



# CLTAQ News Letter TERM 1, 2014

## CLTAQ Executive Members 2014

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Fei Xue (Term 1), Ashley Murray (Term 2), Helen Lee (Term 3)

## AGM in 2014

**Time:** Sunday 16/2/2014

**Venue:** Confucius Institute at Queensland University of Technology

Dear members, if you didn't come to our first get-together, then you really missed out on something great. After the AGM, we discussed activities for CLTAQ in 2014. Then we had a PD workshop regarding the national curriculum, which was a great presentation by the Mandarin teachers from Coomera Anglican College. After that very inspiring presentation, we had lots of delicious Chinese food. It was a huge success, so don't miss out next time!

## AIMing High – Using AIM in Chinese at Churchie

*Ms. Jennifer Russell from Churchie*

The AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology) approach to language learning is something that the French department at Churchie have done for many years with great success. Taking this on board, Winnie Edwards-Davis and I decided to take the plunge this year with AIM for some of our middle school Chinese students.

Using this method, years 7 and 8 students have begun to focus more heavily on speaking and listening, with accompanying gestures for each word to help reinforce and connect new vocabulary. AIM is thematically based, with units often centering on a story. In our case the 7s are looking at 三只小豬 and the extended year 8 group are using elements of 小鸡 to create their own stories.

The three little pigs unit is being taught over a semester, allowing for both spontaneous and other guided learning to be acquired at the same time. This term the focus has been on building vocabulary, particularly verbs and question structures. I will be delving into the actual story next term, with plans for the play to be presented to parents. (I'll let you know how that goes!)

What I have found with AIM is that it offers students opportunities to explore and experiment with the Chinese language. An example – a student asked to get a drink. I decided to then teach 我可以喝水吗?, which was done with great dramatic flair as I pretended to be a student with a dry throat speaking to a stand-in teacher (student), who took great delight in saying 不可以 . The class then joined in with me to say 哎呀! until the “teacher” relented. By the end of the activity the whole class was pleading for a drink, and so were duly rewarded. Upon their return, the language was then extended with

students starting to ask for things using the new language they had learnt – this was without me prompting them. Amongst the questions, I received 我们可以唱歌吗? I replied 可以 (thrilled by the fact that the student used the plural form!). Responding to this, another student then asked me 我可以跳舞吗? and so the lesson progressed with singing a song about entering the Chinese classroom (an AIM song).

What I have discovered in my AIM adventures so far is that my students are having fun in the classroom, fears of learning a foreign language are alleviated, and I am receiving a lot of parent feedback about how much “Johnny” is enjoying Chinese. I have also noticed that the amount of vocabulary my students are acquiring and what they are able to do with it, is far beyond what I would generally expect of a year 7 student at this stage. I have chosen to incorporate some reading and writing, probably more than the AIM approach suggests, but this is because my students have wanted me to. And as any teacher knows, if students are craving more, you pounce and offer it!

While it is only the first year of AIMing for Churchie Chinese, Winnie and I already have plans for next year and even now are discussing how we will modify and extend our practices from this year. Although no expert (if anything I’m a novice in AIM), if there are teachers who would like to discuss this approach, or who are already using AIM, Winnie and I would love to chat and share ideas with you.

For those considering this approach, I say “AIM on!”



### In our Chinese classes: Sochi Winter Olympics

*Mrs. Hui Harvey from St Benedict's College*

To cool ourselves off in the Australian Summer heat, we have been busy getting ourselves involved with the Sochi Winter Olympics!

Our Year 8 students have been learning about Chinese numerals and *pinyin*. We looked at how we pronounce the names of participating countries in *pinyin*, paying special attention to the 4 intonations for speaking accuracy. Students were asked in turn to pronounce the name of the country they chose, for the rest of the class to guess the country in English. It is through this activity that we found out the names of some countries are actually the literal translations of their English forms! Some easier examples include nuǒwēi (Norway) and jiānádà (Canada) while some are harder to guess like àodàliyà (Australia) and měiguó (US). We have also applied our Chinese numeracy skills to translating and collating the Medal Tally poster with the combined efforts of our two Year 8 classes.

Our Year 9 students have been just as busy with their unit topic of “My Daily Routine” for Term 1. We have started to look at describing our daily routine, learning to tell time and to differentiate between different periods of the day. Choosing either the Daily or Weekly

schedule of the Sochi Winter Olympics, students were encouraged to write down the events they would like to watch at a specific time on a specific day, using all learnt vocabulary and conjunctions. Some students even wrote down why they like to watch a particular event, bringing into use previous knowledge from last year.

### From the inside to the outside

*Mrs. Hui Harvey from St Benedict's College*

It was really encouraging to see our students getting involved and using these activities as a learning platform in preparation for their assessments (Year 8: Speaking and Writing; Year 9: Reading and Writing).

