



# **Hand In Hand Spring Newsletter**



**2012, THE YEAR OF  
THE DRAGON!**

# FACING THE YEAR OF . . . . . THE DRAGON, 2012



## **Big Sister Program**

Here is the list of our spring semester events; don't forget to mark your calendars! Evites with locations and times will be sent out around a month prior to each event.

**January 7** - Holiday Party - Even though the holidays are over, it's not too late to get into the holiday mood! Join us for a fun-filled morning of s'mores, carols, games, and more!

**February 11** - Chinese New Year - This is our annual Chinese New Year Event, which will feature performances such as lion dances and traditional Chinese music, lots of fun Chinese-themed games and crafts, and a wonderful dinner filled with all sorts of yummy food!

**March 31** - Royal Emperor/Empress Event - Who doesn't want to learn about Chinese royalty? China has some of the richest history when it comes to the ruling class, with unique and beautiful traditions, heirlooms, and of course, clothes. In this event we plan to have both the little sisters and the big brothers dress up and learn about the culture of the kings and queens of ancient China.

**April 14** - Theme To Be Announced

**May 19** (tentatively) - End of the Year Banquet - At the end of the year, we always hold closing ceremony to appreciate all the support of the wonderful parents and the hard work from all our volunteers. We also have a couple seniors graduating this year: Diane, Vicky, Willy, Rowena, and so be sure to wish them good luck as we send them off to college!

**HIP HIP, HOORAY!**

## Hooray! We're Official!

We have some very exciting news--Hand in Hand Chinese (Corporation) has now officially obtained 501(c)(3) status as a public charity! This means that we are now exempt from federal income tax and able to participate in more fundraisers. Our program continues to thrive, and we currently have over 45 active volunteers, not to mention numerous members who have already graduated from college and other metro-Atlanta teens who help out now and then.



### Meet our Leadership Team!

Program Directors: Kathy Lin and Lily Zhang

Language and Dance Coordinators: Michelle Tsai and Ashley Wang

Big Sister Coordinators: Jennifer Li and Diane Lin

Fundraiser/Hands for Hope Coordinator: Melissa Li



# CALENDAR FUNDRAISER!

Our first fundraiser is our calendar sale! This is the first time we've made a Hand in Hand calendar, and they feature pictures from our past three years as well as drawings from the kids themselves. They are \$12 each, and all profits go to Hand in Hand to help offset the costs of our events! Purchase one of these cute 2012 calendars to help support us! We will be selling them at our next few events and language classes, so get yours now and support us!



# LANGUAGE & DANCE CLASSES



*"...One day... you will fulfill your destiny and take over the restaurant: just as I took it over from my father, who took it over from his father, who ...won it from a friend in a game of mahjong."  
- Kung Fu Panda*

Last semester, we had lots of fun learning a variety of

Chinese games such as mah-jong, chess, and checkers. We practiced conversations in Chinese and even learned how to use Google Translate! In addition, the students had the amazing opportunity to go on a field trip to the Gwinnett Center. Thanks to a had free admission to a Chinese dance performance by the Morning Star Dance Academy. This performance featured a variety of Chinese dance and classical ballet performances. This is an amazing cultural experience and a great opportunity for kids to be a part of the Chinese community.

We're having a great new semester, and hope that it will be a great new year! You can still register at [www.handinhandchinese.com/registration](http://www.handinhandchinese.com/registration)

# SUMMER CAMP 2012!

If your child has ever wanted to be a time traveler, then he/she should join us this summer for our most popular Hand in Hand program, our Summer Culture Camp! We will be embarking on a journey to the past, visiting different dynasties every day from the Qin dynasty all the way to the Qing dynasty and learning about China's rich history and culture.

The kids will be split into four teams (depending on age), and there will be a bunch of Big Sisters and Brothers present throughout the camp to help out as well! The day will start off with a powerpoint teaching about the dynasty of the day, followed by a craft, an hour of dance class, team bonding time, and of course a game. Snacks will be provided halfway through the morning.

