Diverse supporters of Mandarin immersion school unite

By Cody Yiu

Lisa Du Breuil and Mary Xiaohui Breuil—a Caucasian mother and her five-year-old Chinese-born daughter—arrived early and grabbed front row seats at a public hearing held at Boston City Hall on December 7. They signed up to speak in support of the proposed Boston Chinese Immersion Charter School (BCICS) during the hearing. The Du Breuils were among the some sixty attendees who were dressed in bright-red T-shirts.

It was a full house on the hearing floor. Held by members of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Second Education (DESE), the hearing was to solicit public comment on 1 of the 23 proposed charter schools that are in final stages of review. Dozens of individuals spoke, either in support or in opposition of a particular proposed charter school, took turns to speak before the state panel. This hearing was one of the eight to provide feedback to DESE.

Lisa Du Breuil (left) and Mary Xiaohui Breuil. (Photo by Cody Yiu)

“When we adopted our daughter Mary Xiaohui, who was 18 months old at the time, we made a solemn promise to the Chinese government to teach her about China and to help her grow up to be proud of being Chinese. We take that promise very seriously. My husband and I are white, so we need help keeping that promise, and there are thousands of other families in the Greater Boston area just like us,” Du Breuil said in her testimony before the DESE officials.

Sitting one row behind the Du Breuils were Sunny Schwartz and her three-year-old daughter Ilana, both Caucasian. Schwartz works in Chinatown and Ilana is a student at Buds and Blossoms, the only Mandarin-immersion daycare center in Boston.

Sunny Schwartz and daughter Ilana Schwartz. (Photo by Cody Yiu)

Since there is a limited number of charter seats, I hope the Board will choose to give charters to innovations like BCICS rather than repetitions of existing charters.

SEE CHARTER PAGE 3

SEE SUSTAINABLE PAGE 5
Empty Bamboo Girl
by Lillian Chan

I checked the book and you can only move on Monday between 1 pm and 4 pm.

WHAT?!

So, I’m gonna have to take time off work to help?

YES!

for more on us, become a facebook fan at www.facebook.com/ahinTheComic

12-13-10

Announcements

CHINATOWN

Free MCAS preparation classes offered by AACA Youth Program

Open to high school students who need academic remediation to pass the MCAS, obtain a high school diploma, and transition to post-secondary education. Classes will be Monday & Wednesday: 3:00 – 6 pm in the Chinatown Community Education Center, 4th Floor, Rm 408. To enroll, apply in person at the Asian American Civilic Association (AACA), 5th Floor between the hours of 9 am – 5 pm Monday through Friday. For information call the office at (617) 426-9492 ext. 231.

The Bright Lights for Winter” at the Greenway Chinatown Park

Join the Greenway Conservancy, and Chinatown residents for an installation of creative LED lighting and public art on the Greenway which runs from December 21, 2010 – March 21, 2011. See the grand unveiling of Bright Lights for Winter Nights on Tuesday, December 21 from 4-7PM with music and activities for all ages.

Cocoa for a good cause

By Cody Yiu

On December 3, 24 fourth graders at the Josiah Quincy Lower School got in line to get a cup of cocoa for 25 cents from a stand that stood at the entrance of the school cafeteria to raise money for the homeless. It was money worth spending for these little paying customers - they just could not wait to lick off the melted marshmallow off the top as soon as they sat down.

“It was very successful, with the students raising more than $100 in about 30 minutes just selling cocoa. I am sure we will keep doing this every year,” said Philip D. Amara, a fourth grade teacher who helped organize the event.

The fundraiser came out of urban design project proposed by HungKai Liao for the city of Boston. According to Liao, a Taiwanese student at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, the proposal seeks to encourage the City to release some of the under-utilized vacant lot or back alley spaces in the Downtown area. Another goal of the project is to devise a sound framework that allows the public to pitch their ideas and take a couple of weeks to realize their visions of the space usage.

