

Your CIPTC Connection

外教通讯

A Monthly Newsletter For And About YOU!

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CULTURE 文化

Chinese Hospitality

I have been living in China and loving it for five years now. I love my job and my students (even the naughty ones), but I think the main reason I stay is the overwhelming hospitality from the Chinese people. When I first came to China I was very nervous about not being able to speak the language and my friend comforted me by saying, "It will be like one big game of charades." Luckily, she was right. Even more surprising is how many Chinese people are willing to play with me!

After one Chinese class and armed with two Chinese words, "Wo yao," which means, "I want," I was able to make a successful shopping trip. I didn't even have to find someone to ask for help; the shop assistance followed me around the store making suggestions. I successfully charade-ed: shampoo, bug spray, and towel. By the end of the trip I had 5 girls assisting me and we all high-fived when one of the girls would understand my charade and drag me by the hand to the correct aisle. I cannot imagine the same thing happening at a store in the USA. I love that people here are willing to play with me and may just be as silly as I am. That is how I know I am where I belong.

A word of advice for my fellow charade-ers: I find that old men are the least likely to take part in the game. Old ladies are surprisingly good at charades and usually have more time to spend helping you. Overall, the best charade partners are young women. Sometimes, they even shock you and respond in perfect English!

- Submitted by Christy Phillips



Featured Columns

- C= Culture** Insights into monthly holidays, festivals and other Chinese practices
- I= Information** Past and upcoming events.
- P= Praise** "Star Teacher" and other honors.
- T= Tips** Teacher Tips
- C= Clarity** Care from Clare with letters to our own Advice Guru.
- S= Stories** Short stories about life in China submitted by Guest Contributors.



Teachers learned stories of the great leader Deng Xiaoping while posing with his statue at the peak of Lianhua Mountain on Apr. 11th.
 4月11日, 外教前往莲花山公园瞻仰邓小平铜像

"By teaching you will learn. By learning you will teach." 教学相长
 ---Latin Proverb 拉丁谚语

Hidden Hometown

Somewhere in this newsletter is the name of our teacher's hometown. If you find your hometown, then let the office know and you will win a prize. The name could be hidden anywhere, so read carefully!

STORIES 故事

My Fifth Grade Teacher

By: Barak Obama

I credit my education to Ms. Mabel Hefty just as much as I would any institution of higher learning.

When I entered Ms. Hefty's fifth-grade class at Punahou School in the fall of 1971, I was just a kid with a funny name in a new school, feeling a little out of place, hoping to fit in like anyone else.

The first time she called on me, I wished she hadn't. In fact, I wished I were just about anywhere else but at that desk, in that room of children staring at me.

But over the course of that year, Ms. Hefty taught me that I had something to say -- not in spite of my differences, but because of them. She made every single student in that class feel special.

And she reinforced that essential value of empathy that my mother and my grandparents had taught me. That is something that I carry with me every day as President.

This is the simple and undeniable power of a good teacher. This is a story that every single kid in this country, regardless of background or station in life, should be able to tell. Sharing stories like these helps underline the vital importance of fighting for that reality.

-From an email from the White House, USA

STORIES continue on Page 4



Look! My Jianzi is even higher than your kite!
瞧! 我的毽子比你的风筝还高!

---- 4月11日 外教莲花山活动



Our spirits are getting higher with our Kettering Kites!
我们放飞的不仅是风筝, 更是我们快乐的心情!

---- 4月11日 外教莲花山活动

PRAISE

荣誉

Shoot for the Stars!

月度之星

Teachers'

Our "Star for the Debut

Issue were

selected according to the school's evaluation, school's recommendation, teachers' daily behavior and our staff's votes. Congratulations!