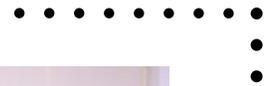
The camp will take place from Tuesday, May 29 (the day after Memorial Day) to Saturday, June 2 at Johns Creek United Methodist Church from 9:30 to 12:30. On Saturday, we will be holding our End of Camp picnic, and the time and location will be announced in the near future. At the picnic, the kids will perform their dances and the various facts that they have learned during the camp. More information and registration will start in early March, so keep your eyes peeled for that! We hope to see all of you during camp this summer!



# GRADUATED BIG SISTERS AND BROTHERS

Miss all the Big Sisters and Brothers who have graduated? Wondering what they've been up to? Our former Hand in Hand Big Sisters and Brothers have graduated from high school and gone on to do lots of really amazing things! They've gone on to study everything from Economics and Biology to Computer Science and Early Childhood Education. They're involved in a variety of activities including student government, dance groups and Greek life and volunteer through a variety of service organizations related to education, youth and healthcare.

As many as six are continuing to work with children adopted from China through China Care clubs across the nation. We currently have Big Sisters involved in China Care clubs at Duke, Northwestern, UChicago, Georgia Tech and Harvard! Look out for them at events next time they're home for summer, winter, or spring break!



# GRADUATED BIG SISTERS AND BROTHERS



## **Karen Xiao**

Northview High School Class of 2010

Harvard University (Cambridge, MA), Class of 2014

Computer Science

(minor undecided: either Global Health & Health Policy, Sociology or Economics)

Activities: Harvard China Care (direct the Mentoring Program, lead Fundraising efforts - we raised over \$25,000 last year to help an orphanage in China and fund medical surgeries for orphans!), The Harvard Crimson (manage website & write for Harvard's daily newspaper), Computer Science Teaching Fellow (teaching assistant for introductory CS course - I get to teach, hold office hours and grade homework!)

Fun Fact: Last summer, I traveled to China to work in Bethel Foster Home, an orphanage for blind and visually impaired orphans. It was a very life-changing experience and I loved every minute of it!

## **Donna Guo**

Northview High School Class of 2011

University of Chicago, Chicago IL, Class of 2015

Biology/Pre-med

Volunteer for Health Leads Chicago, Playgroup Coordinator for UChicago

China Care; In addition, I play piano and take lessons.

China Care at the University of Chicago hosted our very first Playgroup event (like a Big Sister event) this quarter!! It was a great success and I'm really excited to help plan playgroups the first year of our Playgroup program. :) In other news, I am really enjoying college. I've made a lot of wonderful new friends, and despite the work, I like all my classes and I'm learning lots!

**Patricia:** Graduated from Northview High School

First year at Georgia Tech and plans to major in Business Administration.

Phi Mu Sorority, Campus Tour Guide, GT for the Kids Morale Leader

"I've only been away from Hand-in-Hand for a little over a semester, so not too much has changed. But I will say that I miss seeing everyone's bright, smiling faces at the monthly events. I hope to come back and visit soon :)"

# GRADUATED BIG SISTERS AND BROTHERS

## **Susannah Cai**

Northview Class of 2011

New York University, New York, 2015

Economics major

Activities involved in college: America Reads Tutor, International Business Association, and Alternative Spring Break

"I have been working as an America Reads Tutor in Manhattan, New York assisting kindergarten students in reading and writing. Over spring break, I will be traveling to the Dominican Republic to teach students English. I am very excited about this opportunity!"

## **Dianna Zheng**

Class of 2009

University of Georgia, Athens, GA Junior

Early Childhood Education

"I just started my first block of the Early Childhood Program at UGA and I LOVE it! I started tutoring 2nd graders at a nearby school and am also shadowing teachers in their classrooms so I am getting a lot of experience and really starting to get a taste of what it'll be like as a teacher. Besides school, I also co-lead a bible study through the UGA Intersarsity Christian Fellowship and lead another bible study on the weekends back at home for the middle school girls at my church. My semester's been really busy, but I am extremely blessed with wonderful friends and family, learning LOTS of new things, and really enjoying every single moment!"

## **Cathy Gu**

Graduated May 2010 from Collins Hill High School.

Georgia Tech, Atlanta - 2nd year

Biomedical Engineering and German

Involved in China Care Club and Emerging Leaders

## **Michelle Wang**

South Forsyth High School May 2010

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, Sophomore

Chemical Engineering

Alpha Kappa Delta Phi, Peer Advisor, Society of Women Engineers