Calligraphy: A mental and physical art

By Joanne Wong

Calligraphy aficionados, young and old, gathered at the Chinese American Fine Art Society (CAFAS) on a Saturday afternoon to share best practices and techniques. In the first collaborative event of this kind between CAFAS and the American Chinese Art Society (ACAS), novice and expert calligraphers were invited to practice their skills. A number of expert calligraphers, including a 91-year-old instructor, attended the event. Mike Mei, Director of CAFAS, called the event one of "mutual cooperation, practice, and exchange".

Speakers from the facilitating organizations emphasized the importance of calligraphy both as an art form and as a way to promote physical and mental well-being. Four calligraphers at a time, equipped with their brushes, gathered around the table, on which paper and ink were provided, and wrote the short poem "登錐尋龍 " (Climbing the Stork Tower) by Tang poet Wang Zhi Huan. One such calligrapher at the table was Nancy Lamb Fray, a novice calligrapher who started studying the art three years ago. Passionate about Chinese culture, Fray picked up the art under the tutelage of Mike Mei at CAFAS and now specializes in the li-shu style. Fray expressed her love for the art, and how practicing this ancient art form helped her cultivate a greater capacity for patience.

Upon completion of their verses, calligraphers affixed their works on the wall for others to view and admire. For more information about calligraphy and events, please visit CAFAS at 11 Edinboro St. or call (617) 729-6508.

Joanne Wong is a Sampan correspondent.

Calligraphers practice their skills and techniques. (Photo by Joanne Wong)

New Chinese School opens its doors in Wellesley

By Alissa Greenberg

Seventy-five students, grades K-6, gathered in the church basement for the official opening of the Wellesley Chinese School. (Photo by Alissa Greenberg)

A church basement filled with squirming children on a weekend morning usually means bible stories and hymns, but on Sunday, September 12 the Wellesley Congregational Village Church played host instead to the beginning of a language-learning journey.

Seventy-five students, grades K-6, gathered in the church basement for the official opening of the Wellesley Chinese School. A mix of first- and second-generation Chinese immigrants and people from other backgrounds, the group included Wellesley natives, as well as visitors from Sherborn, Needham, Framingham, Natick, and Weston. James Sours, 9, was preparing for his first day of basic Chinese. "The characters are really interesting, so I want to learn about them" he said. His mother added, "It used to be that kindergarten and first grade in Wellesley included foreign language, but now that begins in 7th grade. This is a head start for him."

A few seats down, a small boy pouted about how practicing this ancient art form helped her cultivate a greater capacity for patience.

