A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM IN HEQING BY CEI (FC13)

On 10 June 2010, over 100 students and teachers from PengTun Junior School in Yunnan’s Heqing county joined to perform Shakespeare’s famous A Midsummer Night’s Dream at PengTun School’s open playground. The show is part of China Education Initiative’s (CEI) Drama and Literacy Program, which was approved in ACM 13.

The script has been creatively adapted to Yunnan’s unique blend of ethnic minority population, completed with local dances and songs according to the experiences of directors.

After 300 auditions, over 200 hours of rehearsals and liaison with local authorities, the show was launched just one week before the high school entrance exam.

Due to suggestions of the local education bureau, the show was performed mainly in Mandarin local dialect instead of English as originally planned. Such change was to better suit the audiences in the local community. Nonetheless, students’ interests in English has increased and their confidence level as well as teamwork were greatly improved.

As of summer 2010, 18 of the 20 CEI teaching fellows has completed the year-long program. All of the teachers we’ve met has described the program as a life-changing one and have very positive feedback on their experiences. One of the teaching fellows will also stay for one more year in Heqing and act as a manager for the next incoming group of teaching fellows.

On a different note, CEI has just registered as a grassroots nonprofit organization in Yunnan, and will continue to train 40 teaching fellows in 2 Yunnan counties for the upcoming 2 years.

For more photos of the program, please visit [http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMTgxNDI2NDc0.html](http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMTgxNDI2NDc0.html) and [http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMTCzNzYyMDE2.html](http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMTCzNzYyMDE2.html)

QIDONG TEACHERS FINAL MASTER TRAINING IN HK THIS SUMMER IS POSTPONED (FC 7)

The final training session for the 4-year long Outward Bound (OBHK) project did not happen in August because training visas for the 5 Qidong teachers were not obtained on time before the beginning of the school year. The training was supposedly the finale for the train-the-trainers program, and would last for 14 days in Hong Kong. Qualified teachers would obtain certificate issued by OBHK after the 14 days session.

The teachers were very disappointed as they have been eager to participate in OBHK’s Hong Kong facility.

Moreover, Ms. Kalai Lau, who is very much trusted by the Qidong teachers, has resigned from OBHK in August. This has further affected the morale of the teachers.

As there won’t be another period of time where the teachers can take 14 days off consecutively till 2011 summer, plus we have reservations on whether the teachers are qualified to handle the OBHK master exam, we are considering the option of hiring Ms. Kalai Lau to work for the foundation; so that the time, money and effort for the past 4 years will not go to waste.

Kalai will submit a budget and plan for us to consider during the upcoming ACM in November.
Kunming Xing Ling Bilingual Primary School is a migrant children’s school, located in a 5 storey high residential building. The school serves a migrant workers community near Dian Chi lake in Kunming. As the only two public schools in the area are fully occupied and more expensive, the migrant school is overcrowded with 600+ students with only the most basic facilities.

It is common for families in the community to have least three children; some even have seven. With so many people living under the same roof and limited space, bath/shower facilities are not available in these homes. Personal hygiene is often neglected in the community and it is common for students to go on without baths for weeks.

3 school teachers are involved into the program as facilitators with the support of the principal, who was a Physical Education teacher in public school.

34 university students were recruited and had training as facilitators to support the weekend community service. The summer camping for migrant children will be

SITE VISIT TO KUNMING CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER’S BASIC LIFE SKILLS TRAINING FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN

“The boy used to be very quiet and stayed far away from his mother, now he comes to the community center with his mother every weekend and is much more outspoken at home.”