The Josiah Quincy School and Castle Square Tenant association Youth Education Program be pitched their ideas and take a couple of weeks to realize their visions of the space usage. As the test run at the Josiah Quincy Lower School lasted for four weeks, from Nov 9 through Dec 3. “I hope my project can initially be realized as an educational program that targets the Lower School. And eventually the proposal might have a chance to be realized on a larger urban scale. The idea of this educational program is to create a new culture that encourages students to constantly pay attention to the environment, and also think about what they want from the spaces surrounding them.” Liao said.

Liao’s project is scheduled to be presented to the Mayor’s office in December.
AACA holds teacher-training workshop

By Gillian Burleson

On Friday, December 3, the Asian American Civic Association (AACA) hosted a workshop training teachers to integrate work-related materials into the ESOL curriculum in health care workplace education settings. AACA has two programs providing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to incumbent employees: one serves 28 employees of Tufts Medical Center in three classes that take place at AACA on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and the other serves 21 employees of South Cove Community Health Center in two classes that take place at both the Washington St., Chinatown, and North Quincy sites of that organization. In addition to 5 AACA teachers working with these programs, 13 other workplace educators were in attendance from places as dispersed as Worcester, Quincy, Attleboro, as well as programs all around Greater Boston. The presenter, Andy Nash, has been working in the field of Adult Education and ESOL in the workplace since the 1980’s and currently works as a trainer for World Education in Boston. The training was sponsored and funded by the System for Adult Basic Education Support (SABES) which receives funding from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to train adult educators. All participants seemed pleased with the information learned at this two-hour event.

CHARTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ters,“ Sunny said in her testimony. Halfway into her mother’s speech, Ilana, who stood by her mother, took over the microphone. “I want to learn Chinese,“ she said. She then went on to sing a song in Chinese. Ilana’s improvisation illustrated “how easy it is for young people to absorb the language when they are immersed in it at school, even if they don’t hear it at home,” Schwartz said.

BCICS is the only innovation charter school (in contrast to replication charter school) amongst the 23 finalist charter applicants being considered this year.

Charters schools are state-funded independent public schools that operate under five year charters granted by the State. They are designed to deliver programs tailored to the needs of the communities they serve, and enroll students through a lottery system. If approved, BCICS would be the first Mandarin immersion charter school in Boston. The only Chinese immersion charter school that currently operates in Massachusetts is the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School in Hadley, which opened in 2007. “They [Pioneer Valley] have a stellar track record for the short time they have been open. In 2010, their third graders took the MCAS, and they came out number one in the state in English and math. Some people question immersion school - are kids going to know enough English? It proves that an immersion program would work,” said Helen Chin Schlichte, Chair Emeritus of the Kwong Kow Chinese School Board of Directors and one of twelve founding members of BCICS.

The proposed BCICS is to serve a diverse pool of students, including some adopted from China and whose parents may have vested interests in Chinese language and culture through work or personal experience. A decision from DESE will be made in February 2011. If approved, BCICS plans to enroll two kindergarten and two first grade classes for the 2011-2012 academic year. A subsequent grade will be added each year through the 8th grade. The BCICS team is exploring several locations for a temporary site for the first three years. A new and permanent site will be established after that.

Those in opposition of charter schools claim that there is a hidden agenda behind the interests of public hearings. On December 7, the Boston Teachers Union released a statement accusing city officials of “meeting quietly” with charter leaders to explore the opportunity to lease city schools that were slated for closure. “[They] are salivating at the possibility of leasing ‘surplus’ Boston School buildings – even though the final decision on the superintendent’s proposal to close as many as a dozen Boston schools has not yet been made,” the statement notes.

For now, charter, or no charter – that is the question. Schlichte and the rest of the BCICS team will just have to sit tight until a verdict is delivered in February.
Plans for new Kensington Project move forward amid allegations of zoning irregularities and corruption

By Alissa Greenberg

On November 30, a night when there was not supposed to be a meeting at all, a knot of people sat together in a Chinatown conference room. There had been six similar meetings in October, where voices were raised and arguments broke out, and the hosts have most likely been hoping that the tumult was not finished. Instead, they got more of the same on a smaller scale—a microcosm of the tensions that continue to plague Chinatown’s Kensington project.