Gershwin K. Gabriel

Starting working at CIPTC in 2012

Currently at Caitian School in Futian District

Evaluation in April: AAAAA

School's Comments: *Very good relationships with coworkers and students, good teaching methods that engage students in a positive manner. Easy going, yet hard working*



Hoda Mazloomian

Starting working at CIPTC in 2012

Currently at Shixia Campus of Hongling Middle School in Futian District

Evaluation in April: AAAAA

School's Comments: *Aware of students' situations, knows them well and provides feedback to teachers who are highly satisfied with his hard work. He reminds people to be environmentally conscious and shut the door when the AC is on!*



Ethan Baron-Taltre

Starting working at CIPTC in 2014

Currently at Huangpu Primary School in Futian District

Evaluation in April: AAAAA

School's Comments: *Great passionate energy for learning, enthusiastic, designs creative lessons, caring, and always in good humor*

INFORMATION 图片简讯

Important news: Teacher observations continue to prove that we have had an amazing year. Thank you for your time – and how it is flying! It is now getting very near to the end of your current contract. We sincerely invite you to come to the office to renew your contract for another school year with CIPTC. The latest date is 20 days before your documents expiration.

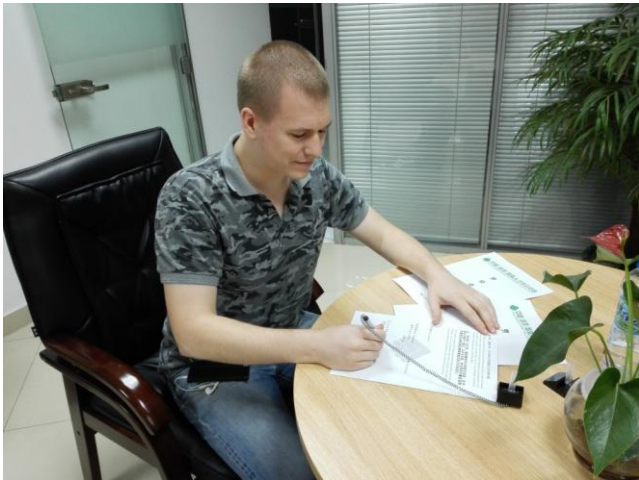
重要通知: 教学评估不断地证明我们外教一年以来成绩非常显著,感谢您的辛勤工作!光阴似箭!一学年又要过去了,我们诚挚地邀请您到国培中心办理合同续签及证件更新手续,续签工作最晚时间为证件过期前 20 日。



▲ CIPTC new contract in 2015 国培中心 2015 年外教新合同



◀ Foreign teachers were signing the new contract for another school year with CIPTC and renewing their documents 外教在签订国培中心 2015 年新合同并办理相关证件延期手续



▲ Professor Yu Ming was giving feedback to Neil at Bihai Primary School after class on Apr. 16th
4.16 日,禹明教授在碧海小学听完课后与外教 Neil 进行交流反馈



▲ Erica From Futian Education Bureau were evaluating Christine's class at Hongling High School 区教研中心廖老师与国培中心李李华老师在红岭高中评估外教 Christine 的课堂教学

▶ Erica were giving feedback to Joseph at Hongling High school after class on April 30th 4月30日区教研中心廖老师在红岭高中听完课后与外教 Joseph 进行交流反馈



"The principal goal of education is to create individuals who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done." -Jean Piaget

STORIES 故事

Continued from Page Two

My High School Experiences

By Everton Dawkins

My experience at the previous high school where I worked from 2/13-7/14 is quite memorable.

I learned that my service there was the longest so far for a foreign teacher. My relationships with the teachers, not only in the English Department, at school and outside of school remain positive today. If there is a special case at the post office, if I need to change money at the bank, translate notices from my apartment, or anything else, I always call one of the teachers from my old school first.

Dinner invitations at restaurants and at some homes were extended. I was included in family outings locally and a group family trip to Hong Kong's Disneyland. One teacher even took me to the largest church in Shenzhen. Another teacher offered to be my official online purchasing assistant, which I accepted. Most noteworthy, just last month when my elder brother passed, my Chinese English contact teacher at the high school escorted me to the airport and waited until I boarded the ferry to Hong Kong International Airport.