COMMUNITY RESOURCES CENTERS FOR YOURNG MIGRANT PARENTS IN BEIJING BY CHA BEI CARES FOR MIGRANTS CENTER

Awkwardly surrounded by three luxurious apartment complexes and next to one of the best primary schools in Beijing, Mr. Chen Jun lives in a community that looks totally out of place with its surroundings. As a migrant worker himself, Chen Jun has been living in the community for 10 years as a vegetable seller. Despite his humble background, he has founded the Cha Bei Cares for Migrants Center and is running a community resources center for the community’s residents

With support from the 4th Ring Play Group, Chen Jun has been running the program (FC13) for around half a year, providing a safe place for migrant parents to play and interact with their children and other residents in the community. Despite its popularity, no more than 30 families are able to join the weekly activities at the same time due to limited space.

Using scraps and materials that are normally considered as trash, parents and volunteers are taught to creatively make toys and tools with the limited resources available in the community. Together with donated items and lots of love, the community center is making a difference in these migrant children’s lives.

4TH RING PLAY GROUP IS FORCED TO CLOSE DOWN INDEFINATELY

Due to the recent attacks in kindergartens, the authorities has instructed the 4th Ring Play Group (四环游戏小组) to close down the 6 year long program indefinitely.

The Group was founded by Prof. Zhang Yan, Associate Dean of Preschool Education Department from Beijing Normal University. Although it is not registered as an NGO, the 4th Ring Play Group has been providing a safe haven for migrant workers and their children by setting up a community center in the 4th ring wet market, benefiting over 400 children in the community for 6 consecutive years.

The Group struggles to continue its community service by setting the venue outside of the market. It is also seeking help from the Non Profit Incubation Center in Beijing to sort out its registration issues.

For more details, please visit http://www.jfdaily.com/a/1232577.htm
DANDELION NEW LIBRARIES SOFT OPENING IN FUYANG BY PASS LOVE CHARITY FOUNDATION

Pass Love Charity Foundation’s integrated library program (FC13) is located in Fuyang, a municipality in Anhui province. Besides being the biggest drug trafficking site in central China, the area is also clouded by other social issues such as HIV, corruption and public safety.

Since the program’s launch in April, 6 new school libraries were set up and held soft openings during the summer holidays. About 15 volunteers were recruited and trained to stay in the schools for a week to help with the operation, held reading activities as well as training sessions for school faculty.

PROGRAM TERM EXTENSION APPLIED BY TEACH FUTURE CHINA AS 60% OF GRANT WAS UNSPENT (FC 13)

Over 60% of the approved grant was unspent after Teach Future China (TFC) completed almost 12 months of operation with 2 pilot schools in Anhui and Jiangsu. The amount was accumulated from various cost saving mechanisms, such as staffs voluntarily giving up their salaries. Both the executive director (Ms. Maria Xu) and the program manager (Ms. Yu Wei) resigned from their fulltime posts in April 2010, but continued to participate as board member and volunteer.

A proposal was submitted to extend the program end date from July to the end of 2010.

Between July 23rd and August 20th, 6 TFC teaching fellows recruited from 2009 and 5 new recruits will jointly participate in summer trainings in Beijing and Anhui.

PROJECT UPDATE ON YUE LANG YUE DU’S ADVOCACY PROGRAM TO RAISE AWARENESS ON DYSLEXIA IN BEIJING

Recruiting ambassadors and training trainers for Yue Lang Yue Du’s Dandelion Program (FC13) turned out to be much more difficult than Ms. Lanzi has expected. After the month long training, only 4 or 5 of the participants met the standards to become a trainer for the program.

When the kicked-off in Beijing through a press conference back in March, only few of the invited journalists showed up for the event and not much interests were shown towards the topic as they thought the program would not be able to last.

To people’s surprise, Yue Lang Yue Du’s booth was one of the most popular ones during the Beijing books exhibition in April. Many parents attended workshops with their children to learn about dyslexia and how family reading would help.