The project’s history is complex: on December 10, 2001 the Kensington Corporation approached the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) with a plan to demolish the existing buildings between Washington and LaGrange Streets in Chinatown, including the historic Gaiety Theater, and build a 30-story condominium building in their place. Filing for a zoning exemption (also called a Planned Development Area or PDA designation), Kensington encountered significant opposition from Chinatown citizens fearing further neighborhood gentrification.

Two years later, two local associations and several City Counselors sued Kensington, alleging that the corporation did not own the necessary acre for a PDA designation. Although the case did not advance—the judge ruled that only neighbors of the would-be site had grounds for a suit—the project stalled as only neighbors of the would-be site had the grounds for a suit—the project stalled as only neighbors of the would-be site had the grounds for a suit—the project stalled as only neighbors of the would-be site had the grounds for a suit—the project stalled as only neighbors of the would-be site had the grounds for a suit—the project stalled as only neighbors of the would-be site had the grounds for a suit—the project stalled as only neighbors of the would-be site had the grounds for a suit—the project stalled as only neighbors of the would-be site had the grounds for a suit—the project stalled as only neighbors of the would-be site had the grounds for a suit—the project stalled as only neighbors of the would-be site had the grounds for a suit—the project stalled as only neighbors of the would-be site had the grounds for a suit—the project stalled as 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efforts to make businesses greener in a neighborhood that has been under-repre-
sested in ‘green’ efforts.

“Being a Chinese immigrant myself, I’m particularly proud to say that we have received incredible support from the busi-
ness owners in our community. Being an immigrant community, we always carry a
kind of stigma that we never care for anything ‘green’. We mind our own
business. We just know how to earn mon-
ey,” said Chau-ming Lee, Executive Director
of AACA, in his opening remark. “But ac-
cording to the initial result of this project, we are actually quite ready and willing to
make this community a very green-friend-
ly environment…we hope that this can be
carried on as a pilot project to other com-
nunities to look at,” Lee continued.

Galen Nelson, GreenTech Business
Manager with the BRA acted as the emcee
of the event. Emily Damiano, Director of the Sustainable Chinatown Project, offered
an interpretation in Cantonese following
each speech.

Jim Hunt, Chief of Environment and
Energy Service, the City of Boston, in his
keynote speech, said: “Sustainability is a
concept that I am told is deeply root-
ed in the Chinese culture. Here in Boston,
we have really taken hold of sustainability in
holistic ways, the interconnectedness of
three things: the planet, people and pros-
perity. This is what the Sustainable Chi-
natown program is all about: Connecting
desire to sell energy upgrades and help
businesses to go forward with this energy-
saving and cost-saving plan.

Bok Yee of Bubor Cha Cha Restaurant,
which features Malaysian cuisine, said that
the Sustainable Chinatown Project, in which all the fluorescent
lights were replaced with high-energy
iciency lamps, has directly lowered the restaurant’s opera-
tion costs.

Three workshops and information on
energy efficiency upgrades, waste man-
agement and renewable energy followed
the speeches. Lisa Hadaya of NSTAR and
Ellen Pfeiffer of NGRID gave a presentation
outlining what energy efficiency upgrades entail; Adam Mitchell of Save That Stuff,
gave an interactive presentation on waste
management; Andrew Belden of Mister
Consultants Group, talked about renew-
able energy.

Vin Graziano of RISE Engineering, who
attended the kick-off event, said:

“We have worked on energy effi-
ciency programs with many commu-
nity organizations, but the efforts of
AACA on Sustainable Chinatown and
Renew Boston have been truly excep-
tional. Emily Damiano and the AACA
staff have done a fabulous job of reach-
ing out to Chinatown businesses with
services that can help them reduce energy use and their monthly utility
bills. They have personally assisted
many business owners with the little
details to help the projects go very smoothly. As a result, well over 60 Chinatown businesses have made
energy improvements over the past 2
months, and many more projects are
underway. AACA’s close relationship with the Chinatown community has
made this a model for a successful lo-
cal neighborhood initiative. At RISE
Engineering, we are honored and
grateful for the chance to work with
AACA, NSTAR, National Grid, and the Mayor’s
Office to achieve results that make
Chinatown a shining example for oth-
ers to follow.

