.

## LIVING

### Move to the 'Burbs

Do you really need that hutong or Sanlitun pad? Beijing's ever expanding subway network means that you can live in the suburbs without being cut off from all the action. Shunyi is expensive, but areas like Tongzhou and Haidian are rapidly developing, and offer community life on a more human scale than the teeming highways of downtown.

#### Rent on a 2 bedroom apartment in CBD:

RMB 10,000 per month

#### Rent on a 2 bedroom apartment in Tongzhou:

RMB 3,500 per month.

**Annual savings:** RMB 78,000



### Ditch the Ayi

OK, this is a contentious area. You may be shouting at the page that you already don't have an ayi and can't afford one. Or you might be yelling that you work long hours, that your ayi is a godsend, and without her you'd have no family time at all. However, it's worth considering whether you're getting the right kind of help.

If all you need is a hand with the housework, a domestic cleaning service or *xiaoshi gong* might be better value.



**Ayi, 20 hours per week, at RMB 40 per hour:** RMB 800 per week

**Cleaning service, 10 hours per week, at RMB 30 per hour:** RMB 300 per week.

**Annual saving:** RMB 26,000

### Get a Lodger

If you have a spare room, then a lodger can bring in much needed income. Place a small ad on the Beijinger website, and you could make a new friend. Plus, your lodger could be a cheaper babysitting option than an ayi (assuming of course you carry out appropriate background checks).

**Rent on a room in Tongzhou:** RMB 1,000

**Annual savings:** RMB 12,000



## EDUCATION

Unless school fees are included in your salary package, they can be a major expense. One cheaper option is to send your children to the international section of a local school, such as Fangcaodi. Entry requirements can be opaque and may require the exercise of *guanxi*. Also, many teach only in Mandarin, so your kids will need to be fluent. See our article about international school scholarships on page 27.

**Average fees for two children at international schools:** RMB 100,000

**Average fees for two children at a local school:** RMB 50,000

**Annual savings:** RMB 50,000



## TRANSPORT

Get on your Bike!

Why spend half your life sitting in jams when you could be zipping through the traffic and keeping fit at the same time? Beijing is the perfect city for cyclists: it's flat, with an extensive network of broad bike lanes. (We will pass over the fact that the bike lanes are so wide they're often full of cars.) Traveling by bicycle is often quicker than car, as you can bypass Beijing's infamous congestion. And if you're getting daily exercise, then there's no need for that expensive gym membership either.



**Car rental (with driver):** RMB 5,000 per month

**Gym membership:** RMB 4,000 per year

**Cost of a good quality second hand bike:** RMB 500

**Annual savings:** RMB 63,500

## FOOD AND DRINK

### Eat Local

Food is relatively cheap in Beijing, but not if you want to keep eating like a Westerner. A small frozen pizza can cost RMB 50-70, a liter of fresh fruit juice RMB 30. Buying imported food can almost double the cost of your weekly shop.

But if you don't know what to do with all those strange vegetables and spices, don't worry. You can take a course in Chinese cooking, learn lots of new skills to impress your friends at dinner parties, and still save money!

**Monthly groceries including Western food:** RMB 3,500

**Monthly groceries without Western food:** RMB 2,000

**Intensive ten day cookery course with The Hutong:** RMB 4,000

**Annual Savings:** RMB 14,000



### Shop Local

There are further savings to be made if you step away from the comfort of the supermarket and discover your local market. This is not only a money saver, but a great opportunity to practice your Chinese and mingle with real Beijingers!



**Savings on monthly shop by buying fruits, vegetables, and meat at the market:** RMB 500  
**Annual Savings:** RMB 6,000

### Drink Local

If you like a glass of wine for the weekend, this can quickly become a major expense. Imported wines are, frankly, overpriced, with mass-produced Chilean plonk retailing at RMB 200-300, and decent (though undistinguished) Bordeaux costing up to RMB 800. There are bin end bargains to be had at supermarkets like Jenny Lou's, but very often the wine has been poorly transported or stored and is long past its best.

However locally produced vino is fast improving. While there is nothing to match the best of European or New World wine, you can find a decent tippie if you do a bit of research. Generally, it's best to avoid big brand names and look for smaller vineyards, although Great Wall produces some acceptable *vins de table*.