These activities are used as an additional learning aid to reinforce and put into practice why we learn Chinese (Mandarin) in our College and how students can use this language learning in everyday practical situations. What better way to integrate classroom learning and apply our newfound knowledge in Chinese than with the Sochi Winter Olympics!

zhù dà jiā shēn tǐ jiànkāng  
祝大家身体健康!



## Open Day in QASMT

### **Open Day 2014 – A review by Year 11 and 12 Mandarin students**

*Mr. Meng-Yin Leong, Ms. Lea Holland and Ms Fei Xue from QASMT*



We started the Open Day at 10am on the eighth of March. The activities consisted of calligraphy, paper cutting and feather dart games. Parents and children were able to observe us helping others promoting our school. We informed parents of our studies and answered any questions and concerns.

More parents and students turned up to Open Day than last year. I was surprised at the number of young scholars interested in learning more about IB. We also informed parents of the China study tour students embarked on in 2012. We showed them photos of students' experience and informed them of the next study tour in April 2014.

The children found the activities fun and interesting because of the new ideas. The thought of writing characters was very different to many of the young children who participated. They were awarded prizes for good calligraphy, which was the most popular of the four activities. The prizes awarded to the children were rubbers, rulers, stickers and sharpeners.

Overall, the students of QASMT who helped with the Mandarin stall were very satisfied. We learnt about the public's interest and we were able to learn a bit more about Chinese culture.

## CLTAQ Speech Competition

The CLTAQ in collaboration with The Confucius Institute, QUT will be holding the Annual Speech Competition again this year in Brisbane on Saturday 31st May at QUT, Kelvin Grove Campus.

Please note that the Chinese Speech Competition is for students in Years 5 to 12. The format is similar to last year's competition. The competition will be in the afternoon on the 31st of May. This is a great opportunity for students to meet peers from other schools who are learning Chinese, as well as showcasing their talent. For details, please visit our CLTAQ website.

*Great thanks to the following teachers:*

*Mrs. Winnie Edwards-Davis and Ms. Jennifer Russell from Churchie*

*Mrs. Hui Harvey from St Benedict's College*

*Mr. Meng-Yin Leong and Ms. Lea Holland from QASMT*

## CLTAQ Membership

Please bookmark the CLTAQ website to keep yourself up to date with the latest news and events this year. Don't forget if you have not yet paid your registration for CLTAQ 2014, this can be done by cheque or online payment by contacting Yu Li Pan [yulipan@hotmail.com](mailto:yulipan@hotmail.com)

The registration fee for 2014 is still \$30.

### **Pay options**

Cash / Money order

Cheque-Please make cheques payable to Chinese Language Teachers Assoc of Qld Inc.

Electronic Funds Transfer: Please email form and receipt of EFT to [yulipan@hotmail.com](mailto:yulipan@hotmail.com)

EFL Details: Account Name- Chinese Language Teachers Assoc of Qld Inc.

Bank: Commonwealth Bank BSB: 06 4012 Account: 10062178

Post this form with appropriate fees to: Yuli Pan, CLTAQ Treasurer

Indooroopilly State High School

PO Box 61 Indooroopilly Qld 4068

Email: yulipan@hotmail.com

CLTAQ (Inc)

Return to: Yuli Pan, CLTAQ Treasurer

Indooroopilly State High School

PO Box 61 Indooroopilly Qld 4068

Email: yulipan@hotmail.com or register at the CLTAQ AGM

昆士兰中文教师协会

Chinese Language Teachers Association of Queensland (Inc)

**CLTAQ 2014 Membership Form**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN/RENEW YOUR 2014 CLTAQ (Inc) MEMBERSHIP**

The aims of CLTAQ are:

- To promote the teaching and study of the Chinese language in Queensland schools and the community;
- To undertake activities designed to extend the knowledge of members on all aspects of the Chinese language and teaching methodologies;
- To organise appropriate activities for students of the Chinese language;
- To edit, and publish or arrange for the editing and publication of materials to assist members and students of Chinese;
- To raise funds by subscription, donations and grants from the Government and the Chinese Language Teachers' Association of Queensland (Inc) (CLTAQ).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Surname)

(Given Name)

School Name and School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Year Levels: \_\_\_\_\_ (Primary) \_\_\_\_\_ (Secondary)

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \$30.00 (Circle one) RenewalNew

Pay options

**Cash / Money order/Cheque-***Please make cheques payable to Chinese Language Teachers Assoc of Qld Inc.*

**Electronic Funds Transfer:** *Please email form and receipt of EFT to [yulipan@hotmail.com](mailto:yulipan@hotmail.com)*

**EFL Details: Account Name-** *Chinese Language Teachers Assoc of Qld Inc.*

**Bank:** *Commonwealth Bank    BSB: 06 4012    Account: 10062178*

**Post this form with appropriate fees to:**

**Yuli Pan**

**CLTAQ Treasurer**

**Indooroopilly State High School**

**PO Box 61 Indooroopilly Qld 4068**

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