To learn more about the Sustainable Chi-
natown Project, please contact
Emily Damiano at 617.426.9492 ext
224.

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an appointment

Space is limited

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December 17, 2010

SAMPSAN
The liver is the largest organ in the body, and the main heat-producing organ. It is surround- ed by a tough capsule and is divided into sections called lobes. It is situated in the upper part of the abdomen on the right-hand side of the body and is surround- ed and protected from injury by the lower ribs. The liver is connected to the small intestine (duodenum) by a tube called the bile duct. This tube takes the bile produced by the liver to the intestine. The liver has an amazing ability to repair itself. It can function normally with only a small part of it in working order.

Primary Cancer

Primary liver cancer which starts in the liver itself, is one of the most common cancers in some areas. Many people who have done things that can harm the liver on purpose, such as drinking too much alcohol, or are affected by conditions such as hepatitis B or hepatitis C virus can lead to liver cancer, and also be the cause of cirrhosis, which increases the risk of develop- ing hepatoma.

Cancer which starts in the liver, although occasionally it spreads to other organs and occurs mostly in people with a liver disease called cirrhosis. There is also a rarer sub-type of hepatoma called Fibrolamellar hepatoma, which is usually confined to the liver. It is a rarer sub-type of hepatoma called Fibrolamellar hepatoma, which may occur in younger people and is not related to previous liver disease.

Cholangiocarcinoma or bile duct cancer: starts in the cells lin- ing the bile ducts.

Cholangiocarcinoma or bile duct cancer: starts in the cells lining the bile ducts.

Cancer tumours in the liver can be cancerous (benign) or non-cancerous (benign) and do not spread to other parts of the body. They are usually small and may cause no symp- toms, and are often discovered by chance during operations or in- vestigations for other conditions. Unusual symptoms of tumours they do not usually need to be removed.

The causes of primary liver cancer

1. Hepatoma (cancer of the liver cells):
   a. Lots of people who develop hepatoma usually have a condi- tion called cirrhosis of the liver. This is a fine scarring throughout the liver which is due to a vari- ety of causes including infection and heavy alcohol drinking over a long period of time. However, only a small proportion of people who have cirrhosis of the liver develop primary liver cancer.
   b. Infection with the hepatitis B or hepatitis C virus can lead to liver cancer, and also be the cause of cirrhosis, which increases the risk of develop- ing hepatoma.
   c. People who have a rare con- dition called haemochromatosis, which involves excess deposits of iron in the body, have a higher chance of developing hepatoma.
   d. In Asia, there is a liver parasite known as the liver fluke, found in muddy ponds and grass. It is only a small proportion of people who have cirrhosis of the liver develop primary liver cancer.

2. Bile duct cancers (cholangiocarcinomas) are less common than hepatomas. The cause of most bile duct cancers is un- known, but they are slightly more likely to occur in people:
   a. With conditions which cause inflammation of the bowel, such as ulcerative colitis.
   b. In Asia, infection with a parasite known as the liver fluke is thought to cause many cholan- giocarcinomas.

The symptoms of primary liver cancer

In the early stages of primary liver cancer, there are often no symptoms.
People sometimes notice a vague discomfort in the abdomen that may become pain- ful. This is due to enlargement of the liver. Pain can sometimes also be felt in the right shoulder. This is known as referred pain and is due to an enlarged liver which is pressing on the diaphragm (the sheet of muscle under the lungs). It can also cause pain in the abdomen.