**Bottle of French wine:** RMB 500  
**Bottle of comparable Chinese wine:** RMB 150  
**Annual savings:** RMB 16,800



### A Tip – Don't Tip

There is no expectation in Chinese restaurants and taxis that you pay anything other than the stated price, any more than you would tip in McDonald's.

The savings from this are slight, and you may feel that a small expense to you makes a big difference to low paid workers. Bear in mind though that in some quarters tipping is seen as an insult, implying that the *laoban* doesn't pay their workers properly.

**Annual savings:** RMB 500



## TRAVEL

### The Rail

The lure of travel is what drew many families to Beijing in the first place, but you don't have to push the boat out to see the wonders of Asia. China's railway system is clean, efficient, and comfortable. Bullet trains reach speeds of over 180 mph but the ride is so smooth that you'll barely know you're moving. A sleeper train, meanwhile, is fun for the kids, who can lie in bed and watch the country race by. And in the morning, you wake up in a new city. Just make sure to book a soft sleeper. Hard sleepers may be an adventure too far for even the most intrepid family!

**Round trip for two adults and two children to Shanghai by airplane:** RMB 6,800

**Round trip for two adults and two children, second class to Shanghai by bullet train:** RMB 2,800

**Annual savings:** RMB 4,000



### Host City

Why pay premium prices for cramped rooms in a hotel when you can live like a local and enjoy a whole apartment? There's a reason why Airbnb has become one of the biggest companies in the world since its founding in 2008. It's particularly convenient for parents of young children, who don't want to leave their kids in a room on their own, but also don't want to be stuck with the little ones in a tiny hotel room after bedtime.

**Seven nights in Shanghai:**  
**In a hotel family room:** RMB 4,650  
**In a two bedroom apartment:** RMB 3,500  
**Annual savings:** RMB 1,150

### All Assets Put to Work

While you're on Airbnb making those holiday plans, then sublet your apartment to short term project professionals and have your home maintain itself while you are away.

**Sublet apartment during winter and summer holidays at RMB 150 – 200 per day**  
**Annual Savings RMB 10,500-14,000**

## SHOPPING

### Swap till you Drop

Children grow out of clothes quickly, and there's little sense in buying them expensive designer gear for day to day wear and play. We say, let them get scuffed and mucky – it's what childhood is all about! International families are often far from relatives who might be a source of traditional "hand me downs," so why not organize a clothes swap? It's a great way for communities to come together, and to meet the neighbors. Adults too might find clothes they like!

**Annual clothing budget per child:** RMB 2,000-3,000

**Reduced budget with clothes swaps:** RMB 500

**Annual savings per child:** RMB 500



### Drive a Hard Bargain

Haggling is another activity which doesn't come naturally to many Westerners. We're not suggesting that you start arguing over the bill at April Gourmet, but if you're in the Pearl or Silk Markets, then you'd be ill-advised to pay the first price that's mentioned.

It's a good rule of thumb to offer 20 percent of the asking price. You will of course be greeted with incredulity, horror, mockery, and other expressions of disgust. Your next move should be to walk away. Generally, the vendor will chase after you, and proper negotiations will begin; if they don't, then you'll nearly always be able to find the same goods somewhere else not too far away.

The purpose of starting so low is to be able to go up sufficiently to preserve the vendor's dignity, while still arriving at a good price for you. In the end, the determining factor should not be the vendor's starting figure, but what you are prepared to pay. Vendors will never sell at a loss, and would rather make a small profit than lose a sale. Don't be afraid to stick to your guns.

**Annual savings:** RMB 600

### Taobao to the Inevitable

If you don't read hanzi fluently, then Taobao can be intimidating, with its flashing lights, dense text, and endless menus. Paying isn't easy either, until you've set up an Alipay account (see the helpful guide "How to: Set Up Alipay as a Foreigner" on our website). Once you're in though, you have access to a market of staggering size and cutthroat competition. No need to worry about haggling, when every price is immediately visible and vendors are vying for your business. Whatever you want, you can get it, for a bargain price and delivered to your door.

**Annual savings:** RMB: 1,000 or more



### Filter tips

Beijing's water is safe to drink at the point when it leaves the purification plant, but most Beijingers, both international and local, don't trust the pipes it flows through on the way to your home. Even if you believe the water to be safe, it has a taste which many find unpleasant. Bottled water is the usual solution, but is it really any better?