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By Alissa Greenberg
CHINAOTWN
Free breast and cervical cancer screenings
Tufts Medical Center and the College of American Pathologists Present See, Test and Treat™ Organizations partner to offer free breast and cervical cancer screenings for Asian American women.
What: Tufts Medical Center, the College of American Pathologists, the American Cancer Society and the Massachusetts affiliate for Susan G. Komen for the Cure® are partnering to offer free breast and cervical cancer screenings for women ages 21 and older. The event is also sponsored by BD Diagnostics, Siemens, Qianen, and Kodak.
Registered women will receive a Pap test and mammogram (if necessary). Test results will be provided the same day and physicians will be available to discuss test results if needed. Consultations are free of charge for uninsured and underinsured women. Insured women are asked to bring their health insurance card. Pre-registration is required. Patients can register by calling 617-636-4872. Mandarin and Cantonese language interpreters will be available for pre-registration calls and during the event.
Patients are invited to spend the day at the See, Test and Treat Health Fair. Food and entertainment will be offered along with health information and a See, Test and Treat t-shirt and other prizes after test results are given. Children’s activities will be provided.
Where: Tufts Medical Center, South 2 08/JVYN Clinic, 860 Washington Street, Boston, MA.
When: Saturday, October 23, 2010, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Buds and Blossoms Fall Frolic
Buds and Blossoms will host its first Fall Frolic at the Empire Garden Restaurant in Boston Chinatown on Saturday, November 6, 2010. The event will celebrate children and the excitement of learning. It will feature Chinese buffet, ethnic performances, Chinese crafts and games, face painting, Chinese dress-up photo, auction and much more.
Where: Empire Garden Restaurant, 690 Washington Street, Boston Chinatown, MA 02111.
When: Saturday, November 6, 2010, 4:00-7:30 PM
Ticket information:
Adult $40
Table of 10 tickets @ $350
Child 5-12 $15
Child under 5 FREE
Contact: To purchase ticket,
ents, or if you have any questions, please call Chealy Tim at 617-426-9492 ext. 231 or chealynt@aaca-boston.org
The Chinatown Trust Fund grants
The Chinatown Trust Fund will release two (2) Requests for Proposals on September 15, 2010, for consideration at the November 19, 2010, meeting. To receive the funding guidelines, and to discuss any questions, send an email request to chinatowntrust@gmail.com and describe which fund you are applying to.
Funding is limited to one grant, from either fund, in a 12-month period. A limited number of grants will be available for youth, family, and community services. Grants from the Community Development Fund range from $5,000 to $25,000. Beginning September 15, 2010, grants will also be available for licensed, non-profit child care services. The maximum grant from the Child Care Fund is $35,000.
The deadline is 5 pm on October 15, 2010. Please submit one original and one copy, to
William Moy Chinatown Trust Fund c/o Boston Redevelopment Authority One City Hall Square Boston, MA 02201
Scholarship for Tufts Freshmen of Chinese Descent
The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England (CCBA) will be awarding a one time grant of $2500.00 to a maximum of five (5) academically outstanding freshmen who have matriculated into the Class of 2014 at Tufts University. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of Chinese descent with a permanent home address in Massachusetts. Qualifying candidates must demonstrate:
- academic achievement,
- a history of commitment to their community through community service,
- leadership potential, and
- financial need.
Please submit the following application packet to be considered:
- completed application form and essay
- official high school transcript in signature-sealed envelope
- at least one of the following standardized test scores:
  - SAT 1 and SAT II
  - ACT
- proof of financial aid qualification from Tufts University (e.g., a copy of the financial aid package)
- recent photograph (taken within the last year)
- one signature-sealed letter of recommendation from official letterhead from each of the following:
  - high school advisor/teacher
  - community service/work supervisor
Interested students may contact CCBA at (617) 542-2574 or admin@ccba-ne.org for more information and to obtain an application. Completed application packages should be submitted to: Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England, 90 Tyler Street, Boston, MA 02111. Completed application packet must be received by October 6, 2010 to be considered.
BOSTON
New Chinese immersion charter school information session
A group of civic and education leaders is proposing to open a Boston Chinese Immersion Charter School in the fall of 2011. Information sessions for any interested families will be held on Friday, October 1 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at The Boston Foundation, 75 Arlington Street in the Back Bay, and on Saturday, October 2 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM at Hill House community center, 74 Joy Street on Beacon Hill. School spokespersons as well as other parents will be on hand to answer questions.
Chinese-American candidates prevail in primary election

By Cody Yu

It was a night of celebration at the Food & Hound Wood Grille and Tavern in Quincy and Kowloon Restaurant in Saugus on September 24. After winning the primary election month part time party for Democratic candidate Tackey Chan and Republican candidate Donald Wong, the race is not over yet. Both Chan and Wong will move on to the next and final leg - the general election on November 2. Chan, running for the second Norfolk District in Quinc, scored a narrow win against attorney Joseph Keegan, 2,614 to 2,572. A former state assistant attorney general from Wollaston, Chan will take on Republican John Iredale in the general election. Wong, vying for the 10th (did you mean 10th? I only saw a 0) Essex County in Saugus, beat his Republican contender Raymond Igoa 1,851 to 423, and will face off incumbent Mark Falzone (D-Saugus) on November 2. Wong is the owner of Kowloon Restaurant and an instructor of Qiging at in Boston and Danvers.

In Boston, it was a field day for incumbent state Senator So-nia Chacon Diaz (D-2nd Suffolk), who hammered Hassan Williams 10,018 to 3,131 in the primary. In the absence of Republican challengers, first-term incumbent Chang-Diaz is practically set to win a second term in the general election. The Second Suffolk District includes portions of the South End, Jamaica Plain, Fenway, Roxbury, Dorchester and Chinatown.

The Chinatown Coalition September meeting highlights

By Bo Zhang

The Chinatown Coalition met on September 9th at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. Connolly, who has been mayor of Boston City Councilor John Connolly and followed up with Parcel 24 and Bilingual Ballots Projects. According to Connolly, he reiterated his focus of work on education.

