

# Newsletter

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## Special Report – A Successful Trip 2005 Beijing Cultural Exchange Program

From July 13 to 29, our summer Beijing Cultural Exchange group spent a wonderful time in China. This year we had a total of 13 people. On the first day, our host college – Beijing Chinese and Culture College gave us a warm welcome opening ceremony. Principal Peng again showed his appreciation for parents who adopted Chinese orphans from their heart and love. He stated that he hoped more and more adoptive families and children would come back to visit China and learn Chinese.

### Learning the Language and Culture

Every morning, children were in the classroom learning Mandarin. In the afternoon, they learned Chinese arts and crafts. Especially, children were very happy that they had a chance to learn Wu Shu.



We were very impressed by the warm smiles from the staff, teachers and volunteers of the college, who listened to our suggestions patiently and tried their best to meet our demands.

In daily life, we had fresh and tasty Chinese food everyday, and a birthday cake specially made for one of our members. When children were in classes, Teacher Zhou, who was assigned to be the counselor of our group, and two young volunteers took the parents to visit Beijing, so that parents could better understand this famous capital.

Even though our children are young, ages from 7 to 10, the activities of this camp have given them an unforgettable experience, which will be the foundation for their future in learning Chinese.

### The First World Chinese Conference

We were very lucky that we had the chance to attend the opening ceremony of the First World Chinese Conference. This is an international conference. Our parents and their children were very proud to be invited as the guests of the People's Republic of China, and sit in the guest seats of the People's Great Hall. When our children grow up, they may have a chance to attend the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> World Chinese Conference. At that time, they can be very proud to say: "I was in the 1<sup>st</sup> World Chinese Conference."

Parents told the college: "After we return to the United States, we will encourage our children to continue learning Chinese. We believe our children will return to China and spend more time to learn Chinese language and culture."



**Asia Pacific Language School**  
*A Non-Profit Organization Since 1995*  
14040 NE 8th Street, Suite 302  
Bellevue, WA 98007  
425-641-1703 Fax: 425-957-4564  
www.apls.org Email: apls@nwlinc.com



### In Tian An Men Square ...

One of our young members asked his mother: "What do those people waiting in line want to see?" In a rush, the parent answered: "They are waiting to see Chairman Mao's body." The child continued: "Why do they want to see Sharon Gao's body?" 😊

### Visit to Hang Zhou and Shanghai

The last 4 days in China, we took the sleeping train to Hang Zhou to visit the biggest man-made lake in China – the West Lake. Children were excited about sleeping in a train and touring a big lake in a Dragon boat. Our tour guide also took us to visit the National Silk Museum and Tea Museum. Every family bought at least a silk blanket and a can of the famous green tea. The next day, a luxury tour bus took our group to Shanghai. The children got a chance to watch cartoon "Cinderella" in Mandarin Chinese during the three-hour trip. Shanghai was the last stop on our trip. We all were amazed by taking the train across the Bund to Pudong, and by the roller skating performance in a restaurant. Two days in Shanghai were not enough. When we finally said good bye to the counselor and the two volunteers, one volunteer could not keep her tears from rolling down her cheek. Friends, we will be back!