As with food, there have been many water-related scandals in China in recent years. In 2007, a study found that 40 percent of bottled water was simply tap water. Where the water itself is genuine, the bottles might be a concern. Cheaply produced plastic will contaminate its contents if it gets warm. Then there's the environmental cost of delivering water, and particularly of importing it.

The alternative is to have a water filter fitted in your home. This means you can be sure that the water your family is drinking is safe – and it saves money too!

**4 x 19L bottles of water per week:** RMB 100

**Water filter:** RMB 2,000

**Annual savings:** RMB 3,200



## DISCLAIMER

### Your Mileage May Vary

Obviously not all tips here are going to be suitable for every family. Some families may not be spending, or even earning, RMB 250,000 a year. We still hope you may find something here to inspire you.

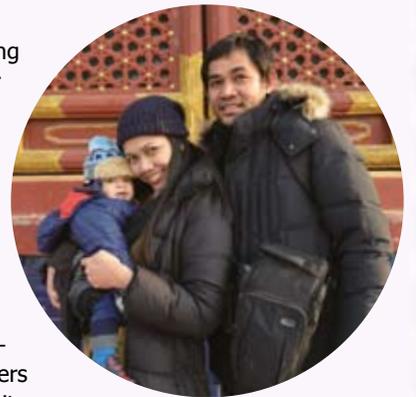
# Every Jiao Counts

What do you do with your extra income?

By Anastasia Levina

**M**any expats come to Beijing to make money and save. But we wondered what does everyone do with what they earn? We talked to four disparate Beijing families, who shared with us a usually private part of their lives: finance and disposable income management.

income, planning to keep it for their son's education. They also help relatives in emergencies, and, when asked about her opinion on family loans, Rocyl says she prefers to keep it gratuitous.



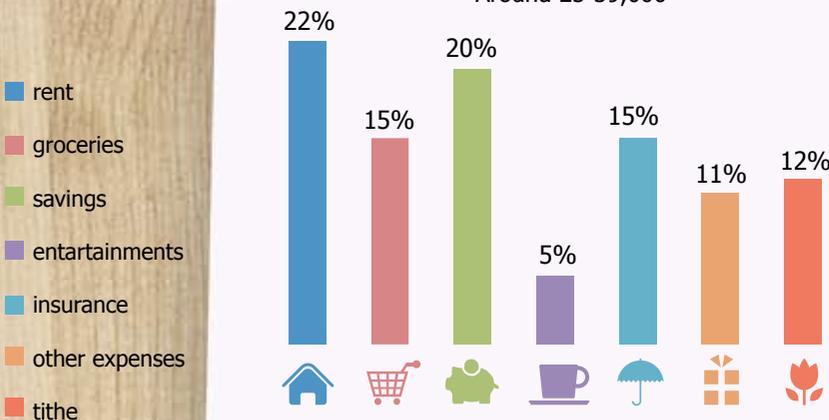
A large part of their family lifestyle is the Christian faith. On Sundays, they fellowship with one another, their friends, and their church, and give a ten percent tithe to express thankfulness and faithfulness.

Rocyl rates her finance literacy at 8 out of 10 points. She admits that her family's lifestyle is pretty simple. "I would like to have my money 'working', but I don't know how to do that, so I prefer to just keep it in a bank account," she says. They almost never spend on extravagant purchases, but neither do they skimp on important expenditures. Their future plans are still uncertain: international schools in Beijing, even with company discounts, are expensive, which may become a problem when Elijah gets older.

"We came from a developing country, and here in China it is an opportunity for us to earn much more than in the Philippines," adds Rocyl. Philippine families usually live with many generations under one roof, with the children staying with their parents until marriage. In Chinese culture, a child work-

## The Balinas Family

Around 25-39,000



Pediatrician Rocyl Joy and stay at home dad Timothy John Balinas and their 18-month-old son Elijah John are from the Philippines and have been in China for three years.

