
COMMUNITY NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 13, 2005

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the first issue of our community news at NC Raleigh Chinese Language School! Starting from this fall, we will be publishing newsletter on the biweekly basis. Everyone in the community will be able to view the newsletter via email or online on the NCRCLS web site. The main purpose of this publication is to communicate special events or happenings in our school, classrooms and community. We also welcome your comments, questions and feedback about the newsletter and about school. Send us your child's writings (Chinese, in particular), drawings, pictures and achievements for everyone to cheer about. Also, a classifieds section can be added should the need arise. E-mail me at sparc200@aol.com or call me at (919) 932-7968. Through frequent communication, we are hoping to build a strong sense of community and a network of family support.

Shu-Hwa Chen, *Editor*

Tell us what you did this summer, we want to hear from you! Deadline for Next Issue: August 20, 2005.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 20th- Teachers Meeting, 1:30- 2:30 pm; Staff Members Meeting, 2:30-4:00 pm

August 27th- First Day of School, 1:30 pm

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Like to see Chinese version of this newsletter? Come and help us out!

Welcome Back to School

Open seats in some extracurricular classes and a new teacher for Chinese Calligraphy and Paintings

Yulan Chung, *Principal*



The new school year is right around the corner. Thanks to our enthusiastic and gifted teachers and staff members here at NCRCLS, preparations for the fall semester of 2005 are underway. I'm looking forward to seeing you all on your child's first day of school.

Open Seats

We still have open seats in some of the extracurricular classes such as Floral Arrangement, Chinese Yo-yo, Gu-Zheng and Chinese Calligraphy and Paintings. Anyone who is interested in these classes please contact Ms. Wenyi Chen at registration@ncrcls.org as soon as possible.

New Teacher

We've recruited a few new teachers. They are Mrs. Lin (8 grade), Mrs. Tu (K3), Ms. Liu (Dance 2) and Mr. Yu (Chinese Calligraphy and Paintings). Welcome aboard!



Our 6A teacher, Fila Park, has an unexpected adventure the other day—her house was hit by lightning. We sure are glad that no one got hurt. Fila was very kind to share her thoughts with us. Hence, we're reminded again of summer storm safety and the importance of homeowner's insurance. Make sure give Fila a hug when you see her at school next time. If you have any great idea about fixing ceiling, please share with Fila.

The Acts of Nature

Dear friend, if you haven't known anyone whose house was hit by lightning, now you have got one.

Yesterday at about 1 pm, a very loud and frightening-sound thunder was heard in N. Raleigh. We thought it sounded really close by, we'd better check where it hit. When we went into our master bedroom, we could smell some smoke but couldn't see anything wrong. Nathan went downstairs first and we heard him crying "Mommy, come down here and look!" What we saw was a twin-mattress size of ceiling had already caved in, smoke on the roof, and two new "sky lights" were visible through the roof.

So I called 911 and three fire trucks and an ambulance arrived soon afterwards. Since no one was hurt, the ambulance left in a while later. The fire fighters worked through the rain, took out the bricks that came off the chimney and whatever debris was there, and then knocked off the caved-in ceiling. Later they also patched a temporary plastic lining covering the roof. By the time they left, about 40% of the living room ceiling had been gone.

That lightning hit both the tallest tree in our backyard,

and the nearby chimney and roof.

While Larry worked in the house moving the furniture out of the way, our two boys, two dogs and I stayed in our next door "new" neighbors' house. (They have just moved in at the end of June.) I called more than three dozens electricians and only one was available right away. As for our homeowner's insurance carrier, Travelers, I have not received a call from the adjuster. So the lesson is, if your house is going to be hit by a lightning, it's better to be on weekdays than on weekends.

This is just another chapter of our life adventure here! Overall, I am deeply thankful that no one is hurt and this damage is going to force us to fix the water-leak marks on the ceiling that have been bothering me for years.

God bless,
Fila, 8/7/05

Summer Storm Safety

Some points of reminder summary from an article written by Jane Paige and published in the May 2005 of Carolina Parent

- NC ranks third in the country in the number of fatalities attributed to lightning.
- Last year, the Triangle had 65 days in which thunderstorms occurred.
- During a storm, people should avoid tall structures such as towers, trees, fences and power lines, as well as metal equipment such as golf clubs, tractors, fishing rods and bicycles.
- Families need to remember the 30/30 lightning safety rules: Go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you can't count to 30 before hearing thunder, and stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.
- Even if your are indoors, do not handle electrical equipment or telephones because electrical currents from a lightning strike can follow the wires. TV sets are particularly dangerous. Avoid bathtubs, water faucets and sinks because metal pipes can transmit electricity, as well.
- A person who has been struck by lightning does not carry an electrical charge. If the victim is burned, provide First Aid and call 911 immediately.
- During a tornado warning, people should seek shelter immediately. Stay at the center of an interior room on the lowest level away from corners, windows, doors and outside walls.
- Running water is extremely powerful. If you see water flowing over the roadways, turn around and go the other way.