Connolly was elected to the Boston School Committee seat on the Boston City Council in 2007 and is in his second term now. “I went to city council for a number of reasons,” Connolly said, “but principally number one is a desire to improve our schools.” A former teacher, Connolly described two initiatives he’s working on presently at the Boston City Council in terms of education.

“The most important issue right now,” as Connolly addressed it, “is the new expired contract with the Boston Teachers Union, which addresses a broad range of issues including wages, benefits, work conditions, and career advancement for teachers in Boston. It expired on Aug 31st. The contract not only makes sure all the schools work well, but also governs teacher evaluation and teaching quality and professional development. This contract is critical to our ability to make our school the best it can be,” Connolly said.

The Boston Public School system, the Boston Teachers Union, several elected officials and interest groups are starting to voice their ideas for the new teachers contract. Connolly has called a City Council hearing on Sep 20th to solicit suggestions.

During the meeting, Connolly emphasized the need for an Environmental Science Academy in the Boston Public School system. He claimed that this would prepare our young people for jobs in the Green Economy.

“Let’s have a school that sets national and international standards for green education,” Connolly urged, “not only civic virtues of sustainability, but also practical skills to go out and get a job in the green economy.” According to Connolly, the program will most probably be plugged into high school, but ideally for all K-12 Boston Public Schools. The task of operating such environmental learning departments poses challenges, but Connolly, who serves as Chair of the City Council’s Committee on Environment and Health, is determined to make Boston a leader in the “green economy.”

Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC’s) acting Executive Director Janelle Chan presented at the TCZ meeting about updates of the Parcel 24 Program — a mixed-use housing project in Chinatown — since last meeting in June.

In the original plan of 2008, Chan pointed out, there would be approximately 325 units of much-needed community housing, including 69 affordable rental units, 169 market-rate rental units, 106 affordable condominiums and 156-189 market-rate homeownership opportunities.

But taking into consideration a still-weak economy while also assessing the current market demand, ACDC has decided to call off the market-rate home-ownership opportunities. Instead, 200 affordable market-rate rental units will be added to the plan, and the number of affordable rental units will go up to 95. Only 50 affordable condominiums will be kept.

“The next decade will be a time for renters,” Chan said. “There will be a lot more people renting.” In total, the number of the whole program’s units will be 345, compared to the previous 325. The overall floor space will not change, but each rental unit will be smaller.

The ACDC has already finished applying for rental funding from the city. They will file an application to the Massachusetts’s Department of Housing and Community Development for funding next Thursday. Lisette Le from the Chinese Progressive Association mentioned in the meeting that after a decade of advocacy by the Coalition for Asian American Voting Rights, bilingual ballots were finally signed into law, which will be effective on Jan 1st, 2011 through 2013. At the end of the meeting, Nancy Eng of the Chinese Historical Society of New England announced that the 18th annual meeting of CHSSN will be held on Sep 24th at China Pearl Restaurant, with a Sojourner award going to Madeline Wong, the first insurance agent of Chinese ancestry in New England. Plus, CHSSN will hold a book talk with Erika Lee, co-author of the book Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America on Oct 1st at the Chinese Progressive Association event space.

The National Immigrant Integration Conference’s second annual meeting will be held from Sep 29th to Oct 1st at the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel. www.integration-conference.org

By Natalie Cornell

The Quincy Mayor’s Asian American Advisory Committee convened on September 18th to discuss the State Primary results and the Asian Business Partnership Outreach survey. According to committee member Betty Yau, “All the winners of each party will be on a ballot on November 2nd so people need to register on October 15th for the deadline.” The Asian Business Outreach survey was distributed in North Quincy and Wollaston. The survey asks Asian business owners to describe some of the pros and cons of having a business in Quincy. The questionnaire will be posted on the website soon. Yau has collected fifteen questionnaires so far and she should have all the preliminary data soon.

“We want to find out what the Asian businesses want. We want to find a way to open a dialogue. In this way people don’t need to speak in public. It’s another attempt to reach out to Asian business people in attempt to offer design resources for the Asian community. We will have visited 30-40 businesses soon.”

The committee should have results about the survey within the next month or so. September 28th is the one year anniversary of the Eye on Quincy TV show. The show started as a 30 minute segment and expanded to one hour. The committee and the Eye on Quincy team are now planning an anniversary celebration.

