

Chinese Language Foundation (CLF)
SCHOOLS NETWORK Newsletter November 2007
From CLF Trainer – Raewyn Ho
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大家好!

After my maternity break - I now have a new addition to the family, five month old Hamish YANG Shao Hui - I am now back and happy to say that there is plenty to report.

The Regional Langsem's and International Languages Week have been and gone, but the good news is that more schools are interested in establishing Chinese programmes and are asking about current resources for teaching Chinese in New Zealand schools.

The Chinese Language Foundation (CLF)'s work on online curriculum resources is therefore timely. Financed by a grant from the Auckland SKYCITY Community Trust, the first phase of online compilations is almost complete, and you can check it out on www.clf.org.nz/resources&links.htm.

There has been a lot of sharing amongst CLF's partners to promote Chinese language studies in schools. It is heartening to note that the range of programmes has grown in number as well as stature. The Ministry of Education, NZCLA, the National Chinese Language Advisor, Regional Language Facilitators, the Confucius Institute, Asia NZ and many other organisations are to be congratulated for their commitment towards the common goal of promoting Chinese as a viable second language option in schools.

UPDATES

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE CLF SCHOOLS NETWORK

We welcome **ACG Parnell Junior College, ACG Strathallen School** in Auckland and **Nayland College** in Nelson to our **CLF Schools Network**.

We now have nearly 40 schools nationwide in our network. If you know of other schools interested in joining our network please pass them an application form (attached on this email) to the Chinese Language Foundation. See also our website at www.clf.org.nz for a list of CLF Network Schools.

Being part of the CLF Schools Network entitles the school to be part of a Chinese language teaching community with access to teacher professional development and resources, exchange opportunities, financial support for programmes, scholarships and other CLF initiatives. We will be keeping schools up to date with other initiatives in Chinese language via email and newsletters.

1.

Encouraging and Enabling New Zealanders to Learn Chinese

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CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE 10 WEEK CHINESE LANGUAGE TASTER PROGRAMME

Interest from schools and teachers in offering Mandarin as an option is intensifying. The Confucius Institute in conjunction with CLF has given six schools in Auckland the opportunity to offer a **10 week taster programme of Chinese** so far this year. The schools are **Belmont Primary, Vauxhall Primary, Northcross Intermediate, Bucklands Beach Intermediate, Northcote Intermediate and Glenfield Intermediate**.

We have also started a taster programme at **Nelson Intermediate**, Nelson and **Mokoia Intermediate** in Rotorua.

If there are any other centers interested in this please contact me or **Nora Yao, Director** of the **Confucius Institute** to see if we could find an appropriate programme for schools in your area. (See the attached information sheet on the 10 week taster programme).

The programme is to be taught by an experienced, qualified Chinese teaching specialist and is targeted at schools in your cluster area to provide clearer and more competent language pathways.

CLF TEACHERS WEBSITE

As we have mentioned earlier, CLF's first instalment of online resources for teachers is now live on www.clf.org.nz/resources&links.htm

We intend to grow this website at a steady pace as we collect and share more and more resources. All Chinese resources will be checked and edited by Arima Wang, an experienced Chinese Language Teaching Specialist. Please take a look and feel free to download whatever you find useful. We welcome constructive feedback, suggestions or comments on the resources and site so please feel free to email me.

CLF TEACHERS RESOURCE LIBRARY

The **CLF Resource Library** is held at the **Confucius Institute Resource Centre, Level 4, 58 Symonds St**. We have a range of primary/junior readers, bingo games and flashcards, teacher references, cultural books and student text books. Resources can be used at the Confucius Institute premises, otherwise are available on loan to registered members. See www.confuciusinstitute.ac.nz for details on how to register.

Currently we do not offer a courier order service so please make an appointment to view the resources in your own time. We will be posting the catalogue on our website which can be downloaded for your reference.

2.

RECENT EVENTS

PRINCIPALS TOUR, APRIL 2007

The tour was organised by the Confucius Institute and nine principals from Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington, Mt Maunganui and Pukekohe were selected to go. The group visited schools and educational institutions in Shanghai and Beijing, China.

These principals have returned to enthusiastically promote China and Chinese Language in New Zealand Schools. Another visit is being planned for 2008.

If you know of principals who could benefit from such a visit, please encourage them to apply and contact us to give advance notice of their interest.

AUCKLAND INTERMEDIATE PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION MEETING, AUGUST 2007

An Auckland Intermediate Principals Association Meeting was held at Kowhai Intermediate School on 27 August.

This was attended by 10 principals with representatives from the Chinese Language Foundation, the Confucius Institute, Asia NZ Foundation and the National Chinese Language Advisor to present current Chinese language trends, resources and opportunities.

Steve Bovaird (Principal of Lynfield College) gave an interesting presentation on the successful Chinese programme that they offer at Lynfield College with links to overseas students, overseas visits, exchange programmes as well as a sister school relationship. He also talked of the key role that Judy Fang, their Chinese language teacher played in this. Judy is also President of the Auckland branch of NZCLA.

Lynnette Northwood (Senior Teacher at Te Atatu Intermediate) gave a personal account of teaching the language as a beginner of Chinese and spoke of the beneficial relationships and links that it has formed with its local high school. There was great interest shown by all that were present.

Similar meetings are being held in Wellington, Rotorua, Christchurch and Hamilton to encourage principals to offer Chinese Language at their schools.

If you wish to have a meeting like this to take place in your area, please contact any of the above organisations.

3.

CONFERENCE ON CHINESE LANGUAGE TEXTBOOKS, CANBERRA, OCTOBER 2007

This was an important Conference which focuses on Chinese language material and its relevance to teaching, as well as the development and distribution of such material.

Topics include Chinese language textbook development, trends, characteristics and promotion internationally, national case studies, online multimedia resources, technology support and innovative teaching strategies.

Representatives from New Zealand who attended the Conference were National Chinese Language Association President Laytee George, and Nora Yao, Director of the Confucius Institute. We look forward to their reports.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2008 TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN LEARNING LANGUAGES YRS 7 & 8 - contract between MOE and Auckland UniServices (see p 38 05/02/07 Gazette)

This is an opportunity for all Yrs 7 & 8 teachers out there currently teaching or intending to teach Chinese to improve their Chinese proficiency, language teaching and gain support in the classroom. Aside from the fact that I am doing the in-class support component, I thoroughly support the programme because it's a quality programme.

This programme will provide PD and accreditation for languages teachers of Yrs 7 & 8 to improve their language fluency and pedagogy in ways that impact on student achievement.

Although Auckland based, teachers throughout NZ are invited to participate. There are 3 interrelating components of the programme:

- Language proficiency improvement – teachers will study towards an internationally recognised qualification through a local provider in their chosen language. This can be at a Beginner's level.
- Second Language Acquisition Methodology paper through University of Auckland – EDPROFST 360 **Teaching Languages in Schools**.
- In-School Support. Teachers are observed 4 times over the year. During these visits evidence is collected and discussed with teachers in learning conversations focused on maximising student learning outcomes.

4.

Schools will receive reimbursement of course and examination costs plus 2 TRDs per teacher.

Schools need to provide release for teachers from after school obligations to attend courses, provide 1 TRD, provide opportunities for the project director to observe the teacher's language class, cover the time for the follow up learning conversation, and provide internet access for the teacher.

The teacher will need to be prepared to prioritise this professional learning for 2008.

Teachers wishing to participate in this well funded opportunity should contact Wendy Thomson ASAP for full details: 09 623 8899 x 46310, or 0275 554 614 or w.thomson@auckland.ac.nz, or visit www.edgazette.govt.nz/articles.php?action=view&id=7394

TEACHER REFRESHER COURSE COMMITTEE (TRCC) COURSE – 'ON THE CREST OF THE WAVE' 21-24 JAN 2008, RAGLAN AREA SCHOOL

Costs:

**Full fees (after 19 Oct 2007)
Live in \$603 Live out \$367**

Feedback from the Auckland Langsem highlighted the need to offer a **language immersion experience** for those new to Chinese teaching who wanted to improve their Chinese language skills and cultural knowledge.

To reach as many teachers as possible throughout the country we have agreed to combine with the TRCC course offered in Raglan in January – '**On the Crest of the Wave**', providing enough Chinese teachers register.