Despite a higher salary, the Beijing lifestyle also requires greater expenses: for example, the rent here for a year is comparable to the cost of purchasing a house in the Philippines. Still, Rocyl and Timothy manage to save around 10 to 20 percent of their

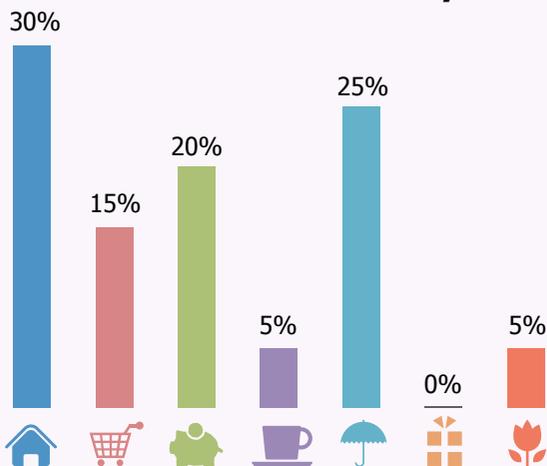
ing while studying is considered to be a sign that their family can't provide for their essential needs. Though Rocyl says no one would be against her child wanting to work, once he starts, it's a good idea to make him contribute to some household costs, like electricity and phone bills.

kids preferring stability. Chua says, "I have a friend who opened a small startup here with a Chinese partner, and in the end the business was taken over."



On weekends the family meets with friends and goes to church. Chua enjoys visiting baby cafes, covering them as a freelance blogger afterwards. They travel a few times a year, going to friends' weddings or visiting relatives. Part of their disposable income goes to building a house in Korea where they're planning to live after retirement, and additional savings are intended to contribute towards paying their children's college tuitions.

### The Park-Chua Family

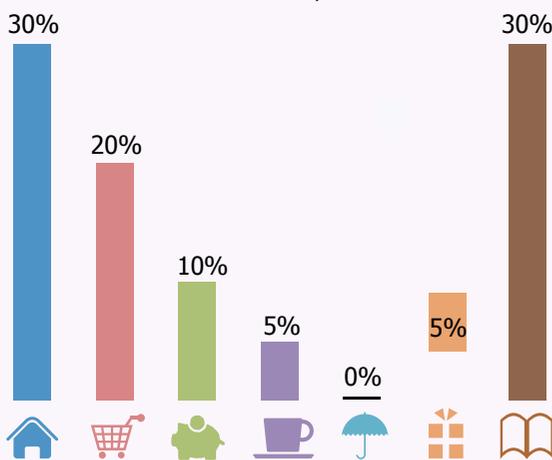


Many companies require expats to sign agreements saying they won't buy cars or property in China, and be ready to move out to another place at four weeks' notice – which may cause problems for families with kids already enrolled at school or kindergartens. However the compensation sometimes includes accommodation and insurance packages, allowing the family to save up to 65-70 percent of income. Young Bae Park (South Korea) and Jaclyn Desiree Chua (Malaysia), and their children, Leann (age 3) and Lina (1), just moved back to Beijing, sent here for a second time by Park's company. Park uses his corporate finance experience to divide the family's money resources between Korea, the USA, China, and the Philippines. In addition to investing in stocks, the family also owns a restaurant.

"A few years ago people in China invested in state-owned enterprises, and that all paid off, but traditional spheres are not that profitable anymore," notes Park. Other reliable sectors in the Chinese economy have become the new mainstream, including gaming, robotics, education, infant products, organic food, and delivery markets. Startups in China are a high-risk investment choice, and therefore might be a bad idea for a family with small

### The Lyu Family

Around 25-39,000



Stas and Eleonora Lyu and their daughters, Angelina (15) and Evelina (7), are a Russian family that has lived in Beijing for eleven years. Stas is a teacher at an international school, and his wife works from home. Angelina speaks three languages fluently: Russian, Chinese and English, while Evelina also knows Korean. The multilingual education opportunity in a fully international society is among the main reasons they're still living here.

- rent
- groceries
- savings
- entertainment
- insurance
- other expenses
- tithe
- education

"The Beijing property market has changed a lot in the last ten years," says Stas. "Renting prices skyrocketed, even though salaries remained almost the same, and the percentage of income that goes to rental needs tripled," he adds. Now the same agreeable family place that was available for RMB 2,000 has upped to RMB 6,000. "If ten years ago I knew how high the property market would rise and if I had enough money, I'd definitely have invested in it," Stas says regretfully.