Quincy Mayor’s Asian American Advisory Committee looks over State Primary results and the Asian Business Outreach survey

The tour of the TV station starts at 6:30 and the show starts at 7:00. It takes place on the first and third Mondays of every month except holidays. The studio is located near the Thomas Crane Library, and attendees must use the parking lot entrance to enter if they want to be guests on the show.

Lee of the new Shaolin Institute in Quincy also joined last Saturday’s meeting. It has been appointed International Shaolin Cultural Ambassador by the Dengfeng Municipal Government of Henan. The new center will be open soon at 60A Billings Road in Quincy. In preserving and in promoting Shaolin culture and heritage, the new Quincy Center Shaolin Institute is continuing a “Meet the Master Series” in October, bringing together Shaolin masters from China and other parts of the world to Quincy. For more information on the institute, visit www.yonlee.com and for information on the Shaolin Cultural Foundation, please visit http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~htc/shaolin.php.

The committee will reconvene on Saturday, October 16th at 10 am. Natalie Orrnell is a Sampan correspondent.
College of American Pathologists See, Test and Treat breast and cervical cancer screening prevention program comes to Tufts Medical Center

By Beth Harubin

On Saturday October 23rd, Tufts Medical Center will be hosting the College of American Pathologists See, Test and Treat Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Prevention Program, two cancers that affect women. This program is being championed at Tufts by Barbara Jane Magnani, PhD, MD, FACP from the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Collaborating physician partners include Dr. Nora Laver (Pathology and Laboratory Medicine), Dr. Andrea Zuckerstein (Obstetrics and Gynecology), and Dr. Marc Homer (Radiology). The See, Test and Treat Program is a way to bring testing to an underserved population or a population that may have some barriers in getting regular healthcare and allowing them not only to see a physician, have a screening that they need, but get the results before they go home. This enables them to discuss their results with the physician and schedule a follow-up appointment if necessary. During the See, Test and Treat Program, woman can receive a gynecological exam which includes a Pap smear, breast exam and lab work or a mammogram if necessary. See, Test and Treat is a program conceived by the College of American Pathologists. They have done it in various places throughout the country. It was originally intended for the Native Americans living on Federal lands because they had real barriers to receiving proper healthcare. That population also has a fairly high incidence of cervical cancer. This was the perfect way for them to get the necessary screening.

Other barriers that women may face is that women are too busy taking care of their families, their career or their businesses that they don’t have time to look after their own health. Tufts Medical Center is offering this program on a Saturday so women don’t have to necessarily worry about taking a day off from work. Children’s activities will also be provided if they bring their children or if they do not have childcare arrangements. Tufts Medical Center will also offer refreshments and educational programs for the women to help them learn more about their health. “Think about it like this” Dr. Magnani said, “if you are on an airplane, they provide you with instructions about using the oxygen mask in case of emergency. They tell you to put it on yourself first before helping others. Women need to look after themselves first; they need to be healthy in order to take care of their families.”

There may also be cultural and linguistic barriers where women may be afraid to come to a program or to see a health care professional because they are afraid that they won’t be able to communicate. At the See, Test and Treat Program at Tufts Medical Center, interpreters will be available. It is a nice, safe program for women. If they feel like they need to come with a mother, grandmother, or older daughter, they can come together as a group to support one another.

Asian women are encouraged to make an appointment. The event will have appointment slots available from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If someone has insurance, they should bring their insurance card but that will not be a barrier to getting seen. To pre-register for this event, call 617-636-4872 (Chinese speaking operators will be available). Walk-ins are also welcome. This will be held in the Tufts Medical Center OB/GYN Clinic located on the second floor of the South building, 860 Washington Street in Boston’s Chinatown.

This is the first article of a three part series on the See, Test and Treat Program.

Book review: Innocent, by Scott Turow

By Sam Ho

In 1986, the novel Presumed Innocent took the nation by storm and began a trend of legal thrillers on bookstore shelves left and right. It is a story that combines a number of intriguing elements: a prosecutor being prosecuted, a secret adulterous affair with the victim, missing legal files, red herring here and there, and a protagonist, Rozat “Rusty” Sabich, whose stand in this matter is ambiguous to the reader. Sabich is a deputy prosecutor who is assigned to take the case involving the murder of another prosecutor, Carolyn Polhemus, who was once his former lover and for whom he harbored an obsession. Further complicating matters by not procuring enough evidence, he finds himself at the mercy of the very legal system he works for.

