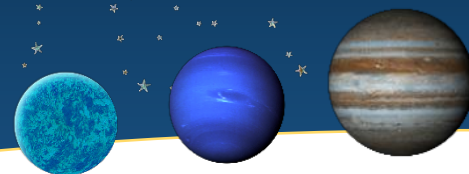


# 西風

The Westside Breeze

西區中文學校



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 內容

My Year in China	
在中國的日子里.....	1-3
My First Day of Middle School	
第一天上中學.....	4
New Teachers	
新老師.....	5
Friendship Day	
友誼日遊戲頁.....	6-7
Fidget Spinners	
指尖陀螺.....	8

## MY YEAR IN CHINA

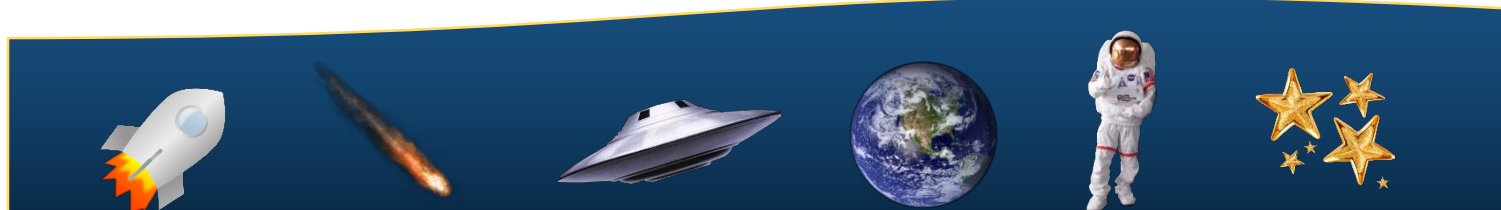
We are Felicia Duan, in class 4A, and Chrystal Duan in 6A. Last year, our family went to China for a year. We went to schools in Changsha and Beijing and visited lots of different places and cities. I want to share stories of our travels in China.

我們是 4A 班的段媛瑗，和 6A 班的段晶菁。去年我們一家在中國生活了一年。我們在北京上了一年學，我們還去了很多別的城市和有趣的地方。我想和大家分享我們在中國生活和學習的故事。

### 上學 School

At the beginning, attending school in China was very hard. Compared to America, there is more homework, more exams, and on top of that we did not know many Chinese characters. We did not understand much in classes either. But we did not give up. We held the same standards for the Chinese students for ourselves as well. Although it was difficult, we thought it would be even more difficult had we not gone to Chinese School. At the end, we both caught up with the class and learned a great deal. It is a big school, where each grade has about 400 students. And we have a lot of clubs and activities in school. In addition to classes, the school in China also offers a lot of extracurricular activities. We both participated in soccer tournaments, sports meet and crafts for sale to raise funds for charity. I also joined the English drama club and oil painting club. It has been a very exciting year!

剛開始，在中國上學是一件很難的事。和美國比，作業多，考試也多，加上我們還不太會讀中文字。上課很多東西都聽不懂。但是我們沒有放棄，一直要求自己跟同學一樣的標準。雖然剛開始還是挺難的，之前沒上中文學校肯定會更難。最後我們趕上了班級的進度，而且又學了好多知識。中國的小學很大，每個年級都有大約 400 個學生，所以我們有很多課外活動。我和妹妹都參加了足球比賽，運動會和義賣活動。我也參加了英語戲劇社和油畫社。這是很激動人心的一年。







**Yuanyuan is feeding a panda special panda bread. This panda was rescued from the wild.**

My dad and mom took my sister and me to see pandas. Once we got to the panda research base, we were even more excited than before because not only were we able to see the pandas, but also got to clean up the yard they live in and feed them their food. When we got to the panda area, we each first had to put on a working suit and gloves. Then we went to the panda yards. When we were cleaning up after the pandas, my younger sister and my dad cleaned one side, and my mom and I cleaned the other. First we threw out the bamboo that wasn't eaten or fully eaten, then we replaced them with fresh new ones. We also cleaned the pond where the pandas wash themselves in. We used a metal shovel to sweep the panda's poo into a metal container before dropping it into a special trash bucket. It didn't smell too bad because all they eat is bamboo and a special bread. The bread is made up of soybean, corn, rice and egg. We got to try some too. The reason pandas don't just eat bamboo and need to have bread as well is that they need some food with more nutrition. But mostly they just eat bamboo. About 99% of their food is bamboo. We fed the pandas bread too. While feeding them, they would put their hands out on a metal rectangle plate, where we could give the piece of bread to the panda. Pandas are so cute and interesting. I hope to someday see them again!