Getting a loan from a bank to purchase property is difficult for foreigners and almost no one does it. Most of their family income goes to international education. After apartment rent and groceries, they tend to save around 20 percent of their total income. Health insurance is not included in their monthly expenses, as they found it's cheaper to pay each time a hospital visit is needed. Furthermore, considering the RMB to be a safe currency, they prefer to keep savings in it. "Both me and my wife have a lot of relatives back home, so presents to everyone and tickets for the whole family for a visit to a hometown once a year eats most of our savings," Stas tells us.

Stas and Eleonora discuss finance management with their kids, telling them the different family expenditures. They encourage their elder daughter to work during holidays. This past summer, she taught English in their hometown; this experience helped her understand labor value.

years ago, they used to work in Africa and South East Asia in international schools. They say it's their dream job, and that it also pays much better abroad than in their home country. Now Sarah is a stay-at-home mom, and her husband is an educational consultant. His work package provides them with an apartment, health insurance, international school fees, flights back home – and this gives them an opportunity to save around half of their income. All the family has to pay for is their vehicle, phone costs, and household bills, and having the extra income means they are able to also employ a part-time ayi to take care of the house, which they never could afford before. "For us work in China gives an opportunity for me to be with my children and watch them grow, without leaving this in the hands of a nanny," smiles Sarah. The family likes this lifestyle and doesn't want to change it anytime soon.

Sarah is looking forward to going back to work as soon as Olivia is old enough to attend school. They will be able to go back to when they were only spending a third of her salary, keeping another third of it for traveling, and saving the final third plus her husband's entire salary. "We just put the money in a bank, and save it for buying a house back in New Zealand some years later," Sarah tells us. They usually save money in New Zealand dollars, believing it to be a safer country for investment than China.

On the weekends the family usually goes to parks or on hikes to the Great Wall. Eating out is also an essential part of a weekend. Once or twice a year they go somewhere overseas for vacations, though now with a small baby it has become more complicated.

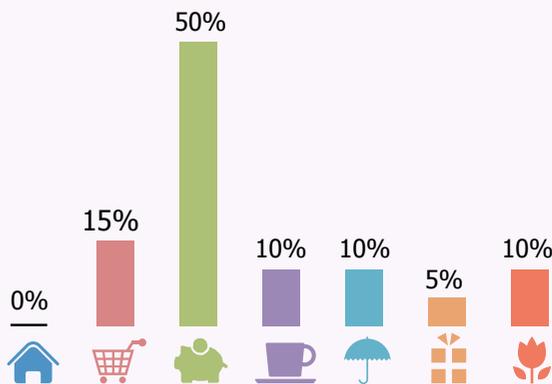
They try to discuss finances with their kids, as far as they are currently capable of understanding, teaching them to consider the amount of money they can spend on certain things. Sarah has been working since she was 15 years old, but now says her attitude to their own children working for pocket money will depend on which country they live in, as it is inappropriate to the Chinese community, for example.

Taken together, all of these accounts illustrate what opportunities life in China gives. A great educational opportunity for children, most of whom grow up speaking more than two languages at a native level; higher salaries, which enables a better lifestyle than back home. Regardless, all interviewed consider life here as a temporary episode, and hope to return home at some point in the future.

*\*Barry Family names changed on request due to sensitivity of the subject.*

**The Barry Family**  
Over 40000

- rent
- groceries
- savings
- entertainment
- insurance
- other expenses
- tithe



Sarah and Michael Barry, teachers from New Zealand, have three children, Leo (age 5), Timothy (3), and Olivia (1)\*. Before coming to China two

### BIBA Receives WASC Accreditation

The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC), United States granted Beijing International Bilingual Academy (BIBA) accreditation status in July, 2016. This reflects BIBA's education standard and student performance, as well as its robust quality assurance processes.



### Harrow Beijing Wins Big at Primary FOBISIA Games

The Harrow International School Beijing's U9, U10 & U11 Primary FOBISIA (The Federation of British International Schools in Asia) teams won big in Malaysia in what has possibly been one of the most successful performances in the Primary FOBISIA Games. The school took home a total haul of 36 medals in swimming and athletics as well as placing 3rd overall in swimming.



### ISB Futures Academy Expands to High School

The International School of Beijing (ISB) Futures Academy is an educational model designed to inspire creativity, develop problem-solving skills and effective communication, and encourage flexibility and cooperation. The model facilitates learning opportunities and experiences that cultivate these transferable skills, and aims to empower students to take ownership of their learning. In 2016-17, the ISB Futures Academy will expand to include students from Grade 9 in the high school program.