If the cancer cells blocking the lymphatic system, they can irritate it and cause fluid to build up - if the liver itself is affected by cancer cells, this causes an increase in pressure in the veins which lead into the liver. Fluid from the abdo- men cannot drain efficiently - if the cancer cells block the lymphatic system, it cannot drain efficiently - if the cancer itself is affected by cancer cells, this causes an increase in pressure in the veins which lead into the liver. Fluid cannot drain efficiently - if the liver itself is affected by cancer cells, this causes an increase in pressure in the veins which lead into the liver. Fluid cannot drain efficiently - if the cancer cells block the lymphatic system, it cannot drain efficiently.

The symptoms of primary liver cancer

- Jaundice - The itching may sometimes be relieved by antihistamine tablets or other drugs which your doctor can prescribe. Sometimes the jaund- ice itself can be relieved.
- Swelling - There may be a narrow tube called a stent into the bile duct to keep it open and allow the bile to flow normally into the small intestine.
- Other symptoms include:
  a. Loss of appetite
  b. Weight loss
  c. Feeling sick (nausea)
  d. Weakness
  e. Tiredness
  f. It may also develop a high temperature and feel shivery.

Boston News

Helen Hui Choi, who immi- grated to the United States in 1987, has worked successfully and devotedly in serv- ing the Asian community. For over 20 years, Choi worked as a social worker in Hong Kong. When she immi- grated to the United States with her family, she became involved with the Asian American Civic As- sociation in Boston where she helped support many Asian immigrants. In 1993, Choi’s journey to help others led her to become an advocate for the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Vio- lence (ATAK). Choi, now retired, was an advocate for ATASK for 17 years.

Udendy, Choi is a well-deserved recipient of the Community Pioneer Award. On December 10, 2010, Choi was presented the Community Pioneer Award by the Mayor of New Boston. A community leader who has been instrumental in serving the Asian community is Shiu Ming Huang, who received the Youth Action Award. The Youth Action Award is awarded to someone whose parents are immigrants, under the age of 21, and has demonstrated unselfish service to their community over the years.

Another notable awardee from the Asian community is Shiu Ming Huang, who received the Youth Action Award. The Youth Action Award is awarded to someone whose parents are immigrants, under the age of 21, and has demonstrated unselfish service to their community over the years.

The causes of primary liver cancer

- Jaundice
- Fever
- Itching
- Fatigue
- Pain in the abdomen
- swollen lymph nodes
- dark yellow urine and whitish stools
- weight loss

Diana Li is a Sampan cor- respondent.
Diamond glared at him and held up a small round fist. The first bite, an idea seemed to come to her. She got up strange, it was very unlike Di. She was usually carefree. 

Better than Daisy.

They saw each other often. Diamond was beginning to so much alike. Their mothers were also best friends so everything together. They were the same age, their known each other since they were born and did almost.

Andover

But you just said you were!

That was this morning. I hate milk now, Diamond announced. Dami shook his head and watched. Di was the most determined person he'd ever met. Once again, Di's mother denied her attention and with her face burning

Hiker. World Traveler.

Hiker. World Traveler.

Any worries. His Erickson Living® community includes a wealth admiring the view. Thanks to his maintenance-free apartment home, he can hit the trails without any worries. His Erickson Living® community includes a wealth of on-site services to keep him healthy, fit and active—so he can look forward to many more years of blazing his own path.

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Our apartment homes aren't the only things with a beautiful outlook.

For Bill, really living means getting out there and exploring the world, not sitting back and admiring the view. Thanks to his maintenance-free apartment home, he can hit the trails without any worries. His Erickson Living® community includes a wealth of on-site services to keep him healthy, fit and active—so he can look forward to many more years of blazing his own path.

Learn what really living can do for you. Call 1-800-917-8463 for your free Guide to Erickson Living at Linden Ponds and discover how beautiful and affordable your retirement can be.

From page 6: Liver.

build up.

- if ascites does develop, a tube can be put through the wall of the abdomen to drain the fluid away. Whatever the cause, jaundice or ascites will always indicate a condition that needs medical attention and should not be ignored. Always have these symptoms checked by your doctor.