## 兵馬俑 Terracotta Army

我跟姐姐，媽媽和爸爸去看兵馬俑我們在那裡聽了兵馬俑的故事，講的是兵馬俑怎麼被找到的，故事是這樣的：“有一個農民，他想打一個井，打井的時候他發現有好多個陶做的兵馬，就把它叫了兵馬俑。“兵馬俑還有一個故事，“秦朝的時候有一名皇帝，叫秦始皇。他以為死了以後，他的魂魄還可以用到生前用的東西。秦始皇就派了一些人，去給他建個墓，等他死了用。墓裡面，有陶做的兵，也埋了陶做的馬和馬車。裝完墓後，所有知道這個墓存在的人都被殺了。避免有人跟別人講了，他們去盜墓。“我們看了不少個兵，有些兵在騎馬，有些兵站在馬的旁邊，有跪著的兵，還有坐在馬車裡的兵。我們學到了更多關於中國歷史的知識，又看到了許多有趣的東西。兵馬真好玩兒。

Our family went to see the terracotta army in Xi'an. There, we heard about how they were found: "A peasant went to dig a well when he discovered a terra-cotta soldier. He reported it to the government which then sent people to dig up the whole site in order to find out who buried the terracotta army." And we heard another story about why the terracotta army was formed: "The first emperor of the Qin dynasty called Qin Shi Huang believed that after he died, his spirit could still possess what he had when he was alive. So, he ordered people to build a large tomb for his enjoyment after death. They built terracotta soldiers, horses and carriages, and many other things. He also killed everyone who knew about the tomb after it was built, so that his tomb can be kept a secret from tomb raiders." We learned a lot of Chinese history and had a lot of fun there.

## 熊猫基地 Panda Land

爸爸，媽媽帶我們去四川看熊貓。到了，我們就更興奮了，因為我們不只可以看，又能夠為熊貓做衛生和餵它們食物。到了熊貓基地，我們先換上了工作服裝和手套，然後我們去了熊貓住的院子。做衛生的時候，爸爸和我做一邊，姐姐和媽媽做一邊。我們要把熊貓沒吃完的竹子扔掉，把它的水池洗乾淨。而且我們還要撿熊貓的便便。熊貓的便便聞的不太臭，因為它只吃竹子和麵包。麵包是用豆子，米，玉米和雞蛋，它們吃麵包是因為它們要吃一點有營養的食物。但是熊貓大部分都吃竹子，它們吃 99% 竹子。我們也可以給熊貓餵麵包，餵熊貓時，熊貓要把它的手放到一個鐵方塊兒，然後才能把麵包餵給它。熊貓好可愛，希望有一天能再去看熊貓。



**A staff member is chatting with the twin pandas.**





The terracotta soldiers at the museum in Xi'an, China. There are thousands of them and no two are alike. Each figure has the name of the sculptor stamped on it. It is approximated that it took 40 years to construct the entire army.

PIANO LESSONS

Conservatory-Trained Teacher

Over 25 years experience

Works with all ages, including adults

All levels - beginning to advanced

Excellent preparation of students:

Certificate of Merit - students chosen for

Branch Honors, State Convention performances

Bach Festival - winners at Branch and Regional

Southwestern Youth Music Festival

For information and references

Call Dr. Alan Oettinger

310-398-1497



**Left:** 段晶菁， 11 岁， 6A 班  
**Right:** 段媛媛， 9 岁， 4A 班

Sitting in school uniforms in Tsinghua, Beijing.

We have more adventures to share with you. Please look out for the next issue, where we will write about a Chinese Wedding and more interesting places and museums we visited.



Flip-o-rama by Amelia Chief





# My First Day of Middle School!

Amelia Chief 漆曉曦 6A



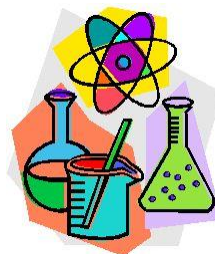
My dad dropped me off at Geffen Academy on September 5, 2017. Dressed in my school uniform and new shoes, I was very excited to start middle school. I headed straight to my locker and turned the lock. It opened on the second try. I put my backpack inside, shut my locker, and walked to the Dining Commons. There I had a breakfast of Raisin Bran cereal and orange juice. At about 8:50, a teacher came in and announced that we should start heading to our advisory rooms. I threw away my trash and set out to Advisory, but due to a confusing school map, I was nearly late.

