



presents

# School Noticeboard

## Team China Schools

Kangaroo Flat, Quarry Hill, White Hills, Maiden Gully, Marong, Epsom, Huntly, Specimen Hill, Camp Hill, Golden Square, Lockwood South, Kennington, Spring Gully and Eaglehawk North primary schools.

### TEAM CHINA BACKGROUND

Team China Schools grew out of an initial delegation of Bendigo principals who travelled to the city of Suzhou (population 6 million) in China in 2010.

The purpose of the visit was to establish Sister School relationships, including a student and staff exchange program, with schools from the Suzhou Industrial Park Education Bureau.

Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP) is an ultra-modern, architecturally designed suburb that has been built by Singaporean and Chinese consortiums.

There are high-tech industries and modern high rise apartment blocks for families, all surrounded by beautiful parklands. Each neighbourhood has its own school, built to accommodate 2000-3000 students, even though the neighbourhood itself may still be under construction!

### WHAT WE DO Student & Staff Exchange

Since 2011 we have annually hosted Grade 5 Chinese students and their accompanying teachers for eight (8) weeks within our school communities in a Home Stay arrangement.

Our generous families take these children into their homes, immersing them in the English language, Australian culture

and family life. The Chinese students attend school each day with their Aussie buddies. It has been an amazing learning experience for the Chinese children, teachers and their host families! This year, 41 students and 6 teachers from Suzhou schools will arrive in Bendigo on 14th October.



**My name is Fletcher and last year I had a Chinese boy named 'Jim' come to my house.**

**At the start I was a little bit nervous but as the days went on I got stronger and a little less nervous because Jim became my very good friend. He played sport with me like cricket and footy and he didn't have any idea how to play them until I taught him. Then he showed me how to play some of their sports like ping pong and swimming. Jim absolutely loved eating meat pies and barbeque food and whatever we dished up he ate twice as much as me. I did have to show him how to use a knife and fork! We**

**did have some Chinese food and he showed me how to use the chop sticks, but as usual every time I tried, he beat me to eat his food with the chopsticks as I was not very good at it! He was even faster with his chopsticks when I used my fork! When Jim went home I was really sad and wished for him to**

**come back. It was like losing my brother. I Skype him all the time and talk to him and he wants us to go over to his house to experience China. I hope we can one day!**

*Fletcher, Grade 4 Student*

### Mandarin Language Study

Students across the Team China Schools study Chinese (Mandarin) language and culture through the shared employment of Chinese teachers from the Confucius Classroom at Bendigo Senior Secondary College (BSSC).

The Confucius Classroom is managed by BSSC, with the support of its Chinese

partner school - Dongzhou Middle School, and is jointly funded with Hanban (a Chinese government organisation). Our students have a direct pathway to continue their Mandarin language studies from primary school, through junior and senior secondary at local state secondary colleges, and on to university.

### Chinese Language

*Juncai grew up in Shenzhen, a city in the southern part of China, and studied language at a Chinese university.*

*His goal was to teach Chinese language and culture to others. A visit to Bendigo was the beginning of realising his dream. In 2011, Juncai graduated from LaTrobe University, taught Mandarin and Asian studies, and was appointed the Confucius Classroom Coordinator in 2013.*

*His main responsibilities include coordinating and supporting the delivery of Chinese across Team China primary schools, supporting delivery into two Bendigo secondary colleges, teaching in four primary schools, teaching community Chinese classes, developing and documenting a Prep to Year 10 Chinese curriculum for implementation across our schools, mentoring our assistant teachers from China, liaising with Sister Schools and Hanban in China.*



**Juncai Lin, Confucius Classroom Coordinator**

## Australia in the Asian Century

We are living in the 'Asian Century'. Government, industry and educationalists realize that to secure our country's economic future it is critical that our students have a global perspective, are 'Asia literate' and have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to be successful in a rapidly changing, globalized world.

Team China Schools are responding to this challenge in a strategic way.



### Sister School Relationships, Asian Studies & Asia Education Foundation

Since 2010, annual reciprocal delegations of principals visiting Suzhou and Bendigo schools has forged strong Sister Schools links, resulting in shared curriculum projects utilising information technology.

Language and cultural learning has been enhanced through our students and their Chinese buddies having shared lessons via Skype, communicating through email, and constructing shared wiki sites on the internet.

Studies of Asia is taught across our school curriculum. Learning activities provide students with knowledge, skills and understanding of the history, geography, society, arts, literature and languages of the diverse countries of Asia. In association with the Asia Education Foundation (AEF), University of Melbourne, teachers are being supported to implement the new Australian Curriculum with its cross-curriculum priority of 'Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia'. Team China principals are undertaking the two year AEF program 'Leading 21st Century Schools: Engage with Asia' to further build Asia capabilities among teachers, students and the community.



### BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT REQUIRED

Exciting plans are underway in Team China primary schools to take our own students to China for a week in 2014! Students will attend our Sister Schools in Suzhou, be immersed in Mandarin language, experience life in China, meet their Chinese buddies and strengthen our cross-cultural ties.

If your business or organisation would like to discuss a sponsorship package, call Damien Jenkyn, Principal, White Hills Primary School on 54430799 during business hours.

## For all your financial planning needs

- Lifestyle Planning
- General Investment
- Centrelink
- Rollovers
- Redundancy Planning
- Superannuation

47 Napier Street, Eaglehawk  
T: 5446 3463 F: 5446 2199

www.fasg.com.au

Corporate Authorised Representative of  
Charter Financial Planning Pty Ltd  
(ABN 350 029 762 94) AFSL - 234665

VF148/809