On another note, Professor Tse Shek Kam from Hong Kong University expressed that he hopes to resign from the position of Program Advisor and kept himself unavailable for contacts. It seemed like there were misunderstanding between him and Ms. Lan Zi. Professor Tse has been on leave and the issue is yet to be resolved.
EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

27 Jan – 7 Feb 2010: Feng ZiKai Chinese Children’s Picture Book Award touring exhibition at Eslite Bookstore, Taipei

25 March 2010: Yue Lang Yue Du’s Press conference to launch the Dandelion Program for Chinese dyslexia (FC 13) in Beijing

15-16 April 2010: The 1st forum for grassroots NGO with rural library and reading programs by Xin Ping Foundation in Wuhan, Hubei province

10 May 2010: CYSFF as the title sponsor for the Creative Capitalism Forum in Hong Kong Polytechnic University

15 May 2010: Judge panelist for Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group’s (HKFYG) 2010 Outstanding Youth Scholarship Program

21-23 June 2010: 4th International Conference on Information Technology in Education by Evergreen Education Foundation and Lanzhou University in Lanzhou, Gansu province

29 June 2009: Asian Charity Services’ seminar on Challenges on Fundraising in Hong Kong

5 July 2010: Opening ceremony of Social Innovation Incubation Park in Shanghai by Non Profit Incubation Center and Shanghai Community Foundation

14 July 2010: Yunnan Education Fair at Hong Kong Exhibition Center

9-10 Aug 2010: The 2nd Fengzikai Chinese Picture Book Forum at the Shanghai Library

11-22 Aug 2010: Feng ZiKai Chinese Children’s Picture Book Award touring exhibition at Shanghai Library

16-17 Sept 2010: Philanthropy Symposium 2010 by Charities Aid Foundation in Singapore

GREEN CHILDREN DELIVERS THE BEST STORIES TO MIGRANT AND RURAL CHILDREN

The first issue of Green Children (FC13) has already been distributed to over 200 primary schools within 3 months through the network of 20 grassroots NGOs. The magazine is the collaborated effort of the Lin and Xiong brothers to “deliver the best stories to migrant and rural children”.

The program is run by Hong Ni Ba’s Lin brothers and their good friend Mr. Xiong Liang, a famous illustrator for children picture books. NGOs participating in the program are responsible for recommending schools for magazine distribution, collecting and organizing feedback from the students and schools, and sustaining teachers training on reading through the teachers’ guide that comes with Green Children.

The Lin and Xiong brothers has been very excited about receiving students and teachers’ feedback on the magazine, as they as often expressed through passages and art work produced by the children readers based on the stories in Green Children.

Mr. Hehe, a popular children literature author who was made famous on animal subjects and Mr. Wang Xiaoming, a famous children author and illustrator will contribute their work to the upcoming summer issue.

YULONG MINORITY CULTURE AND GENDER SOCIETY HELPS PRESERVE NAXI CULTURE THROUGH NURSERY RHYMES AND GAMES

The Naxi Culture and Language Preservation Program (FC11) stands out in our portfolio as it is the only program that focuses on preserving ethnic minority culture. The program, implemented by Yulong Minority Culture and Gender Society, is running pilot classes in two kindergartens in Lijiang, and students have shown strong interests in learning nursery rhymes and games in the Naxi language.

Besides learning about their own language and culture, the ethnic minority students with weaker mandarin abilities are expected to gain confidence when interacting with other children. The program has also gained support from parents as they are starting to understand the importance of preserving culture. Looking forward, the Society is trying to combine resources in kindergartens and primary schools to increase the program’s impact and long term sustainability. Established in 1999, the Society is also planning to transform from a volunteer-based organization to hire full time staff in order to expand its work.

PRINCIPAL JIANG LEAVES QIDONG CHEN SHANGYI PRIMARY SCHOOL

As one of the new policies in Jiangsu is to have new principals leading elementary and junior schools every 6 years, Mr. Jiang Dongquan was under order to leave Chen Shangyi Primary School on June 30th. when the school won the honor of primary school library model by Library Society of China and has begun work for Lyvi Port Bureau in July.
CHILDREN’S PLAY DAY IN HEFEI BY PLAYRIGHT HK

After a three day advanced training was delivered to over 60 teachers and parents from two Hefei primary schools by Playright HK in June, a play day with over 20 game stalls was held in campus to celebrate the national children’s day on June 1st. The play day was enjoyed by over 1,200 students and was said to be one of the most popular events in school.

The program is Playright HK’s second year in Hefei, and its program has enabled Tunxilu Primary School to hold its own play day independently, with innovative games designed by teachers and parents. The play days has been very successful and has even attract the local media to report on the event.

For more photos, please visit http://www.txbx.com/article/20100601/00123240.html

“I believe Aflatoun will be the most popular program in Hefei, all of the education should begin with Aflatoun”

AFLATOUN IN SHANGHAI AND HEFEI BY BE BETTER EDUCATION

By the end of April, a total of 2,048 students from 4 primary schools in Shanghai and 6 primary schools in Hefei have attended the Aflatoun courses ran by Be Better Education.

The schools in the two cities launched the Aflatoun programs differently, each contributing to demonstrate best practices in different school models.

The Aflatoun program in Shanghai is supported by the Government as a result of the collaboration between Be Better Education and the Shanghai Education Bureau, as the bureau has been emphasizing on character education. Teachers who attend the program gain credits on academic research, which will help with their professional evaluation in the future. This is a great motivation for teachers to take the Aflatoun program seriously, benefiting students as a result.

While the program in Hefei is voluntarily implemented by the schools, teachers are more relaxed with the program, resulting in more creativity during classes. The program is greatly appreciated by the schools, and one of the school principals even joined all the training sessions.

On July 16-18, over 30 teachers will attend a summer camping workshop to learn and share more insights on the Aflatoun program.

NEWS

An online database on all 1,854 registered foundations in China is available at www.foundationcenter.org.cn

The One Foundation Philanthropy Research Institute has recently been established in Beijing Normal University. Mr. Wang Zhnyao, who resigned from the position as the Head of Philanthropy Promotion Department at the Civil Affairs Ministry has been recruited as the dean of the institute.
SIX GRANTS AP-PROVED IN ACM 14

Friends of Africa Village Libraries
USD 11,640
Kelly Support Group Ltd.
HKD 400,830
Shakespeare4All Company Ltd.
HKD 400,000
Bring Me A Book HK Ltd.
HKD 336,000
China Schools Foundation Ltd.
HKD 183,885
Shanghai Freely Management Ltd.
RMB 10,278

Total Grant: HKD 1,423,145

SPECIAL PROJECT WITH LIN BROTHERS LAUNCHED IN MAY

Findings from Pre-Program Field Visit in March 2010

- 6 primary schools in Hefei showed different levels of reading culture, but all of the principals are supportive to improving reading culture in their schools;
- Classroom collections donated by students are mostly academic related ones such as composition writing or exercises practice on school subjects;
- Teachers seldom read quietly by themselves in front of the students;
- Teachers with heavy workload prefer to read picture books with short stories, and they do not know how to read longer word-filled books to their students;
- The schools have many quality picture books and have completed the reading program supported by the Foundation. However very few quality non-picture books are available for older students;
- After attending the 2nd library conference in Shanghai East China Normal University, some schools have invested on more books as their own initiatives and established check in /out system in school library.

Approach and Plans for Program

- Project name is changed from “Model Library Project” to “Project to Build Reading Culture through School Libraries”;
- Comparative research on 6 primary schools and develop a systematic evaluation method for the program;
- Encourage students to have 5 - 10 minutes of daily sustained, quiet and uninterrupted reading time independently in school;
- Train teachers and parents as good examples of reading habits;
- Minimum 35 minutes long weekly reading class on fixed class schedule for students to do pleasure reading;
- Demonstrate and train teachers how to enhance communication and fun reading through books clubs run by students;
- Train teachers on different read-aloud techniques;
- Recommend booklist for school library,
STAFF BUSINESS TRIPS CALENDAR
IN PAST 6 MONTHS

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