I walked in to a class full of wide eyes staring at me. I felt embarrassed, and took a seat. Luckily, my advisor, the humanities co-teacher, hadn't started talking yet. She took some schedule questions and then had us all introduce ourselves. Then we played

a name game. You threw a ball to someone and said your name for the first round. For the second round, you had to remember who you threw it to, and then for the third round, you added more balls. It was very fun. Advisory ended, but there was no bell. We all headed to our next classes. Mine was math. I sat in the only remaining front row seat. The teacher started teaching.

Math was fun. After math was wellness. I had wellness with my best friend Arabella, whom I had met in the welcome pool party event a few weeks back. We went to lunch together. I had a chicken and lettuce wrap. My next class was Humanities. I made a lot of new friends there. Then I had a work period. I did all my math homework, then read my book. At 2:45, I headed to science class.

Science was awesome. Our teacher had a British accent and she was really cool. In Spanish class, we learned how to introduce ourselves. I went home with all my homework done, and I sure was looking forward to tomorrow! Middle school is the best!



## 第一天上中學

九月五號當天，爸爸媽媽載我來到了我的中學 Geffen Academy。我穿著全新的制服和新鞋子。我很高興終於開學了。到了學校後，我馬上去我的置物櫃練習開號碼鎖。試了第二次才成功！我把書包放進置物櫃後鎖上門，接著就去學校餐廳吃早餐，我吃了葡萄乾麥片，還喝了橙汁。八點五十分的時候，有一位老師來告訴我們上課時間到了。她要我們到自己的指導老師教室去。因為學校的地圖不是很清楚，我差一點就遲到了。

到了教室裡，大家都看著我。我有點不好意思，趕緊找個位子坐下來。幸好我的老師還沒有開始上課。她回答了大家關於課程表的問題，然後就讓我們自我介紹。我們還玩了一個名字的遊戲。大家輪流丟球時說自己的名字；還要記得其他同學的名字。真的很好玩！指導老師時間結束了，但是學校並沒有下課的鐘聲。我的下一堂課是數學課。我坐在教室前面第一排剩下的一個位子。老師就開始教書了。



數學課也很有趣。然後我上健康教育課。我和我的好朋友 Arabella 一起上健康教育課。我是在開學前一個迎新游泳池派對認識她的。我們下課後一起去吃午飯。我吃了一分雞肉蔬菜捲餅。我的下一門課是人文課。我也認識了很多新朋友。之後，我有一節做功課自習時間。我把數學功課全部做完了。兩點四十五分是科學課。

科學課十分有趣。我的科學老師說話有英國腔，她非常酷。我的最後一節課是西班牙文課。我們學習怎麼用西班牙文自我介紹。我四點半踏出校門。我已經把功課做好了。我真的很期待明天呢！中學真的太棒了！



## 謝真老師 (Cohen)

I am from China's beautiful seaside city - Xiamen. When I was younger, I enjoyed writing, and later, I majored in Chinese language and literature in college. Since college, I have worked in an Internet company as an event planner, and after coming to the United States, I have taught both Chinese and English to kindergarteners and have also tutored many students. I adore the curiosity the children have for the world and their desire to learn. When I am with them, I forget all of my troubles. I hope that by engaging students in a fun manner, they'll learn to love Chinese and gain knowledge of Chinese culture.

我來自中國美麗的海濱城市 -- 廈門。從小摯愛於寫作，大學期間主修漢語言文學，曾在互聯網公司擔任活動策劃，來美國後，我在雙語幼兒園裡做過中文老師，也開始接家教學生。我喜歡孩子們的天真單純和對世界的好奇與求知。與他們在一起，所有的煩惱都煙消雲散。我希望通過寓教於樂的方式，讓孩子們愛上中文，更多地了解中國的傳統文化。



## 朱紅老師 (Sabrina)

我生於台灣台北市，在一個環境單純優質的民生社區居住就學長大。我畢業於中國工商技術學院，之後進入蘇黎世金融保險公司任職，習得推展行銷業務。業餘興趣於國際標準舞及爵士鋼琴，也曾比賽、任教及表演。婚後隨夫來美，孩子漸長，發現他們接受美國文化易，接受中華文化難，因此產生了讓孩子學習中文的志趣，進而引導他們認識偉大的中華文化。