## School News



### Atelier's Adult and Kids Art Crawl

On June 11 and 12, Atelier organized two outdoor art activities, Art Crawl for adults and Junior Art Crawl for kids, to explore what the Hutong area has to offer.



### DCB Appoints New Headmaster

Dulwich College Beijing introduces Simon Herbert as the new Headmaster of the College. Herbert comes to the position after four years as Head of Senior School at DCB. He has worked in schools in the UK, Kenya, and France. Herbert also has business experience in advertising in London.



### BSB Shunyi Choirs Joined the "Voices Around the World"

The British School of Beijing (BSB) Shunyi's primary and secondary choirs participated in the "Voices Around the World" – a free project to help young people work together musically to "Sing Out! Speak Out! And Change the World!" 100 students filmed the video on the BSB field with the Chinese flag and a dragon, and sent in their audio recordings to the VATW. VATW will combine videos from choir students from all around the world. The students loved the experience and can't wait to hear the final result.



### Keystone Gets WASC Accreditation

Keystone Academy has now been fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ASC WASC) from foundation year to Grade 10. WASC is a world-renowned accrediting association, and one of the six regional accrediting agencies in the United States. They also work closely with the Office of Overseas Schools under the U.S. Department of State.



### WAB Student Gets Extra Funding for Aji Project

Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) student Lorraine Jiang earned USD500 from the East Asia Regional Council of Schools (EARCOS) to fund her project designed to help international families' aji's learn English. Lorraine was invited to Harvard University to present her initiative to global scholars, which started out as her Personal Project in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme and has expanded to serve the larger Beijing community. The goal of the project is to improve the personal and professional lives of aji's and give them more opportunities through English language.



### YCIS Beijing Hires New Vice Principal

Yew Chung International School Beijing is excited to welcome experienced educator and leader Don Collins into his new role as Secondary School Vice-Principal. Collins has 20 years of experience in education in Australia.

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

### Gastronomic Delights

On August 13-14, the Beijinger's 2nd International Foodie Weekend brought over 60 food vendors to Sanlitun Soho for a weekend of culinary fun. Festival goers were treated to live music performances and food-related stage acts, which included free cupcake tasting for all children in attendance.



PHOTOS: UNI YOU

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](mailto:webeditor@beijing-kids.com) by **September 9**.



**Celebrating YCIS Beijing Class of 2016**

The Yew Chung International School of Beijing held its graduation ceremony for its Year 13 students in late June.



**2016 CISB Graduation Ceremony and Banquet**

On June 16, the Canadian International School of Beijing held its formal graduation ceremony for their 37 seniors on their campus ground, then a banquet at the Westin Hotel Chaoyang.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CISB AND YCIS



### Out of Class Lessons at ISB

In June, International School of Beijing (ISB) high school students spent their last week of school on Experiential Learning Opportunities of their choosing across Beijing, and in and out of China. Activities varied from cooking classes, to producing music, to cycling through Yangshuo.



### BSB Art Department London Trip

22 students from the British School of Beijing (BSB) Shunyi visited London in June 2016 for the first time, for a true taste of British culture. Art Teachers and students took part in a workshop by The Shakespeare Company, visited various galleries and enjoyed sightseeing in London.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ISB AND BSB



**3e Ushers in New School Year**

On August 9, 3e International School held their "Back to School Day" to welcome families with fun games, activities, and school-wide information. Students and parents had the chance to meet faculty and become familiar with the new classrooms.



**Family & Hope Children Art Workshop and Exhibition**

Last May, Atelier created a series of classes commissioned by the French company Sanofi to teach art to children from migrant schools in Shanghai and Beijing and diabetic children in Nanjing. The initiative was part of the Croisements Festival, and linked to Grégoire Korganow's photography exhibition *Father and Son*.