Secondary or metastatic liver cancer

This is a cancer which has started somewhere else in the body and has spread to the liver. Almost any cancer can spread to the liver; but the most common ones include bowel, pancreas, stomach, lung and breast cancer.

The causes of secondary liver cancer

The cause of secondary liver cancer is always a primary cancer situated somewhere in the body that has spread to the liver. If cancer cells from the primary cancer have escaped into the bloodstream, the liver is a likely place for them to settle as all the blood in the body passes through the liver.

The symptoms of secondary liver cancer

The symptoms are similar for both primary and secondary liver cancer. In the early stages of both these types of liver cancer there are often no symptoms. Although you should always have these symptoms checked by your doctor, it is important to remember that they are common to many conditions other than cancer.

Whatever the cause, jaundice or ascites will always indicate a condition that needs medical attention and should not be ignored.

Article funded through the Asian Health Initiative of Tufts Medical Center
Wheelock's production of Annie: A diverse and untraditional casting in musical theater

By Joanne Wong and Diana Li

Wheelock Family Theatre celebrates its 30th anniversary season with three family shows: Annie, The Secret Garden, and Aladdin. For its 30th anniversary, Wheelock Family Theatre honors actor and New Hampshire native Gary Ng for his 15 years with the theatre. Ng’s success is a huge accomplishment for himself and the Asian American community. The Sampan was invited for an exclusive backstage interview with some of the Asian American actors, Jenna Lea Scott and Gary Ng, in the production of Annie.

**Sampan:** Tell us a little about yourselves. Where did you grow up, and why did you decide to pursue an acting career?

**Scott:** I was born in South Korea. I was adopted, came to America when I was 5, and grew up in Acton, MA. Theater was something I got into because I was shy and it was something to get me outside of my shell.

**Ng:** I was born in Portsmouth, NH. I kind of got involved in high school...I had a cousin who went to the high school and they urged me to try out. I didn’t try out my freshman year, but in my sophomore year, I tried out, got cast, and actually got to play an Asian role!

**Sampan:** That’s a very interesting story. What are your current roles in Annie?

**Scott:** I play Mrs. Pugh and Connie Boylan, one of the Boylan sisters singing in the radio show. It is established at the beginning of the show that we are telling the story of Annie from a radio station. It involves a lot of running around [laughs]. Mrs. Pugh works at Mr. Warbucks’ house and when Annie comes to visit the house for the first time, we allow her to see all the extravagant things, so we bring in the delicious food that she gets to eat and the set-up of the ambiance, and things like that. It’s a lot of fun.

**Ng:** I play Drake. He’s the head butler...the one in charge of [Mr. Warbucks’] household. I do play a minor role in the song NYC. I got a hat on and an overcoat... trying not to look a lot like Drake, and get to sing with the chorus.

**Sampan:** What other plays or musicals have you been involved in?

**Scott:** That’s a big question. Here at Wheelock, I was in Peter Pan, and played Liza. It was fun and I got to fly. I’ve also been in Honk and Seussical the Musical.

**Ng:** I started here at Wheelock in 1995, and had never heard of Wheelock and their non-traditional casting. The only reason I came down was that back in Portsmouth, a woman I knew wanted to come down and audition, but she didn’t have a car. She told me she set up an audition for us, and I was so mad at her. She needed a ride, so I drove her here. Needless to say, she didn’t get the part, and I got the part. My first role here was in Cinderella, and I think I’ve been in 15 shows...I also did an Asian tour of Cole Porter’s Aladdin, where I played in Singapore, Bangkok, and Hong Kong. Those are just some highlights.

**Sampan:** The next question is for Gary. How does it feel to be honored with an award by the Wheelock Family Theatre?

**Ng:** It’s very special. This place has always meant a lot to me. This is family, and I always feel like part of the family here. I’m always asked back to do another show, and everyone is so embracing. They manage to hire wonderful, wonderful people, and so it’s like coming home. I feel very honored that they feel I’ve contributed such a big part. I’ve been involved for 15 years, and the theatre is celebrating its 30th anniversary, so it’s almost half of the time they’ve been here, and it feels very special to be honored and valued.

