

December 5, 2016



Ni hao! (Mandarin for “hello” or, “how are you?”)

My work trip to China was an eye – opening experience that will last for a life time. Including me, six administrators from Bellingham joined educators from around the nation and visited nine schools in Xiamen, China. These included elementary schools, middle schools, high schools and universities. I observed classrooms during instruction, joined students during after school enrichment activities, and ate in their cafeterias. My first day in China we met with Chinese educators, and they described the reforms that are being worked on to improve teaching and learning. A statement that struck me during the reform presentation was, “We want less teaching and more learning.” What they meant was the teacher should not be considered the person who holds all the knowledge for students to learn. The Chinese education system is moving away from lessons that require memorization of facts to lessons that require students to develop questions about topics and then collaborate with others to research and analyze solutions. This reminded me of the units of inquiry that our teachers and students have been working on for the past three years. Other similarities included:

- The Chinese are reducing the amount of [homework](#), especially at the elementary level, which is in line with the work being done in the Bellingham School District and across our nation.
- The Chinese schools that I visited had robust after – school enrichment programs that included sports, art, and theatre. Classes that I am sure many of our students would enjoy were remote control boat and car racing.

The schools I observed were not “cookie cutter.” Different programs were available at different schools depending on the neighborhood that was served. One school I visited was a music school and in addition to learning the standard academic content each student chose a musical emphasis to develop.

The most striking differences were:

- Every school I visited (even the elementary) served at least 3,000 students and one had over 5,000.
- A typical classroom had approximately 50 students (even kindergarten).
- A test is taken at the end of eighth grade and it determines which high school you go to which in turn determines if you will go to college or not.

Another take away from my trip is that no matter where I go in this world, “kids are kids.” They love to laugh and play, they can be loud and messy, and they all need to be nurtured. The Chinese teachers, like our teachers at Cozier and across Bellingham do a great job of teaching and loving their students.

Zai jian,
Eric

Upcoming Dates

December

7th

PTA Meeting 6:30 – 7:30 pm

8th

Early Release 1:15 pm dismissal

9th

Teacher Workday – No School
for Students

12th

Operetta – 2nd Graders
Perform at 6:30 pm in
the Cafeteria

15th

Early Release 1:15 pm dismissal

16th

PTA Craft Night 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Dec. 19th – January 2nd
Winter Break – no school

January

3rd

School Resumes



Carl Cozier Mission Statement

Our Carl Cozier community is dedicated to the care and education of all our members. Open-mindedness is taught as a means to foster respect for the differences that exist among the people of our global community. We model the importance of leading balanced and principled lives, and we take action based on thoughtful inquiry and our current knowledge.



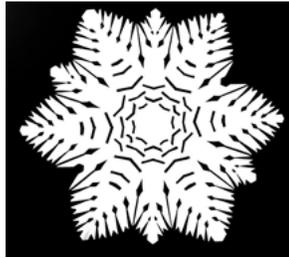
IB Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Thinker

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

Winter Craft Night

Please come join us for the Winter Craft Night on Friday December 16, 2016, from 6:30-8:30. As part of the this fun, free, family event, you will have the opportunity to learn how to make:

- Pop-Up Snowflakes
- Candy Airplanes
- Glitter Pinecones
- Puppy Dog Ornaments
- Shell Angels
- Paper Snowflakes
- Dough Ornaments
- Paper Bag Reindeer
- Popsicle Stick Snowflakes, Reindeer, and More!



There will also be a card making station, gift wrap station, cookie decorating, and hot chocolate. Come enjoy a fun filled evening and express your inner crafter!

For more information please contact Shelley Jefferson at shelley.jefferson@bellingshamschools.org.

Winter Enrichment



Sign up forms for winter enrichment classes will be sent home Friday, January 6th. New classes will include tennis and choir will be back!

A Taste of Culture

On January 19, 2017 Carl Cozier will be hosting the 3rd annual "A Taste of Culture." This is an event that celebrates the wonderful diversity of our students, families, and staff with food and recipes from our Carl Cozier families. We are looking for families willing to share samples from a prepared dish and recipe from their culture. If you have any questions, or would like to share a food from your culture, please contact Shelley Jefferson at shelley.jefferson@bellingshamschools.org, or call/text 360-441-0637. Contact Shelly Jefferson if you wish to be considered for a scholarship to cover the cost of supplies. Thank you, and we hope to see you there!



Scrip

A scrip gift card makes a great gift or stocking stuffer. Scrip cards are available for Woods Coffee, Starbucks, Community Food Co-op, Haggen, Fred Meyer, and Grocery Outlet. Scrip cards may be purchased in the school office.