From the Principal down to the custodians, they made my time there special to the point where my Chinese English Supervisor would jokingly say, "You are a spoiled child." The Principal personally directed the cafeteria about my diet as I am a vegetarian. The cafeteria menu was altered, and my tray was prepared and waiting for me to arrive for lunch.

Options for my office furniture and décor were up to my taste. Fruits and sweets were often waiting for me on my desk, not wedding candy boxes. I also received personal items such as a hair cutter kit and an iron. The custodians would bring plants and other items to my office that they thought I would like and use.

The students for the most part were respectful and obedient. Their strengths were the arts (every two years students travel to Italy to study art) and sports. I had to alter my lessons often.

What surprises me now is that when the students see or meet me around the neighborhood (I live within the vicinity of the school) even those whom I did not teach greet me. Mostly male students hail me with a, "Hi teacher!" or, "Hey man!" and, "Hey guy!" When one female student saw me approaching along Fuxing Rd near Fuqing Rd where there are many small stores and eateries which students frequent, she began to rub her eyes with both hands as if she were crying. Then, when we met, she hugged me! Wow!



At another time, two female students were walking along Fuqing Rd, and one grabbed and latched on to my right arm for a while! Wasn't expecting that! While these are not the cultural norms, I really appreciate their behavior. For example, when some male students call me "man" or "guy" outside of class, one may consider it impolite because Chinese teachers are not addressed in such a manner. For the students, though, it is saying we are friends. I am cool with that.

Smoking was an issue for me there. One could not pass by the boys' bathroom without getting a good whiff of cigarette smoke in the air. I would enter the bathroom, clap my hands, and point my thumbs to the exit. Scatter! Or I would enter and say, "Smokers out!" Same response, a speechless scatter!

Students know I do not want them to smoke; I mentioned this in class. So, whether they are on Fuhua Rd, Fuqing Rd, Fuxing Rd, or anywhere else, if I am within their scope and they are smoking some will put out the cigarette immediately, others might hold it behind their backs out of sight, comically a few will give their cigarette to another. Some greetings I might get in these moments are, "He was smoking.", "I wasn't smoking.", and, "He is a bad boy." One instance really blew me away at the eatery on the ground floor of my apartment where some students sometimes partake of their meals. One student had a cigarette tucked behind his left ear and immediately removed it and hid it under the table where he was sitting until I passed by. Respect.

I am thankful for my experiences and I hope the current foreign teacher will also have a positive cultural chapter at and after leaving this school in China. Teaching and speaking English correctly are important, but they are not everything.



CONGRATULATIONS!
*All of the Guest Contributors
have won a prize!*

祝贺: 所有贡献者都将获得奖励

TEACHER TIPS 小知识

ESL- WHAT IS CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH?

Conversational English is an instructional approach by which teachers design lessons to provide students with real-life applications. The Lessons should be designed to engage students in that life experience while learning, so they can feel confident later that a real conversation can take place.

For me, I begin using an Instructional scaffolding design to create and teach my lessons. **Instructional scaffolding** is a learning process designed to promote a deeper level of learning. Scaffolding is the support given during the learning process which is tailored to the needs of the student with the intention of helping the student achieve his/her learning goals (Sawyer, 2006).

Instructional scaffolding is the provision of sufficient support to promote learning when concepts and skills are being first introduced to students. These supports may include the following:

- Resources
- a compelling task
- templates and guides
- guidance on the development of cognitive and social skills



Use of instructional scaffolding in various contexts:

- modeling a task
- giving advice
- providing coaching

These supports are gradually removed as students develop autonomous learning strategies, thus promoting their own cognitive, affective and psychomotor learning skills and knowledge. Teachers help the students master a task or a concept by providing support. The support can take many forms such as outlines, recommended documents, storyboards, or key questions.

