

# Mandarin Language and Cultural Center

No.4 Dec. 2017 Saratoga

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## 1) *School Holiday*

No school on 12/23, 12/30 and 1/6 for winter break. Classes resume on 1/13/18.

## 2) *School Activities*

i) *Parenting Workshop by Dr. Shu Ling Chen will be postponed to January.*

ii) *Culture Class*

Fall culture class will end on 1/27, and spring culture class starts on 2/3. Registration is currently underway. Please register early to ensure your spot and also for classroom arrangement. Mental Math and Writing Workshop will not take new students in spring. Available classes include *Character Reading, Go, and Science*. Please see the attachment for the registration form. You may also download the form by visiting our school website at <http://mandarinschool.org>

iii) *2018 Northern California Chinese School Academic Contest*

2018 ANCCS Academic Contest will take place on 3/25/18. Preliminary at school will be on 1/27 at Saratoga High. Registration deadline is 1/13. To sign up, please click this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/340tZCby9Jj88LCA3>

Competition subjects include: impromptu speech, speech in Mandarin and Cantonese, read aloud in Mandarin and Cantonese, read aloud for CFL students, hand writing, calligraphy, painting, Chinese painting, composition, phonetic spelling, Hanyu Pinyin, reading comprehension, and translation. For further information, please visit

<http://www.anccs.org/latest-news/page-5>

## 3) *Hundred Phrase Evaluation for K-G11 and Spring Reading Program*

i) *Hundred Phrase Evaluation has started on 12/2*

Please help your child review his or her phrases as early as possible. Test dates are as follows: 12/2, 12/9, and 12/16. Testing will occur over the span of these three weeks.

ii) *Spring Reading Program Ends 1/27*

Students who have read a total of 10 books will be eligible to receive a prize on 2/3.

iii) *Flash Cards*

Flash cards for students to review at home are available for purchase in the office. They are \$7 for PK and K classes and \$10 for G1~G7.

## 4) *Scrip Sale*

SCRIP is sold weekly in the office. We have scrip for supermarkets and restaurants that you may frequently visit, including Ranch 99, Marina supermarket, 小劉清粥, Chipotle. We also have gift cards for Jamba Juice, Starbucks Coffee. Gift certificates for Amazon.com are now available. If interested, please drop by the office to purchase. SCRIP is MLCC's primary

form of fundraising in order to further the growth and development of our school—once again, thank you all for your support.

**5) *Community Activities***

If you wish to share or introduce the celebration of Chinese New Year to your child's school/classroom, please note that the Office has materials available for you to borrow starting 12/2. Items include: Spring Couplets, Firecrackers, Lion Heads, Music, Storybooks, tapes, CDs, or decorations of all sorts. If interested, please contact us. We hope you seize the chance to share Chinese culture with children of other ethnics. Your participation will bring a memorable Chinese New Year to your children.

**6) *Retrospections of 2017***

In administration, the biggest challenge we faced this year was the 30% rent increase that Los Gatos-Saratoga School District notified us of in July when the registration process was already complete in March. The unexpected expense had resulted in a budget increase by \$15,000 for MLCC.

This year MLCC administered the language skills assessment developed by ACTFL to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The results show that students performed best in Listening, then reading, and needed improvement in Writing and Speaking. While we will continue to work hard at Chinese school, parents can help at home by talking to their students in Chinese about different topics to increase their exposure to the language.

To further improve the reading skills of our students, we have since put together a supplementary reading program for middle and upper grade classes. All fourth grade students will receive one-year free subscription to an online reader. It is our hope to boost student interest in reading in Chinese and help students develop the confidence and skills they need to read independently.

For professional development, we invited Dr. Theresa Jen from ACTFL to host a two-day workshop on Writing Assessment at our San Jose location. A total of 11 MLCC teachers attended the workshop.

MLCC continues to recruit new teachers as the school expands. This year six participants signed up for MLCC's Teacher Training Program, which has begun on 12/4.

This year MLCC offered Chinese after school program at seven private school sites, serving a total of 105 students.

**7) *Year End Donations***

MLCC is a non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible. We have received a total of \$398 in donation this year. Please continue your support utilizing the match program in your company and we thank you for your support!

**8) *Acknowledgement***

MLCC appreciates the recognition and support from OCAC of the *Chinese Wonderland* series, which is now available to overseas Chinese school students around the world. Thanks to Acculive for continuing to provide virtual classrooms valued at \$8500 for our mid-week CFL and AP online session; thanks to our teachers, office staff and curriculum team for their dedication and hard work; thanks to board members for providing valuable input; thanks to parent volunteers for helping with school events and administrative work. Your support is the best encouragement to MLCC.

Wish you all a peaceful and happy holiday!