

# STONINGTON SCHOOL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

Stonington Public Schools/860-572-0506

ISSUE 6

## The Stonington Public Schools Prepare to Welcome a Chinese Delegation! Theresa Jordan, Principal West Broad Street School

I am privileged to announce to the Stonington Public School community that a delegation of school and education officials from Jinan, China, located in Shandong Province, will be visiting the district in early April. A group of local citizens and school personnel, many of who have travelled to China, are busily preparing a warm and welcoming visit for our guests. One outcome of the delegation's visit will be to finalize a Sister-School Partnership between the Jinan Shungeng Primary School and West Broad Street and West Vine Street Schools. This partnership was initiated last April when Ginny Brown (Principal, West Vine Street School) and I visited the Jinan Shungeng Primary School. Our Partnership will be finalized at a ceremony formalizing this agreement.

As an individual who grew up during the Cold War, my initial visit to China was a life-changing event. Stereotypes, myths and half-truths dissolved as we travelled throughout the province of Shandong.



Hu Aihong, Principal of the Shungeng Primary School, after our signing ceremony in Jinan. Mrs. Hu will be visiting in April.

At every stop we were greeted and cared for by people who welcomed us joyfully and treated us as "Queens." China's culture is one of antiquity; it is a land of natural beauty, a nation that has great pride. I discovered new friends and developed new insights into a place that, as a child, I had been taught to be skeptical of and even fear. When I returned this past fall, to travel further west to Tibet, I felt at once familiar and at home.

At the Jinan Shungeng Primary School Ginny and I discovered educators committed to providing students with an interactive education. Following the official signing ceremony, we quickly discovered that we were partnering with a progressive Education District. For example, the staff at our Sister School had developed their curriculum around a centralizing theme, the ecology of the region. We discovered that a child's day included

student choice and exploration. We visited classes in technology, choir music, dance, pottery, expressive writing, art and calligraphy. While at the school we were treated to a fabulous performance by the children that taught us their history and illustrated through their costumes and props their love of exquisite and elaborate art.

The school's resources initially stunned Ginny and me. It was modern and clean, a beautiful facility with the story of the region's Emperor Shun and his love of the land adorning the play yard walls. Classrooms were open and bright and filled with technology. We knew that the children were having fun at school as we joined them in bouncing across the playground on a caterpillar designed by each class. We knew they were having fun at school by the artwork they designed, the dances they performed, and the music they played for us. Ginny and I were honored by their openness and generosity and the attention they paid to our comfort. And, as in the United States, we met "PTO" parents who were at the school to participate in our welcome.

Our district is very excited that we now have the opportunity to welcome a delegation from Jinan to the United States and to Stonington. To develop a true partnership we will have to be creative in

finding ways for our students to communicate with each other and to work together to learn. We are dedicated to making this happen so that our children develop an authentic understanding of others and an understanding of their roles as citizens of the world.

Performance Troupe



Calligraphy class



Pottery class



Personal Choice Art Class- When I admired this child's Lotus Blossom, she insisted on giving it to me.

## SNOW SCHEDULE

For cancellations or delays watch the following television stations:

**WTNH – Channel 8/MYTV 9**

**WFSB – Channel 3**

**WVIT - NBC 30 - Channel 10**

**WTIC – Fox 61 News**

Tune into one of the following radio stations:

**Q105 105.5 FM**

**WBLQ .881 FM**

**WSUB 980 AM**

**WICH 1310 AM**

**WCTY 97.7 FM**

**WTIC 96.5 FM**

**WXLM 102.3 AM**

**WNLC 1510 AM**

**WWRX 107.7 FM**

**WBMW 106.5 FM**

**WADK 99.3 FM**



Check the website: [www.stoningtonschools.org](http://www.stoningtonschools.org)

## Integrated Preschool

SPS is currently accepting typical peers for the integrated preschool program for the 2010-2011 school years. Preschool programs are available for children ages 3 years old. Following the SPS calendar year, children may be enrolled in 2, 3, or 4 half-day sessions. The language-based curriculum includes developmentally appropriate experiences in all areas of child development: cognitive, personal/social, creative expression, and physical.

All students must attend PAD (Preschool Assessment of Development) screening, a developmental screening offered through SPS once a month. Please call for an appointment. All typical peers must use the bathroom independently and demonstrate age appropriate language and social skills. Tuition is dependent upon the number of days/week the child attends. Interested parents should call 572-0506 X4.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Stonington Public Schools Kindergarten Registration for the 2010/2011 school year will be held in March at Deans Mill and West Vine Street Elementary Schools. The dates and times are:

- Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before January 1, 2011.



Parents are asked to register their child at their home district school, either West Vine Street School or Deans Mill School. At the time of registration, parents must provide a copy of the child's birth certificate (for age verification), a record of immunizations, and proof of residency.

**Anyone with questions prior to registration may call Deans Mill School at 860-535-2235 or West Vine Street School at 860-599-5832.**



# FEBRUARY 2010

## SPS DISTRICT CALENDAR

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	<b>1</b> 6:00 SHS SEF mtg. 6:00 PMS SBIT mtg.	<b>2</b> 6:15 WBSS PTO mtg.  Groundhog Day	<b>3</b> 3:45 WVSS SBIT mtg.	<b>4</b> 5:00 SHS Boys Basketball Pasta Dinner	<b>5</b> 6:30 DMS PTO Movie Night	<b>6</b> 5:00 SHS Music Department Coffee House
7	<b>8</b> 9:00 DMS PTO Coffee Social 4:30 DMS SBIT mtg.	<b>9</b> 5:30 MMS SBIT	<b>10</b> 12:30-3:00 MMS & PMS Parent/Teacher Conferences 7:00 PMS PTO mtg.  Middle School half-day for Parent/Teacher conferences	<b>11</b> 6-8 MMS & PMS Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences	<b>12</b> WVSS Spirit Day-Wear Red or Pink	13
14	<b>15</b> Presidents' Day 	16	17	18	19	20
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <b>Winter Recess</b> </div>						
21	22	<b>23</b> 5:00 SHS SBIT mtg.	<b>24</b> 6:00 WBSS SBIT	25	<b>26</b> 7-8:30 SHS Graduation Committee Hypnotist Show	27
28	