**Sampan:** Have you always known that you wanted to become actors?

**Scott:** I don’t think so. I think it was something that I ended up loving and I asked myself: Can I really do this? I’ve been trying ever since, and it’s going pretty well so far.

**Ng:** I constantly went to theater, and deep down, I really wanted to be an actor. When I first started, I wasn’t sure. My parents would ask me what I’m doing with my life. I would go to New York, and would get called back for Broadway auditions, so I knew there was some talent. I think my parents accepted the fact, and allowed me to try it out. It’s been a fun journey so far.

**Sampan:** Did you take acting classes, or did acting come naturally?

**Scott:** I definitely did. I went to a performing arts school in New York City, and we had to sing, act, and dance everyday. It’s all about learning new things too, so I’m trying to be open.

**Ng:** Not really. Fortunately, when I got involved in a theater group in New Hampshire, I learned my acting by just doing. With them, they had no qualms about hiring an Asian actor in roles that you don’t think an Asian American actor would do. I was fortunate to play in many, many roles up there that I would never imagine auditioning for in real life.

**Sampan:** Do you feel like you have to overcome certain obstacles in acting because you’re Asian American?

**Ng:** It’s a lot tougher. You see Broadway shows. You see maybe one or two Asian actors out there, and that’s probably a big chorus or musical. In terms of the real world, it’s a lot tougher.

**Scott:** I also find that with the Asian actors, you tend to all be in it together. We all support each other. If it’s not you who get the part, then you want them to get the part. It’s a big deal to represent who we are and that we’re talented and just as good as everyone else. It’s always exciting to see Asian actors play roles that actors of other ethnicities usually play. It’s nice to cheer them on.

**Sampan:** Are you involved with outreach to young, aspiring Asian actors?

**Scott:** Every summer, I teach at a summer camp for kids for musical theater. I teach a lot of diverse kids. I think what’s great is them knowing that there are other faces out there. And also, for the kids that come and watch the show, because of the fact that we’re on stage, it’s very encouraging and that’s how we can inspire by showing them what we do and what we love. They can see how great it can be, and if they want to do it, they can do it.

**Sampan:** Is there anything else you would like to add?

**Ng:** Come see Annie!

**Scott:** I want to encourage other Asian American actors who are interested in performing to really do it. Try it! It’s not as scary as you may think, especially when there are homes like the Wheelock Family Theatre. There are places for us, and there are stories being told that are new and different about our own cultures and backgrounds, so I encourage you to, if not be in it, then support it.

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After performing an outstanding show, Caroline Workman and Lexi Ryan met with the Sampan for a brief interview. Currently, Workman is in the 5th grade and Ryan is in the 7th grade.

**Sampan:** How did you get into musicals?

**Workman:** Well, I started out dancing. I really like to dance. I just tried out for it and really liked it. After watching the show, you probably noticed I like dancing because I have a solo dance number in the show.

**Ryan:** There was a casting call one time for another show and I practiced and studied the routine really hard. I auditioned, but then felt afraid to do it. Afterwards, I felt better about it and I told my mother that I really wanted to do it. I went back to the director and asked if I can be in the show. He said yes, and ever since, I have really loved performing. This is my third show.

**Sampan:** Do you have stage fright? If so, how do you overcome it?

**Workman:** I don’t have stage fright at all. Some people find it weird, but I prefer performing in front of strangers.

**Ryan:** I did at first but you get used to it. You don’t think about it and just perform after a while.

**Sampan:** Is this something you want to pursue?

**Ryan and Workman:** YES! Definitely!

For more information about the Wheelock Family Theatre, please visit its website: [http://www2.wheelock.edu/wheelock/x1010.xm](http://www2.wheelock.edu/wheelock/x1010.xm)

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