I was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan. I grew up in the quaint Minsheng community, which fostered a healthy, positive, and family-oriented lifestyle. I graduated from the China University of Technology, majoring in business. After graduation, I worked in marketing and sales for Zurich Insurance (Taiwan) Ltd. My hobbies include ballroom dancing. I used to teach ballroom dancing and competed professionally in ballroom dancing competitions throughout Asia. I also have a passion for piano. I used to teach piano and performed professionally in Taiwan. After marriage, I moved to the United States to be with my husband and raise my three wonderful children. I discovered that raising children in America has its difficulties with respect to learning and appreciating the Chinese language and culture. As such, I am 5 dedicated and privileged to be able to teach the Chinese language and culture to children in the States.

## 西風 The Westside Breeze

發行人 Publisher:

*Stella Wu*

指導老師 Advisers:

于正玲老師 *Cheng-Ling Yu*

龔瑜老師 *Angela Gong*

講師 Instructor:

劉佩貞 *Stephanie Liu*

總編輯 Editors in Chief:

劉博晶 *Lucia Liu*

*Catherine Li*

副總編輯 Assistant Editor:

*William Ortiz*

記者 Reporters:

漆曉曦 *Amelia Chief*

段媛媛 *Felicia Duan*

Coordinator:

劉安琪 *An-Chi Liu*



Flip-o-rama







**Photo Credits:**

Monikka Blakes

Davis Lee

Victor Lee

**Page Layout:**

Catherine Li

F•R•I•E•N•D•S•H•I•P

D•A•Y 10.28.2017







## Your Local **周彦** Real Estate Connection **Yan Erickson**

My expertise as a real estate agent working with the world's most successful real estate company Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage will provide you with the highest-level of service.

- ④ Access to vast information about properties listed
- ④ Maximum exposure for your property across the most visited websites and search engines
- ④ Strong negotiation skills to generate your highest and best results
- ④ Access to many of Coldwell Banker affiliates ie: Title Co., Escrow ...

If your family, friends or you have a need to buy, sell, or rent a home, let **ME** provide you with an outstanding trustworthy service experience. No expense for essential service for buyers. I provide free home evaluation, market analysis and pre-qualified mortgage service.

Please **CALL** me today! **310 425 6239**

Wechat: Yan-Shanghai-LA | Yan.erickson@camoves.com | www.yanerickson.com

买家无需支付服务费用,并提供免费咨询和贷款预审服务。  
我与地产界最优秀的团队紧密合作,以坦诚细致的服务态度,为您提供一站式全方位服务,以确保房地产交易快速和顺利的进行,以实现您的置业和投资目标。



©2017 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Owned And Operated By a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. If your property is currently listed for sale, this is not intended as a solicitation.



# Fidget Spinners

By William Ortiz

## Spun Out Facts:

- Many people have come forward to say that they were the inventors of the popular toy...Fidget Spinners; currently credit for the spinners is mainly given to Catherine Hettinger who created the spinners at first to help put kids at ease.
- The popularity of fidget spinners and its purchases have started to decline since May 2017.
- Fidget spinners are so popular that there are different variations of the toy including edible ones, glow in the dark ones, and ones with different shapes, which can affect the sound they make. There are even edible spinners made of different types of candy.
- The longest spinning fidget spinner can spin for more than 13 minutes! Yeah, in Japan a manufacturing company has made this fidget spinner a reality worth over 160 dollars!
- Germany has confiscated and destroyed 35 tons worth of fidget spinners after deeming them a choking hazard, with its small parts and lack of instruction, and therefore unsafe for children to use. This was reported in June 2017.



## INTERVIEW WITH A TEACHER

How do you feel about fidget spinners?

"Annoying. They're super distracting."

What do you do with them when the students are using them?

"I tell them to put them away and if they don't listen, I confiscate them and give them to my daughter."

- Susan Chen (Vice Principal of Academic Affairs)

## THOUGHTS FROM A STUDENT:

I have one fidget spinner, but I actually don't like them because they are too hyped up. At my school, my classmates are crazy about them. At recess, they like to stack their spinners up to form towers. Sometimes, I see my classmates trade their spinners for Pokémon cards and candy. All the teachers dislike fidget spinners. They will confiscate spinners if they're used in class and parents will have to pick them up at the office, after first signing an agreement that the student will not bring one anymore. There is even a song and a rap on fidget spinners. You should look it up! I think the fidget spinner is still popular but its popularity is dying.

- Aaron Ortiz