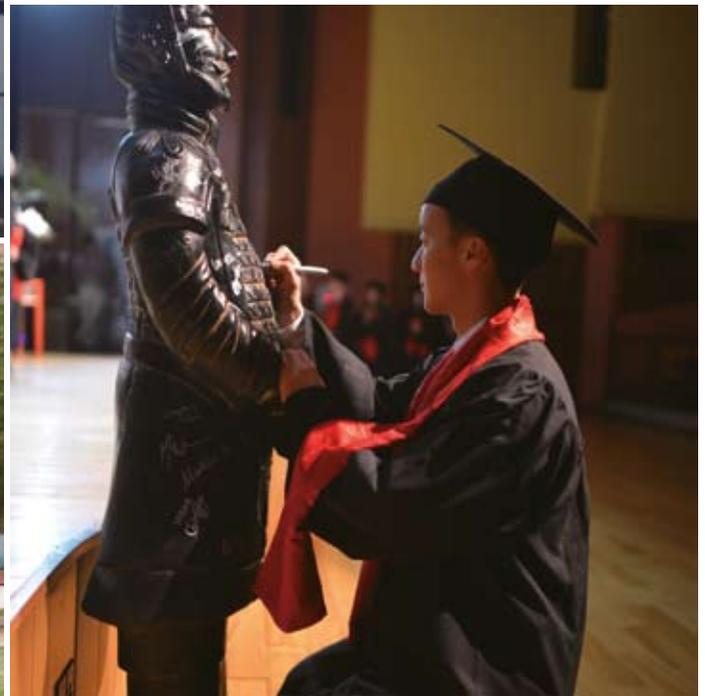


PHOTOS: COURTESY OF 3E AND ATELIER



### Hats Off to DCB's Class of 2016

On May 23, Dulwich College Beijing's Class of 2016 paraded through the Legend campus for the last time, then went on to have their graduation ceremony. The day ended with the traditional Lakeside Reception, with food, drink, and lots of photos.



### Let's Show at MSB

The International Montessori School of Beijing's (MSB) annual Let's Show took place on June 8. Students across Elementary put on an extravaganza of musical, magical, comedic, gymnastic, and dance performances. Let's Show maxed out with a rousing final performance by a Grade 6 band, the A-Cookies.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF DCB AND MSB



**BCA American Scout Camp**

From July 2-16, Beijing Collegiate Academy (BCA) students participated in a Scout Camp located in the United States. During the two weeks, BCA students lived with campers from around the world, tried different types of summer outdoor sports, had to overcome language and cultural barriers, and learned to be independent.



**BAPA Summer Camps**

Beijing Academy of Performing Arts children's theatre, in partnership with Beijing Playhouse, presented multiple educational theatre programs this summer. Although the theatre camps all end with a performance, the mission is the educational process; the goal is to learn. About 100 friends and family attended each performance.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BCA AND BEIJING PLAYHOUSE

### **Favorite Restaurant**

**Gung Ho in Lido.** Simon the maitre'd is fantastic. In fact we love it so much we had our wedding reception there. The staff always greets Theodore with a smile and he likes sitting (or sleeping) on the comfy booth seating and eating the complimentary breadsticks.

### **Favorite Dessert**

Fried banana with ice-cream at **TaiyroTeppanyaki.**

### **New Hangout**

**Shunjing Spa Hotel,** across the road from Ikea. There are plenty of pools to get lost in and more than enough scenery and decorations to keep Theodore occupied, as well as a children's section.

### **Where Your Son Begg You To Go**

**Ganges restaurant** for the garlic naan bread. Theodore might not verbally make the request, but we can tell what he's thinking.

### **Family Ritual**

We all wear our Liverpool (English Premier League football club) shirts to bed when the team is playing.

### **Favorite Place To Shop for Your Child**

**Solana.** They have a huge baby and kids section, plus it's near **Chaoyang Park** for a nice walk after.

### **Favorite Way To Relax as a Family**

Every month or so we treat ourselves to a weekend at the **Crowne Plaza in Lido.**

### **Best Place for a Day Trip**

**The Mutianyu Great Wall.** We stay at the Brickyard Retreat Center at Mutianyu Great Wall in one of their hutong houses. They have a huge garden for Theodore to play in and the wall still inspires awe even after all the visits.

### **Favorite Neighborhood**

**Lido,** it's chic and feels as multicultural as anywhere in Beijing.

### **Favorite Season**

Late spring. We have a great time walking round the Botanical Gardens. It looks beautiful, has space for a pushchair, and Leon always tries to win toys on the fair games.

