

Lower School Chinese Classes

小學的中文課
xiǎo xué de zhōng wén kè



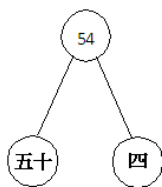
From the Desk of the 中文老師
zhōng wén lǎo shī
(Chinese Teacher)

Spring Break has now come and gone. I hope you all had a fun and restful time! Believe it or not, there are only 8 weeks of school left! Never fear, there is still plenty of time to learn Chinese! If you ever need to contact me, I can be reached at christina.liu@lakemaryprep.com.



It's as easy as yī, èr, sān!

We are learning the numbers in Chinese. The really interesting thing about Chinese numbers is that once you learn the numbers 1 – 10 (一 to 十), you can easily count the numbers to 99 (九十九). Even our students as young as Pre-K 4 are using their critical thinking skills to figure out the numbering pattern! We are even using skills learned in Singapore Math to help figure out the number pattern, especially number bonds. 3rd, and especially 4th and 5th grades will be able to bring in their knowledge of place values to figure out the numbers above 100, into the thousands.



“What’s the Date?”

There is another great use for Chinese numbers: in days of the week, months and dates. In fact, if you know the numbers from 1 – 6, you know the days of the week from Monday through Saturday (Sunday is the only day of the week that does not follow the numbering pattern). If you know the numbers from 1 – 12, you know all of the months of the year! Instead of learning new words for the days of the week, you just need to know the word 星期 xīng qī which

means “day of the week” and 月 yuè, meaning moon, or month. For example, Monday is 星期一 xīng qī yī, meaning “day of the week #1,” and January is 一月 yī yuè, meaning first month. You can also use numbers for individual days, which are identified by the word 日 rì, which means “sun” or “day.” So, Monday, April 2nd in Chinese would be: 四月二日, 星期一 sì yuè èr rì, xīng qī yī.

There’s an App for that!



I have been testing out different iPad apps for learning Chinese. Most of these apps can be downloaded and used for free. For learning to hear and recognize Chinese phonetics, I recommend *pinyintrainer* from trainchinese.com (<http://itunes.apple.com/my/app/pinyin-trainer-by-trainchinese/id376797304&mt=8>) This iPad app allows students to practice listening and hearing the differences between the beginnings of the words (initials), vowels and vowel combination word endings (finals), and tones. The free version of Pinyin Trainer provides 25 quiz questions per day.

Number Trainer is a free Chinese number recognition game, also created by trainchinese.com (<http://itunes.apple.com/app/chinese-number-trainer-by/id378767080&mt=8>) This iPad app tests the students’ ability to recognize the numbers they hear. This game allows the player to select the correct number out of four choices, and may keep playing until time runs out. Stay tuned! More iPad app recommendations to come!