Essential features of scaffolding

There are three essential features of scaffolding that facilitate learning. The first feature has to do with the interaction between the learner and the expert. This interaction should be collaborative for it to be effective. The second, learning should take place in the learner's zone of proximal development. To do that the expert needs to be aware of the learner's current level of knowledge and then work to a certain extent beyond that level. The third feature of scaffolding is that the scaffold, the support and guidance provided by the expert, is gradually removed as the learner becomes more proficient. The support and guidance provided to the learner is compared to the scaffolds in building construction where the scaffolds provide both "adjustable and temporal" support to the building under construction. The support and guidance provided to learners facilitate internalization of the knowledge needed to complete the task. This support is weaned gradually until the learner is independent. (Wikipedia)

Professional Development Topic for April Learning Games

Nick Beaver: Nick is teaching in a high school setting and works diligently to ensure his lessons are interesting to his students. Nicks says variety is important in his lessons presentation, because his students can get bored quickly. He shared some of his video links with the teachers and demonstrated how he uses these clips in his classroom instruction. Nick demonstrated a lesson he taught using phrases to get student to create complete sentences. He creates his phrases from the topics the students are reading in their textbooks, so they have some background knowledge to complete the task. Finally Nick did an awesome closing with a music lesson he did on genres from music videos. This power point was very interesting and the follow up learning activities aligned with the learner outcomes.

Christy Phillips: Christy opened her presentation by sharing her experience as a first year ESL teacher. She stated that making relationships with the teachers in the school has really helped her to understand the school dynamics and how they support her with classroom management and resources for her lessons. Christy shared some of the learning games she does with her students in the classroom. She stated that her learning games always follow the lesson that she has previously taught and these games reinforce her learning goals. She shared different ways she uses Tic-Tac-Toe, Charades and other games in the classroom. Christy then told the teachers about keeping a daily journal of classroom activities. She stated it helps her when she is speaking with the teachers about the students and how easily she can recall moments just by glancing into her journal. A critical point she offered in closing was that putting the date and class period on the journal page is necessary to ensure you are speaking of the correct classroom.

Ken Archer ("Star Teacher") did a great job with his presentation. Ken talked about having energy in your classroom, getting to know your students and making your lesson interesting for the students. He shared several strategies he uses in his classroom to get students engaged in the lessons. Ken's presentation mirrored a classroom setting. We, too, were engaged in some of his learning games used in his lessons. Ken shared his classroom management steps and how routine and structure is so important for the students. He reminded us that you only need a few strong classroom rules to have a great learning environment. Ken shared that he spends quality time designing his lessons to ensure the students are engaged in their learning because he simply "Loves Teaching."

"Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire." - William Butler Yeats

One of the best ways to improve communication skills is to become familiar with the language by reading, building vocabulary, and discussing what you study in daily conversations. Not having a curriculum to work with can sometimes cause teachers to lose valuable time, searching for relevant lessons topics. So I began writing topics I thought were daily life applications then began writing my lesson plans and designing power points. Below are "Maureen's A-Z Topics" that I hope will give you more ideas for great lesson plans.

COMMUNITY

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Airport | Library |
| Apartment living | Laundromat |
| Bike shop | Moving |
| Book store | Neighbors |
| Cinema | Open-Air markets |
| Coffee shops | Pet stores |
| Dentist Office | Police Officers |
| Department Stores | Quaint places |
| Doctor's Office | Restaurants |
| Exercise | Stationary Stores |
| Family | Tea House |
| Fast Foods | Train Station |
| Gas station | Umbrella shopping |
| Hair Salons | Voting |
| Health Clubs | Weather |
| Hospital | X marks the spot |
| Ice Cream Stores | Young people's hang-outs |
| Just any place | Zoo |
| Kite Flying | |

SCHOOL LIFE

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Classroom | Bus |
| Clubs/ sports | Cruise ship |
| Daily routine | Currency Exchange |
| Directors | Hotel |
| Friends | Metro |
| Head master | Packing |
| Homework | Restaurants |
| Lunch | Sightseeing |
| Subjects | Train reservation |
| Teachers | Travel Tips |

