

THS BEAR TRACKS



January 9, 2011 Volume I

Bravissimo - coming February 12th, 2011!

JUST IN - Ziggy, The Wine Gal & Daryl Groom will be emceeing this year's Bravissimo!

Get your tickets now for this festive & delicious Valentine's Celebration benefiting THS!!



Ziggy "The Wine Gal" Eschliman — whose award-winning wine radio shows are broadcast on both coasts - has the brightest, most refreshing voice in wine and spirits today. This groovy guru of libation locks formal pretense in the cellar and embraces the pure fun and pleasures essential to enjoying wine.

"Most wine lovers value quality and like good wine but dislike the stuffiness and ritual often associated with it; that's where I come in!" beams Ziggy. Whether it's bubbly, Bordeaux or Zinfandel, vodka or tequila, Ziggy knows the dirt: the who, the what, the where and the why in every bottle.

Ziggy is a seasoned journalist, a highly sought-after guest speaker, a dynamic lecturer and an advocate for the good life. As an educator and a wine judge, she earns high marks and seamlessly weaves her diverse knowledge with a sense of whimsy and spontaneity.

Prior to being named the "Flying Winemaker" for GROOM, **Daryl Groom** held numerous positions in the Wine Industry including Vice President of Winemaking & Operations for Peak Wines International and Beam Wine Estates and both Senior White Winemaker and then Senior Red Winemaker for Penfolds Wines in Australia.

His foundation was producing Penfolds famed red wine, Grange, which he oversaw from 1984 until his move to the USA in 1990. Daryl makes regular trips back to South Australia to oversee all winemaking operations for Groom to ensure the highest quality product.

Daryl's passion for wine sees him judging and 5 international wine shows. He has been a guest speaker on the Queen Mary 2 and Seabourne cruise lines. He has also been a repeat guest on E television in the USA.



State of School Address - January 11th at THS

On Tuesday, January 11th, the Board of Trustees and I invite you to attend a State of the School meeting in the Campus Center from 6:30-7:30pm. This important annual address is part of every independent private school and parents are expected to attend. This assembly assures a community understanding of the state of the school: the vision, the general plan, and the economics. It is most important that all of this information is shared with you, our stakeholders. Thank you in advance for your attendance.

- Sandi Passalacqua

J.F.Kennedy's famous phrase: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country", will be paraphrased by THS's Head of School and its Board of Trustees in our annual address to the THS community.

This important address will highlight what the faculty, administration and the Board of Trustees have been working on over the last 12 month.

The statements and reports made this evening will show the advances THS has been making:

- to become an accredited IB School
- report on the success of our students on the latest round of national testing
- progress of the Annual Fund Campaign
- the financial report and upcoming tuition increase
- the marketing plans
- the long term strategic plan

Do ask what your school can do for you, but don't forget to ask what you can do for your school



Get It? Got It. Good!

Learning to read is more than being able to sound out words on a page. It's being able to understand what those words mean, and how those words contribute to the meaning of an entire story. In teacher talk, being able to draw meaning from print is called reading comprehension. You can build this skill at home by slowing down your reading ritual. Before you even open a new book, take a look at the cover and ask your child to predict what the story will be about. While you're reading, stop and ask your child questions, for example: "Why do you think Cinderella left the ball at midnight?" Asking questions helps your child activate her memory, a key piece of the comprehension puzzle.

Strong readers constantly reinvent ideas as a story progresses. Create opportunities for comparing events, ideas, and characters, and when you complete a story, spend time talking about what happened.

Illustrate a Famous Book!

In the best picture books, the illustrations bring as much meaning to the story as the words themselves. But what if your child couldn't see the pictures? In this activity, she'll listen to a story without looking at it, and create her own images. Not only will she get a kick out of becoming the "new illustrator" of a famous book like *Where the Wild Things Are*, or *The Little Engine That Could*, but she'll get some major reading comprehension help along the way.

