LETTER FROM STARTALK 2014 DIRECTOR

Greetings Everybody!

I hope you all have had a moment to look over our first newsletter! We are all so excited to bring you this next newsletter that is jam-packed with even more delightful Chinese information and culture.

A quick update on our STARTALK application; we have successfully submitted the entire grant application. Applicants will be notified of the outcome in February. We worked so hard this year and last to bring this program to our community and we are keeping our fingers crossed that we receive the green light from STARTALK Central for 2015! The opportunity to host the “STARTALK: China in Baltimore” program will be so beneficial to our larger Baltimore community.

Speaking of larger Baltimore community, don’t forget that our “STARTALK: Let the World Be Filled With Love” reception will take place on Saturday, December 6 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

As part of the StarTalk Mission, we want to encourage you to support the hard work your student did this summer by using the tools provided in our Startalk continuing education newsletter: Start Talking!

I hope to see you on December 6!

Zhihong Xie
Startalk Director & Head of the Chinese Department at TNCS

**STARTALK’s mission is to increase the number of Americans learning, speaking, and teaching critical-need foreign languages by offering students (K–16) and teachers of these languages creative and engaging summer experiences that strive to exemplify best practices in language education and in language teacher development, forming an extensive community of practice that seeks continuous improvement in such criteria as outcomes-driven program design, standards-based curriculum planning, learner-centered approaches, excellence in selection and development of materials, and meaningful assessment of outcomes.**

For more information visit startalk.umd.edu
CONTINUING CHINESE EDUCATION

For this month’s technology piece we will be showcasing the amazing language website www.fluentu.com. FluentU is a language learning website that provides learners with real life, authentic, and genuine videos on a variety of topics. The site compiles videos, for your language of choice, from all over the internet, in addition to fluentu made videos. This is a free-to-use website which also contains subscriptions for access to more options and tools. The videos range from Beginner and Elementary – Native language levels; there is something here for everyone! You can also create your own vocabulary lists, quizzes, and each video contains translations to make learning even more effective.

Just like with last month’s newsletter we are including a Chinese story, an idiom, and some Chinese character grids for the students to work on their writing. I hope some parents had an opportunity to pick up some Chinese too! Remember, if you don’t use it, you lose it! Try to encourage your children to listen, speak, write, and read Chinese for at least 20 minutes every day outside of school.

Happy Learning and 心想事成！

Contact Us

The New Century School
724 South Ann Street
Baltimore, MD 21231
410.929.4116
startalk@thenewcenturyschool.com
www.thenewcenturyschool.com
Our story this month  / Wǒ de Jiā / My Home

我的家

这是我的家。

我家有五口人。

爸爸，妈妈，哥哥，姐姐和我。

我还 有一个大狗和一个小猫。

我的狗是黑色的。

我的猫是白色的。

我还 希望有一缸鱼。

星期一到星期五我来学校。

爸爸和妈妈去上班。

周末我们去商店买东西。

我们去公园。

我爱 我的家。

HINT: Remember to use the Chinese dictionaries recommended in the last newsletter to translate this story! We would love to receive your hand written translations plus an illustration of the story. Mail to the address on p.2 ATTN: Startalk.
As we mentioned in last month’s newsletter, Chinese Idioms have been around for centuries and there are more than 5,000 Chéngyǔ widely used today. Chinese idioms, much like Chinese poetry, pack so much information and history in a few words. The magical part of their density is unpacking them and learning their wonderful meanings. If you really want to prove your Chinese fluency trying throwing a Chéngyǔ into your conversation and watch as native Chinese speakers’ eyes’ widen in amazement!

Our 成语 for this month is:

**清风明月**

Qīng fēng míng yuè

The direct translation of this 成语 is:

清 - quiet / pure / distinct

风 – wind / swift as the wind,

明 – bright; brilliant; light / clear; distinct

月 – the moon

So literally this 成语 means “cool breeze and bright moon.”

The meaning of this 成语 is: unattached and at leisure

HINT: Your student (and you!) can practice not only saying but also writing this idiom by printing out as many copies of page 5 of this newsletter as you would like. Have fun with it! Try using different color pencils or pens. Maybe even try using a Chinese calligraphy brush. Don’t worry about making mistakes! Just keep practicing. 😊

---

I would like to extend another big thank you from all of us here at TNCS and the STARTALK program. None of this is possible without you all and the enormous support you have given us!