TRAVEL

HOLIDAYS

| |
|-----------------------------|
| Labor Day |
| Autumn Feast |
| Thanksgiving |
| Christmas |
| Easter/St. Patrick's |
| Black History/Valentine Day |
| President's Day |
| Mother's Day |
| Father's Day |
| Independence Day |

AT HOME

| |
|---------------|
| Car |
| Cleaning |
| Cooking |
| Grandparents |
| Parents |
| Rooms in home |
| Siblings |
| Others |

HOBBIES

| |
|-------------------|
| Badminton |
| Basketball |
| Biking |
| Mountain Climbing |
| Music |
| Reading |

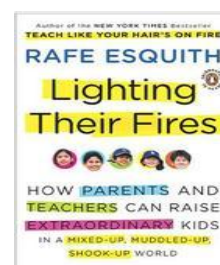
| |
|--------|
| Skiing |
| Taichi |
| Videos |
| Others |

If you have any more suggestions for Maureen, send them in!

CIPTC Professional Development planning for next year will provide more classroom strategies applications, hands on approach where teachers are making learning boards and video clips where you can see and discuss the instructional strategies in the classrooms. We are looking up and moving forwarding working to ensure we have the BEST teachers in China!!!

The saying Ken and Iris cited at the last PD meeting really points to what CIPTC is working to achieve with our teachers in the classrooms;

We are Lighting Fires



Not Filling Buckets.

On deck for sharing their classroom experience in May will be:

Vanessa Prosser: 1st Year under the belt!!!
 Idoia Conde: Content Language Integrated Learning
 Iris Colmes: Reading strategies for ESL learners

We are looking forward to listening and engaging in your presentations. Remember Professional Development is the last Wednesday of every month.

CLARITY 答疑

Need it? Clarify Your Questions with Clare – She Cares! 有困惑? 请找克拉解答

Dear Clare,

Help! Lately I am feeling so unmotivated. I remember the Readers' Theater we performed at the new year training told us we'd have some challenging times, but I just can't shake these feelings. Advice?

- Forlorn in Futian

Been There!

Take it easy, my forlorn friend. Speaking of friends, our own "Star Teacher," Gershwin Gabriel, had a few motivating words about this topic. Here's what he said...

"All around me I see people being tired out by the challenges facing them. I see them being overwhelm by the complexity and the challenges of life. But those of us, who are thriving, are folks who have manage to rise above the fatigue by boosting our Mojo. How do we do that? We condition ourselves emotionally, mentally, physically, socially and even spiritually. I will share this with you. The only reason why I can give you these words and give you these words the way I am doing it now is because of the amount of conditioning that I have put myself through. So before I write script of this nature; emotionally, I condition my self by thinking about all those moments that made me feel really happy. So, can you tell how happy I am? I also condition myself mentally by reading and listening to great talent because as you listen to great talent you absorbed their magic. Physically I work out for three days a week for at least one hour at a time. Socially, I connect with some extraordinary people and because I rub up against their magic, some of it sticks to me. Spiritually, we all understand that nothing happens without a reason. So from this moment on, expand your capacity to perform. Condition yourself emotionally, mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. Rise above the fatigue and help everyone around you do the same."

I hope that might help you rise above the fatigue. I know it helped me just thinking about his words. Remember, you have friends here at CIPTC. Connect with fellow teachers on the company outings, Professional Development meetings, Chinese Lessons, etc. Not only is good content available at these events, but the chance to socialize and get out of a rut.

Dear Clare,

Since moving to China, I've felt a little disconnected from the world. No Facebook! How am I supposed to get through?

- Cut-Off in China

Hey there, Cut-Off!

I feel you, it's not easy navigating the online social world in China, especially when we're so used to having access to all social platforms in other areas of the world! There are options within China too though!

WeChat is a popular app that allows you to chat and text with friends, group chat, and post updates, photos, and a profile! You can add friends and it's a fantastic way to keep in touch with people both here

and back home. It's been my personal favourite in China. It's free, too, so your friends can all join without charge! (Side note: My phone is not Chinese and has a hard time connecting here to download things. I ultimately had to download WeChat on one of my visits into Hong Kong. So worth it though!)