What You Need:

- Picture book
- Paper
- Pencil
- Crayons or markers.
- Stapler, string, or brass clips



What You Do:

1. Pull out an unfamiliar book and sit down somewhere comfortable with your child. Without opening the book, look at the cover. Ask your child what the picture makes him think of. What's happening in it? Looking only at the picture, ask him to predict what he thinks the story will be about.
2. Now tell your child you're going to read him a story, but just this one time, he won't be able to look at the pictures. Instead, ask him to use his imagination, and come up with images in his mind while you read.
3. During the reading, stop periodically and ask questions. For example, "Why did Sally go outside when her mother said not to?" Try to incorporate questions that require kids to make predictions as to what will happen next.
4. Once you've finished the book, tell you child he's going to illustrate it! Now's the time for discussion. While adults can often remember what happened in a story long after they've finished reading it, this is a skill that young kids need help developing. Give your child some prompts. Ask what happened first and then let him draw it. Ask what happened next, let him draw it, and so on. As he finishes each picture, help him by writing some text below his illustration, using the words your child used when he retold it to you.

Bind the story and make a cover. If he likes, you and your child compare his version to the original and see what's different. Don't forget to take your new illustrator's creation over to grandma's house for some well deserved bragging! He's earned it.



The Kiss (original Der Kuss) was painted by Gustav Klimt, and is probably his most famous work. He began work on it in 1907 and it is the highpoint of his so-called 'Golden Period'. It depicts a couple, in various shades of gold and symbols, sharing a kiss against a bronze background.

4th and 5th grade, with the help of Art teacher Karen Klimak, are working on a collaborative piece of Gustav Klimt's "the kiss" for Bravissimo. This sure will be one of the highlights in the class life auction event!

- meanwhile -

Kindergarten is sewing a crazy heart quilt for their Bravissimo project.



6th and 8th grade are creating scrap metal sculptures for their class auction item - sure to be crowd pleasers.



Bravissimo is just around the corner and ticket sales are going strong! Purchase your tickets for the Event now at THS and consider spending the night at John Ask's beautiful **Vintner's Inn**. A fabulous Valentin's treat that is sure to impress!



Making the China connection

By Mina Hanbury-Tenison, Financial Times 11/07/2010



For Terry Hu from California, it was the news she was hearing about China that clinched her decision to pursue her degree at Tsinghua University in Beijing. The second-year student on the joint IMBA program with MIT Sloan School of Management says: “With all the talk about China as a rising power, I wanted to go and experience first-hand what the fuss was all about.”

For Denise Pu, who is also from California but in the China Europe International Business School MBA class of 2010, the reasons were more practical: “I decided that I wanted to work in China.”

Signs of the times: Mandarin and Cantonese can cause problems for US students

Recent statistics indicate that more and more US students are applying for MBA programs in China: Ceibs reported a 153 per cent increase in the number of applicants from the US over the past five years. In the Ceibs 2010 class of 180 MBA students, 68 are from overseas, with 11 of these from the US.

Tsinghua reports the same trend: in its 2010 class, 16 are from the US, the largest proportion of the 60 international students in the program. Other international students come from countries such as South Korea, Spain, France and India – “a great increase compared to the past few years”, says Ling Wang at Tsinghua’s IMBA marketing and admission office.

The trend has not been limited to the mainland. Steven DeKrey, the senior associate dean and MBA director at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, has also seen a dramatic rise in the number of US student applications.

“In 2006, Americans constituted only 3 per cent of our class, but in 2010 they are now the second-largest student group at our school, constituting 15 per cent of our class.”

Economic opportunities and interest in China are cited as the most important reasons for US students to select a China-based MBA program. Cost is another factor, with programs at Tsinghua and Fudan University costing Rmb188,000 and Rmb157,000 respectively, a fraction of the cost of comparable MBAs in the US.

However, it is the promise of China that rings loudly above all practical considerations. “This is a great adventure. It’s the land of opportunity!” exclaims Rob de Picciotto, a Tsinghua IMBA student from New Jersey.

Yet as the number of US students rises, job opportunities for them grow increasingly uncertain, especially for those with limited ability in Mandarin. Patrick Moreton, associate dean of the Washington University-Fudan University EMBA program, cautions international students studying for an MBA in China.

“Opportunities for jobs for non-Mandarin-speaking expatriates at the post-MBA level are still quite limited and not likely to grow much as the talent quality in China improves,” he says.

“A People’s Republic of China national has a decided advantage over an expatriate MBA graduate among multinationals because of their desire to build their local leadership pipelines.”

Prof DeKrey agrees. “Currently, the power combination is English-Mandarin-Cantonese and for those who do not have the Mandarin skills, it’s difficult for them to find a job, especially in China.” He reports that “for Americans without Mandarin, the opportunities have declined as their numbers have gone up”.