Eight novels set in the same fictional location of Kindelle County and 24 years later, Scott Turow returns with a sequel titled Innocent, in which an older Rusty, a judge of the county appellate court, gets accused of murdering his manic-depressive wife Barbara. Once again, the ambiguity regarding his innocence is present, like how Rusty waits 24 hours after discovering his wife’s body before calling their son Nat, complicating his defense and keeping the readers guessing.

Now I’ve only ever watched the movie adaptation of Presumed Innocent that stars Harrison Ford, and since I liked that movie and I heard Turow wrote this sequel, I decided to pick it up to read. It was not a quick read – not a difficult book aside from legal and computational jargon, but quite lengthy. But, nevertheless, it was a page-turner.

Turow’s narrative is easy to fall into. I had somewhat mixed feelings about the shifting narrator and timeframe. The first part of the book switches between Rusty and Tommy Molto, his prosecutor and rival, with the past being presented in the first person present tense and “current” time being presented in the third person past tense. This leads to some confusion in the narrative, and Turow may have revealed key events too early, making it difficult for readers to relish the thrill of the chase, of piecing together the key points within the novel. Otherwise the prose is excellent.

Nat Sabich, Rusty’s son, and Anna, his former clerk, also narrate from their respective perspectives. I was happy to see an older Rusty return as one of the protagonists, and welcomed the additions of his son Nat and his latest lover Anna. However I did find it somewhat unbelievable that a man who engaged in an extramarital affair and was later charged with his lover’s murder, a great if not the greatest punishment for such a sin, would engage in another one with equally disastrous consequences (being tried for the murder of his wife). I also found Tommy Molto’s fervent animosity towards Rusty off-putting, and once more he is obsessed with finding Rusty guilty of Carolyn Polhemus and now Barbara’s death. But the one who takes the cake is his deputy prosecutor, Jim Brand, whose extreme show of contempt can drive the reader to wall.

Although it is a compelling read, this book may not be everybody’s cup of tea. There is some explicit content, a May-December romance, and some readers may find Nat’s frequent bursts into tears annoying.

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Boston, MA 02111
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AACA is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.
By Cody Yiu

Chun-Fai Chan is one of the five candidates vying to replace former District 6 City Councilor John Tobin in a special election preliminary ballot Oct. 19. (Photo courtesy of Chun-Fai Chan)

Chun-Fai Chan is one of the five candidates vying to replace former District 6 City Councilor John Tobin in a special election preliminary ballot Oct. 19. District 6 encompasses West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale and Mission Hill.

Chan is a long-time West Roxbury resident and high school teacher. He and his family have deep roots in Boston Chinatown.

Chan shares with the Sampan about his vision for public education and his reasons for running.

Sampan: Please tell our readers about yourself.

Chan: I was born in Hong Kong and I came to Boston with my family when I was four years old. Since then, I have lived in the city of Boston for much of my life (twenty years in West Roxbury). For the past six years, I have been a schoolteacher in the Boston Public Schools.

Sampan: What prompted you to run for City Council?

Chan: I have said that I have two motivations why I am running for City Council. The first one is advocacy for young people, families, and teachers. Too often, their voices are not always being heard in city government particularly when it comes to schools. This group should have a stake in the decision-making process because these decisions would affect them the most at home and in the classroom. The second one is to present this idea of a democratic participatory government because it is your government and your participation that is needed to make the city a better place for all. Those are the two main reasons I am running for City Council.

Sampan: What are the issues facing Boston’s District 6 neighborhoods and how are you hoping to address them?

Chan: As I have traveled throughout Boston’s District 6 (which is made up of the Boston neighborhoods of Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, and parts of Roslindale and Mission Hill), the single biggest issue facing Boston’s District 6 neighborhoods is the schools. The residents of District 6 want quality schools in their neighborhoods just like in any neighborhood in the city. When we do advocate for quality neighborhood schools, it is important to realize that as a city we all need to work together to achieve the goal of quality neighborhood schools because when it comes to the future leaders of our city, state, and country we cannot just play short-term politics and do what is politically expedient to satisfy one group or one constituency.

How to do this is to finally have an open dialogue of the past scars that have happened because of desegregation of the public schools in the 1970s. Until we as a city get past the animosity and bitter feelings of that era, we are never going to progress as a city toward a common solution of quality neighborhood schools that benefit everyone.