QQ is another popular app that's free to download and will allow you to add and talk to your friends who also have QQ or International QQ. I don't use this one myself, but I hear that it's a great chat and social networking platform that you can also use on a regular computer - Huge bonus!

In China, if you don't have at least one of these apps, people are going to look at you like you're a little bit crazy. Or a lot crazy.

Go forth and download, and enjoy being connected all over again!

Dear Clare,

My Mandarin is definitely lacking, and sometimes I just can't come up with that one word to get my point across in a shop or restaurant. Do you know of anything that might help me translate on the go?

- Tongue-Tied in Laojie

Hey Tongue-Tied,

Boy, have I been there! When I first got here, I carted around a copy of *Mandarin for Dummies* for exactly that sort of situation. For real. It was pocket sized and had lots of common phrases that one might need to use, so it was actually really helpful. But, one does grow tired of hauling a book around where ever one goes... And what happens if you forget it, or the situation isn't covered by the common phrases?

Eureka! There are really great translation apps that you can download onto your phone, and many of them are free! I use Pleco, and it's been fantastic for bridging that gap

for me. When I need to get that word across and everyone is charade-ed out, I can just type it into my phone and it comes up with the pinyin and the Chinese characters, clear as day. It's incredibly helpful and I really recommend it!



Do you have a question or concern you'd like to address to Clare? Then send a letter with the Subject Line: "Dear Clare" to the office and you might see your answer in the next edition of Your CIPTC Connection!

CALENDAR 日程安排

- May-June Contract and visa documents renewing
- May 27 - Professional Development Afternoon
2:00 PM - CIPTC Office Building
- June 8 - Last day for submissions for the May Newsletter. Please keep sending your stories, tips, and more to the office!
- June 13 - Join us for a Company Outing. Remember, the entire staff and their families are invited. Remind your Contact Teacher to join in the fun, too!
- June 20 - Dragon Boat Festival (June 20-22 off)

Watching the Big Bird Building of the Civic Center from the top of Lianhua Mountain, teachers hope they can help Shenzhen's education to fly higher and further!



站在莲花山顶，眺望腾飞的市民中心“大鹏展翅”之飒爽英姿，我们对深圳又多了一份了解、热爱与期待，希望我们的努力将助力深圳的教育飞得更高、更远！

---4月11日莲花山活动有感



China (Shenzhen) International Personnel Training Center 中国(深圳)国际人才培训中心

China (Shenzhen) International Personnel Training Center is a Chinese Government owned company that recruits Foreign Teachers for the Education Bureau in Shenzhen, China. We are a qualified company committed to the professional development of all of our staff and teachers and are currently in our third year of international education programs. More than one hundred foreign employees are working on our behalf throughout the Futian and Luohu Districts of the city. Our main goal is to internationalize education in the public sector and create a relaxed and friendly environment thus enabling students to gain confidence in their spoken English. To ensure our goals are met, we provide monthly professional collaboration sessions that provide an in-depth focus on instructional strategies to meet the learning levels of students and the instructional diversity of our teachers. Visiting our educator's classrooms and providing feedback, guidance and recognition then supports our collaboration sessions. CIPTC is growing and impacting the lives of students in China. We are always looking for great, passionate teachers to add the family. Why not send us your resume and join us!

中国(深圳)国际人才培训中心是深圳市委、市政府于1991年成立的副局级行政事业单位，是国家外国专家局指导、市人力资源和社会保障局、市教育局共同领导的国际人才培训基地，是华南地区具有组织派遣团组和人员因公赴国(境)外培训资格的唯一机构。

我单位从2011年开始构建教育国际化服务平台，全面承接中小学外国教师引进和管理、因公出国培训和学生出国交流(交换生、夏令营)等系列业务，并于2012年成为政府采购项目唯一的外国教师供应商，发展成为我市最大、最专业的外国教师引进机构。

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