

Lower School Chinese Classes

小學的中文課
xiǎo xué de zhōng wén kè



From the Desk of the 中文老師
zhōng wén lǎo shī
(Chinese Teacher)

Ai Ya! Time has passed us so quickly! It's such a busy time! If you need to contact me, you can e-mail me at christina.liu@lakemaryprep.com. As you might have heard, I spent Thanksgiving week in Beijing, China, attending a workshop for teachers of the Chinese language. There were 110 teachers from 10 different countries. It was my first visit to China, and have started sharing some of my photos and experiences as it relates to language and culture.

Studying the Major Landmarks of China

While I was in China, our students did not remain idle by any means! They worked hard studying Chinese culture. In fact, the 4th and 5th graders studied one of three most



famous landmarks in China:

The Great Wall 長城, *The*

Forbidden City, (故宮) also

known as 紫禁城) and



The Terracotta Warriors.

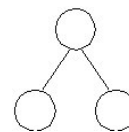
The students were assigned one of the landmarks to research using iPads in class. They have worked on the projects for the last two weeks, and will be turning in their final essay (or travel brochure) this week or on the last day of class. While in China, I had a chance to visit two of the three world-famous landmarks studied by my students, The Great Wall, and the Forbidden City.



"Hello, Goodbye, Thank You, You're Welcome"

Students in all the grade levels have learned basic greetings and responses. They also practice these phrases in school in the morning, at carline, going up the stairs, in the lunchroom, and anywhere these phrases are spoken in English. They are given a chance to respond in Chinese as well. Everyone has learned how to answer the questions 你貴姓?
ní guì xìng?
or "What is your surname?" and "What is your name?" 你叫什麼名字?
ní jiào shén me míng zì? The 2nd - 5th graders can answer with their Chinese names!

Pre-K – 1st grade students learned to count to 10, and 1st grade began learning the pattern for numbers above 10. 1st through 3rd grade students used their knowledge of number bonds (from Singapore Math) to learn the pattern for numbers, and 3rd grade can count up to 100.



Additional Resources

If you are interested in having your children continue to learn Chinese, there are a couple Saturday Chinese schools in Orlando that teach Chinese language and culture to students of all ages and levels. See me if you would like additional information.

Many of the materials I use in class are from Better Chinese. The online resources are also available to individuals by subscription. Check out the website:

<http://www.betterchinese.com/My-First-Chinese-Words.html>

(for grades PK3 - 2nd Grade), and

<http://www.betterchinese.com/My-First-Chinese-Reader.html>

(for grades 3rd – 5th Grade)

My other recommendation is the DVD Series called Muzzy. This is great for all ages, and comes with supplemental materials to reinforce what is covered in the DVD. <http://www.early-advantage.com/> I also use the Muzzy DVDs in my own home.