

Dear Parents:

Hello from 馬太太 "Ma Taitai" your child's Chinese teacher. Welcome to the Chinese After School Program at Gladwyne Montessori. Our program is an immersion Chinese program. This means all instruction will take place in Mandarin. Explanation will be provided with visual multi-media aids, physical activities, and fun interactive games. My job is to help the students have fun while learning. If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach me via email [info@ChineseForFamilies.com](mailto:info@ChineseForFamilies.com) or telephone 610-716-1854.

You or your child may find immersion a little daunting during the first couple weeks of class. This is natural and to be expected. Please let your child know that they will first understand visually. They will see what is being discussed. Secondly, they will begin to recognize some of the words by sound. Finally, they will be able to incorporate the words and phrases into their own vocabulary. Don't ask your child to "translate" into English. Ask them to show you what they learned. Young children understand visually or kinesthetically rather than via translation. Translation is actually a much higher level skill. Therefore, measuring your child's progress according to their ability to translate into English, won't give you an accurate picture of what they comprehend. Rather, their ability to answer a question or comply with a request is a more accurate measurement.

We want your child to succeed in Chinese. Therefore, there will be short homework assignments each week. The listening homework is the most important. Please devote 10 minutes each day to listening. I recommend turning your car into a traveling language lab as one easy way to get the "daily Chinese." Listening time need not be "100% concentration time." In the first few weeks, it is more important to "not pay attention" and have the Chinese CD as background for other activities. Please see the attached homework sheet for all assignments which usually involve asking your child to "teach or show" you what we did in class. The crafts are designed as visual aids that you can use at home to practice

Some crafts will require supplies from home such as family photos. Please send the items requested on the homework sheet to class the following week. Students will create "Family pictures" or "Family storybooks" - these crafts will be created in class & are intended for "discussion" at home. Ask your child to show you what he or she did in class each week.

Please fill out the attached questionnaire & emergency contact information sheet & return it next week.

**Chinese for Families will host a series of cultural events during the 2009-2010 School Year:**

October 10 Autumn Moon Festival  
2-4pm Exton Mall, JC Penny Court  
Chinese dance, crafts, arts, puppet show & fashion show.  
Free Event

October 11 Making Strides Cancer Walk  
Join the Chinese for Families Team  
Walk to support Cancer research or sponsor our team.  
7am registration, walk begins at 9  
Philadelphia Museum of Art  
Email [info@chineseforfamilies.com](mailto:info@chineseforfamilies.com) or call 610-716-1854 to participate. <http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/>  
October 31 Chinese Yoyo Workshop, Pizza & Halloween Party. Parents Game Day - play Feilong the China Game.  
11:45-12:45 Reformed Church of the Ascension (our Saturday school location)

1700 West Main Street, Norristown, PA  
\$10/student or \$25/family

November 21 Chinese Yoyo Workshop & Pizza Party. Parents Game Day - play Feilong the China Game.  
11:45-12:45 Reformed Church of the Ascension (our Saturday school location)  
1700 West Main Street, Norristown, PA  
\$10/student or \$25/family

January 23, 2010 Chinese New Year Party at UPENN - Chinese for Families Student performance  
10am-12noon rehearsal & performance, event goes till 4pm  
UPENN Museum 33<sup>rd</sup> & Spruce Streets, Philadelphia 19102  
Free for Chinese for Families performers

February 7 Hua Guang Chinese New Year Banquet  
Ticket information will be provided in December

February 20 Chinese Yoyo Workshop & Pizza Party Parents Game Day - play Feilong the China Game.  
11:45-12:45 Reformed Church of the Ascension (our Saturday school location)  
1700 West Main Street, Norristown, PA  
\$10/student or \$25/family

March 7 Peking Acrobats at the Keswick Theater  
Tickets \$25 adults & \$15 children - orders due by December 30.

March 13-21 - Trip to Washington DC to see the Terra Cotta Warriors Exhibit  
We will organize a 1 day weekend group trip to Washington DC to see the exhibit. If you are interested, please contact Anne.

April 3 Chinese Yoyo Workshop & Pizza Party Parents Game Day - play Feilong the China Game.  
11:45-12:45 Reformed Church of the Ascension (our Saturday school location)  
1700 West Main Street, Norristown, PA  
\$10/student or \$25/family

April 17 Chinese Yoyo Workshop & Pizza Party Parents Game Day - play Feilong the China Game.  
11:45-12:45 Reformed Church of the Ascension (our Saturday school location)  
1700 West Main Street, Norristown, PA  
\$10/student or \$25/family

May 2010 - Governor's Annual APA Heritage Festival - Chinese for Families end of year performance  
Date TBD

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you or your children been exposed to Mandarin Chinese previously? If yes, when, where, and for how long?
2. Please list the Mandarin language materials you have at home so we may reinforce those when possible.
3. What languages are spoken at home?
4. Father's Mandarin Chinese language background. Please fill in: **None, Some, Proficient.**

Listening comprehension \_\_\_\_\_ Speaking ability \_\_\_\_\_ Reading ability \_\_\_\_\_ Writing ability \_\_\_\_\_

5. Mother's Mandarin Chinese language background. Please fill in: **None, Some, Proficient.**

Listening comprehension \_\_\_\_\_ Speaking ability \_\_\_\_\_ Reading ability \_\_\_\_\_ Writing ability \_\_\_\_\_

6. Is there anyone else at home who could assist you or your child with his/her Chinese homework: yes or no (circle)
7. What are your expectations for enrolling yourself or your child in our Chinese? Please be specific.
8. Please tell us any other information you think is relevant to enhancing your or your child's learning experience.

### Emergency Contact Information

In case of emergency, please list two responsible adults who could be notified by the school.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ city: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ city: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's name: \_\_\_\_\_ city: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies or other medical conditions the school should know: