

## OASIS TRAINING CENTER

### New Starts Bring Up New Hopes

By Angel Zhang

The new school year has begun with lots of new faces, equipment, and changes. Now, I feel a little bit strange here not be a student; for sure, Oasis Training Center is a fantastic place for the students to study and for the interns to work.

During the summer holiday, all the teachers and interns worked as hard as beavers to get ready for the new school year. We replaced the library, office, and the classrooms, added more computers into the office, added more boards in the classrooms and the hall, put door numbers on the doors, hung towels for drying hands in the bathroom in order to be thrifty, and also did some cleaning jobs. Everything we did is to give a better environment for the students to study.

OTC is becoming



bigger and more famous each year. This year we have 67 students in total (39 Grade 1 students and 28 Grade 2 students), 4 interns, 10 teachers, and more than 10 grade 1 students that have come from the other provinces.

OTC not only cares about the students' studies, but also their daily lives. There was not

enough dormitory space in Zhizhong for all the students to live in, so OTC helped some of the students find apartments and gave some blankets and foam mattresses to students.

We did lots of jobs in the evening of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 which is the first day of school. Every one looked very excited and full of energy. I think they are ready to study hard and that is also a good start.

I hope each of the teachers, students, and interns will have a good time in OTC and be interested in reading "We, OTC". I expect you to give me some suggestions to enhance the school newspaper and I wish "We, OTC" would be one of your friends while you are studying at OTC.

**"Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous".**

—Confucius

### New Staff Introduction

By Angel Zhang



The first new teacher that I am going to introduce is funny Ms. Christy who is teaching Grade 1 Grammar, Grade 1 Phonics, and Grade 2 Phonics. She comes from Oklahoma, but she is a native Texan. She is a primary school teacher in America. She is fun and she likes to joke. She likes to

listen to all kinds of music, watch movies, and go to dinner with her friends in her free time. She loves Pingliang, especially OTC students.

**"He who laughs last, probably didn't get the joke."**

—Christy

# Welcome Back Party in Liuhu Park

By Michelle Kerns



Did you know that Josh's favorite winter sport is snow skiing? Did you know that Ms. Christy and Ms. Angie were roommates before they moved to China? How about Mr. Dennis' all time favorite movie: 'Les Miserable'? If you came to the Big Apple Welcome Back Party on September 14 these are things you would have learned! This wonderful night of getting to know each other a little bit more with a fun name game and teacher trivia was followed up the next Friday night with a photo scavenger hunt in the park. All the students were broken up into several small groups with one teacher in each group to walk around Liuhu park. Their task: to find things and pose in different places in the park for a fun series of pictures. Who can find an animal and take a picture with it? Take a picture on the list of places to find and things to do. Each group came back to the Big Apple with a fun variety of shots.

For the next two weeks we are not planning any activities at the Big Apple due to October holiday. But on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> we'll be back at the Apple for "Hot Topics/Conversation Corners". What's this all about? Well, if any of you have any topics of conversation you would love to bring up with your classmates and teachers you can put your ideas in the envelope next to the 'Big Apple Events Calendar' in the hallway on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of OTC. Topics will then be chosen from your ideas and conversation corners will be started. Students can then rotate between conversations to hear what your classmates and teachers have to say about each interesting topic.



The Big Apple is a great place for you to practice your oral English, have fun, and laugh while playing games and interacting with one another. All upcoming events will be posted regularly on the 'Big Apple Calendar'. Please check it out each week so you know what is coming up. If you have any questions or ideas for events you would like to be a part of at the Big Apple please talk with Ms. Michelle.

All OTC students and your friends are welcome to join in the Big Apple activities!!!

## A Few Words from the bottom of Grade 1 students' Hearts

I am a lucky girl because I am in OTC which is the best school in my heart. I think I will not only gain knowledge, but also will learn how to be a good person.

—Sunny Liu

I learned how to manage my time wisely in Study Skill class and I can learn new things every day from here.

—Angie An

I am sure OTC is the place that I will fulfill my dreams, so I will treasure this chance.

—Edward Cai

The teachers here are very patient with me, and they are never tired of answering my questions.

—Tony Deng

Before I came to OTC, I was not interested in Geography, but now I am eager to learn although it is difficult for me.

—Nora Gao

I believe that I will fly freely and highly in the blue sky that belongs to me by studying at OTC.

—Al Shen

Although I am very busy studying here, I feel fulfilled.

—Donna Zhang

To be honest, it is very difficult for me to fit into the new environment, but I think everything will be better day by day.

—Amy He

Everyone is studying so hard. The atmosphere affects me to study hard.

—Mark Long

In my eyes, the teachers here are not only our teachers, but also our friends. They treat the students very friendly and fairly.

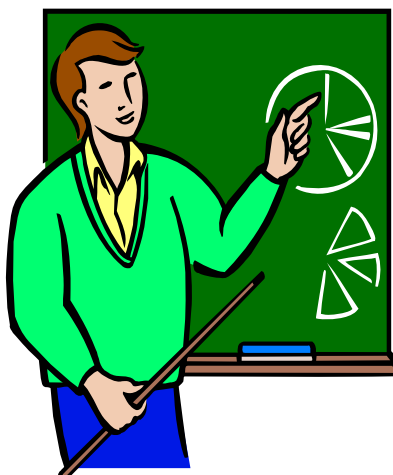
—Sarah Wang

This is a totally different school from others. Now, I feel I am in America.

—Leo Li

### My English Training Class    By Richard He

After I finished my helping work in school, I wanted to make my holiday significant. The more I thought about it, the more it excited me and then I was seized with a sudden impulse to build an English Training Class with my classmate Lori. It was quite hard for us to enroll new students at first. We advertised, but no one came. Both of us were exhausted from getting the students. With her father's



Inspiration, we did not quit. We went to enroll new students everywhere. We were always suffering from heat and thirst. Fortunately, we got 13 students at last. After that, I know everything is possible if you do not stop doing it. The difficulties are just to test your patience. Let us say, "I will, I can."

## My Unforgettable Summer Holiday

By Robin Yang



During this summer break, I took part in the Summer Training program as a helper, which means I helped the foreigners to teach the young kids. We had a lot of fun during it. We played games with the kids, and did other interesting things. For instance, we cooked pancakes during class, made weather signs, learned songs, did dramas and read stories. I learned some new words about American culture. Also, I made some new friends. The foreigners are kind to us, and we taught them some Chinese words. The kids also prepared gifts for the foreign teachers. I really had a lot of fun in this summer holiday, and this is also one of my unforgettable experiences.

## My Summer Holiday

By Samuel Ma

One of the important things I did last summer holiday was helping my uncle to sell his grapes. Almost everyone knows that Xinjiang's specialty is grapes, so my uncle planted 10 acres. There were so many grapes that my uncle could not sell them by himself. I was one of the helpers when the grapes were ripe. The first day I was so nervous because that was my first time to be a seller in my life. I dared to say my grapes were delicious and calculate the money. After my uncle told me how to sell it and said: "We are not thieves. You should be confident." After that day, I was better at selling. I remembered we were not thieves. Like when we study English, we should not be shy. We should open our mouths and speak out what we want. English is a tool for us to communicate with others. I expect everyone to have fluent oral English to reward our English teachers.



### *Josh and Angel's Recommendation*



**Josh and Angel's Recommendation is a new section of "We, OTC". From now on, we will recommend some good and interesting books and newspaper articles for the students to read. You can see the books' name, author and the location clearly on the sheet, so you will find the books that you are interested in easily. I hope this can help you to save your time.**



Book Title	Author	Location	Date	China Daily Newspaper Article Title and Page#
The Boxcar Children	WARN	II C-2		
The Invisible Man	WELLS	V C-3	09,06,07	Leading is about Caring Pg. 7
I Dare You	VEDRAL	IX B-1	09,07,07	Mengniu Creates Growth History pg.12
Jason's Gold	HOBBS	II C-1		
Terror at the Zoo	KEHRET	II C-1	09,11,07	Education for the Poor Pg. 10
The Silicon Chip	WOODCOCK	I D-2	09,12,07	Polluters Will Pay for Their Behavior Pg. 12
Anne of Green Gables	MONT	V B-1		
The Kid Who Ran for President	GUTMAN	II C-1	09,14,07	Baidu Starts Online Video Advice Pg. 1
The Sky: Stars and Night		I B-4	09,17,07	To Dad, with Love Pg. 8
Grimm's Fairy Tales	Grimm	II C-2		
Escape From Ghost Hotel	Weinberg	II C-2	09,18,07	Letter from Dongxiang Pg. 6