Lydia Price, dean of admissions at Ceibs, says that US students often find jobs in areas where the native Chinese students do not have the skills or experience – sectors such as finance and accounting, project management, business development and supply chain management.

But she adds that the job market landscape in China has shifted: while a few years ago there was a premium for the international student who possessed the skills and scope of experience that mainland China students did not, now these same students are at a disadvantage because of their language deficiency. “International students have to work harder to find a niche and be very clear about where they can add value,” she says.

China-based MBA programmes do not necessarily address the language deficit question since most are taught in English. But schools have tried to tackle the issue by adding Chinese language requirements: At Ceibs, all students must pass an exit test in Mandarin before they can graduate, while at Tsinghua all students must take mandatory Mandarin language classes in the first semester. At other schools, such as HKUST or Fudan University, language classes are optional – although strongly recommended.

Nonetheless, it is the students themselves who have understood the importance of Mandarin for those wanting to work in China. Mr de Picciotto is very aware of where he stands in the Chinese job market.

“Currently, the first-choice candidates for multinational companies are Chinese with fluent English,” she says. “The next step down is foreigners with Mandarin.”

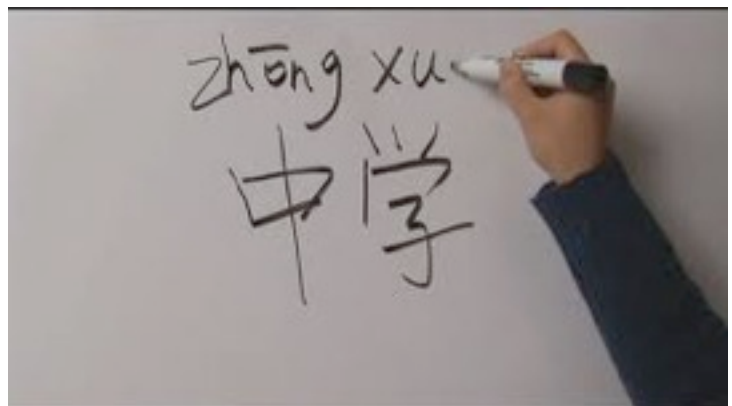
At Ceibs, Ms Price has noticed that the quality of US students applying to the programme has improved. “We’re getting applications from people with more and more strong links to China, people who’ve lived here for four to five years. We’re also seeing the first wave of Chinese-language students coming for our MBA programme, and other students who’ve had some kind of connection to China.”

Mr de Picciotto too has noticed that most of his fellow US students at Tsinghua are “ethnically Chinese or have studied in China. The number of people in the international school body here with zero exposure to China ... is less than 15 per cent”.

The increase in the number of US students and the more challenging job market has forced HKUST to work harder to help the students find placements.

“It’s put extra emphasis on our career services,” says Prof DeKrey. “For the non-Mandarin speakers, we are helping them enter the Singapore and Shanghai market where there are more opportunities.”

At **THS** we understand that students at this particular age are much more receptive to language learning and learning about other cultures. Mandarin language is being taught from Kindergarten to 8th grade. It's a great time for us to really reach out to our students and provide them with this exposure to language so they can be globally competitive.



Bravissimo Sponsor - Grande Level

Lavish Theaters specializes in creating efficient, user-friendly technology solutions. Whether it is a completely automated home, a full home theater, or a simple audio system we are able to create a customized solution that works with your lifestyle. We will guide you through the design, installation, and maintenance to ensure everything performs beyond your expectations.

Thank you for your support!



Your Name Here - Become a THS Sponsor

Mandarin Teacher, Shirley Li:

xīn nián kuài lè!

新年快乐！

Happy New Year!

The Year of the Rabbit!

THS FREE FRIDAY BBQ

New date for our BBQ! Please mark your calendar for February 11th, after school from 3:00-5:00pm, weather depending!



School Wide Yard Sale

A great opportunity to jump-start your class funds for the “Big Trips” in 7th and 8th grades. Kindergarten thru 7th grade will be starting up class funds for travel during 7th and 8th grade. To start to support these funds, we will have a school wide yard sale in April 2011. Save your old stuff to sell in the yard sale. If you can’t store your items until April, please contact Sue McCutchan at mccutchan2@aol.com.



Please send inquiries in regards to Bear Tracks to bettinga@thehealdsburgschool.org. We'd love to hear from you!