This is a learning languages course for teachers of languages Yrs 7-10 and a great opportunity to improve your proficiency in Chinese and refresh yourselves for language teaching in 2008.

We are looking to co-construct content with the TRCC Committee to include a language immersion style course for Chinese teachers. This is aimed at teachers for levels Yr 7-10 but the amount of Chinese present will be determined by how many teachers register.

We are exploring the idea of teaching some cultural aspects through immersion for Kiwi teachers who are non-native Mandarin speakers. If you are interested in this opportunity please approach your school now to sponsor you and register as soon as possible (see attached flyer).

5.

This course will provide opportunities for:

- Immersion in Chinese
- Up-dating in NZ curriculum knowledge
- Trying out new interactive second language learning ideas
- Sharing evidence-based strategies for assessing and recording learning
- Developing strategies for transition of learning
- Workshopping ideas about differentiation and cross curricular integration
- Exploring languages and software and websites
- Regional and national networking, sharing and support

TRCC assists most teachers with travel costs. Please go to www.trcc.org.nz for more information.

COMING UP

CHINESE LANGUAGE VOLUNTEER TEACHER AIDE SCHEME

This programme is a positive way for schools to offer quality language teaching and work with their communities to gain assistance and support in Chinese. If you are interested to introduce and implement this in your school, please contact Laytee George for further information at georgesotonga@xtra.co.nz

CLF AUCKLAND CHINESE CULTURE AND LANGUAGE CAMP 7- 9 DECEMBER, 2007

This year, the Chinese Culture and Language Camp will be held at Shakespeare Lodge, Whangaporoa, Auckland.

Over 50 students aged 10 to 13 years old from 9 participating Auckland schools will attend the Camp. New schools attending this year are **Glen Eden Intermediate, St Marys' College, Christian Renewal School, Kowhai Intermediate and ACG Strathallen School.**

The Camp will focus on language and traditions surrounding Chinese New Year and have an Olympic Games theme.

Please note that there will be a Camp concert which will showcase all the skills learned on Sunday, 9 December at Shakespeare Lodge, Whangaporoa at 2.00pm.

We warmly invite you to attend if you would like the opportunity to see the students in action. Please RSVP to me.

6.

MOE CHINA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2008 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Selection for the upcoming MOE China Scholarship Programme in January 2008 has been completed and the ten successful candidates are as follows:

Yvonne Blair, Paparoa Range School, Dobson; **Chris Bryant**, Brooklyn School, Wellington; **Sarah-Jane Codyre**, Glen Eden Intermediate School, Auckland; **Michelle Dalley**, Kaikorai Valley College, Dunedin; **Michael Debney**, South Wellington Intermediate School, Wellington; **Alexandra Fraser**, Hutt Intermediate School, Lower Hutt; **Kristin Holmes**, Brooklyn School, Wellington; **Hoon Juay Lim**, Royal Oak Intermediate School, Auckland; **Heather Stevens**, Wainuioru School, Masterton and **Mark Young**, Avonhead School, Christchurch.

The scholarship winners will spend one month at the prestigious Peking University studying language, history and culture. Feedback from teachers that participated in the 2007 trip is that it was very successful in giving teachers additional skills and confidence in the language, knowledge of the culture as well as an overall valuable in-country experience. The scholarship will be offered again in 2009.

Please register your interest with us early to avoid disappointment.

USEFUL WEBSITES AND TIPS

www.Chinesepod.com If you are interested in learning or maintaining your Chinese, log on to Chinese pod. It has a range of levels from newbies and elementary to intermediate and advanced. Podcasts are excellent and very relevant. Go for the free month trial or subscribe. Podcasts can be used as teaching resources too!

<http://www.learn-chinese-through-music.com> If you like singing or want to teach your students some language through songs, this website is quite good. It has popular Chinese artists and songs and you can print out a copy of the words in Chinese, pinyin and English.

<http://www.technolote.com> A teacher from Hawkesdale P12 College in South West Victoria has started her own blog about teaching languages and integrating ICT in the classroom. Take a look when you have time. There are some great ICT and teaching ideas. Leave a blog if you would like to give feedback on her site or comment.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

I have updated my email address to Raewyn@clf.org.nz Please send all correspondence via this email.

Wishing you all the best!

Raewyn Ho

CLF Trainer

The End

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