Sampan: What are Asian communities one can find in the District?

Chan: There is a sizable Asian population in District 6 as the neighborhoods have become increasingly diverse. With that diversity comes individuals from different cultures and backgrounds, which includes the Asian community.

Young Asian professionals (like many other young professionals) are living in Jamaica Plain and Mission Hill while many more Asian families have increasingly been moving to West Roxbury and Roslindale. This is a great sign of progress in our neighborhoods and I am hopeful that these trends toward diverse neighborhoods continue because that is the unique quality of living in America.

Sampan: You are a public school teacher. What do you think are the major issues facing the public school system in the City?

Chan: The high school dropout rate is one of the major issues facing the public school in the city. To curb the high school dropout rate, we need to encourage our families to become more engaged in their children’s lives like checking in with them at various times even when families are working long hours. We also need to encourage families to read to their children to increase literacy rates. This goes back to the idea of a democratic participatory government in that these are concepts that the government cannot help a family do, and it takes all of us to contribute so that our young people can be the competent, future leaders that we know they can be.

Sampan: What are some of the practical steps to help immigrants in the city of Boston find jobs?

Chan: We need to provide everyone including immigrants the tools they need to succeed. Without them, all the talent that individuals have cannot be nurtured. Specifically, we need to continue to fund job-training programs because a worker needs to have an array of skills in order to compete in the job market; this includes having a proper education. A person now may have to have two to three professions so there needs to be opportunities for that person to get training or go back to school. Finally, we need to bring back trade schools and vocational schools because we need to develop our future builders and construction workers who are in various types of construction (including green construction) that hopefully pay well and have a career ladder.

Get Involved in Your NEWSPAPER!

SAMPN is seeking community correspondents, photographers, translators and columnists to help us provide coverage of major events and happenings in the Asian American community in Metro Boston. We are especially seeking Malden and Quincy correspondents to help us stay connected with these communities. Ideal candidates should have an interest in writing and reporting. We welcome students, working professionals, stay-at-home parents, retirees and all others who are interested in Asian-American affairs.

- Event Reporting
- Event Announcements
- Event Photos
- Translation
- Opinion

Anyone interested in contributing should e-mail recruit@sampan.org.
co-chair of the board of directors, outlined the school’s goals, saying “The premise is that everyone can learn Chinese... We seek to educate, challenge, and inspire our community.”

In her own remarks, school principal Xiaoyun Wu added, “We are obligated to provide an opportunity for our kids to learn the language spoken by one third of the world.”

The two women then introduced the school’s language teachers, all of whom have Master’s Degrees and teaching experience.

“This is a very different school from existing schools, in terms of quality,” Kochling said. “This is the first school in the area where we advertised and did full rounds of interviews looking for teachers. They aren’t just parents of students—in fact, none of the teachers are students’ parents. Some of them are professors. They really prepare for their classes.”

After a ribbon cutting ceremony and remarks by Wellesley State Representative Alice Peisch, students were dismissed to their classrooms, with classes separated into two groups.

One quarter of the students are ‘monolingual’ and have no Mandarin background, while the remaining ‘heritage’ students have some language exposure and are divided by level.

“With Ma Li Ping, we can have them reading materials they’re interested in quickly,” said Helen Fang of the school’s
board of directors. “Without this kind of system, young learners often lose interest by grade three.”

After the ceremony, teacher Shauxia Liu went around her Ma Li Ping kindergarten class asking simple questions to check comprehension. “How old are you? How many people are in your family?” she asked each small face in succession. Down the hall, the monolingual class practiced the basic Mandarin vowels.

Later on, the students would round out the day with other pursuits: along with language courses, the school will offer classes on Chinese classical performing arts, painting, and chess.

The Wellesley Chinese School’s next term will begin in January. Anyone interested in registering for classes should contact the school beginning in late November. Visit www.wellesleychineseschool.org for more information.

Alissa Greenberg is a Sampan correspondent.

PROPOSED NEW BOSTON CHINESE IMMERSION CHARTER SCHOOL

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Friday, October 1, 2010
9:00 – 11:00 A.M.
The Boston Foundation
75 Arlington Street,
Back Bay

Saturday, October 2, 2010
10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Community Center
74 Joy Street, Beacon Hill


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