# The Clarke Family

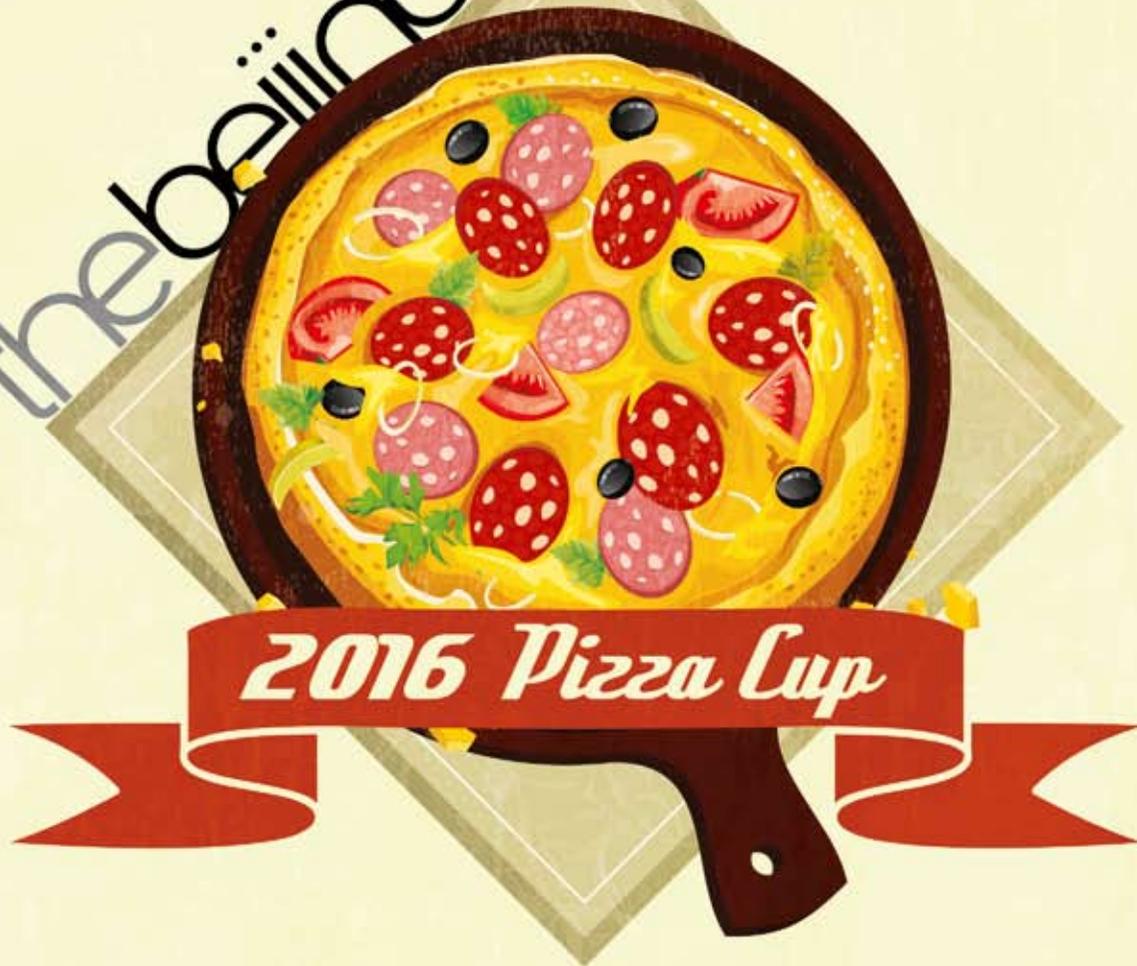
Text by Nimo Wanjau, Photos by Dave's Studio

**B**eijing residents Leon, Chloe, and 8-month-old Theodore have come to love the city's adventurous side. The couple teaches at Harrow International School Beijing and has lived in the capital for the past two years. Australian Chloe and English Leon share their favorite nooks to eat and play in the city.

# GET YOUR PIZZA THE ACTION

Coming in September

thebeijinger



## September 15 onwards: Pies for the People

Enjoy an entire month's worth of cheese-filled bargains from some of the capital's finest pizzerias

## October 15-16: Pizza Festival

Take a slice out of the weekend as Wangjing SOHO hosts the largest pie festival the capital has yet to witness

## October 17 onwards: Pizza Cup Competition Bracket

64 establishments vie for the coveted title of Beijing's Best Pizza!

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SOHO





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