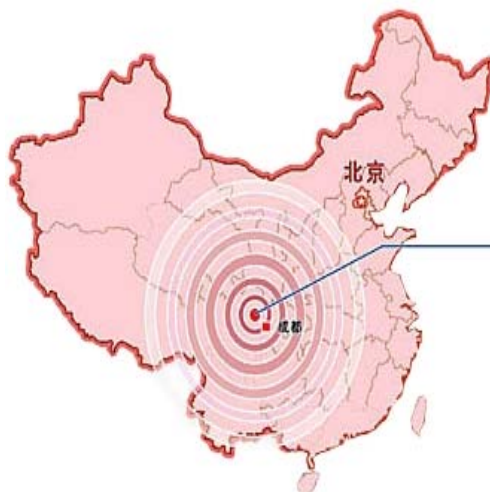




The Devastating Earthquake

By Angel Zhang

At 2:28pm on May 12, 2008, the magnitude 8.0 earthquake made a surprise attack on China's southwestern Sichuan province. It was the strongest quake to hit China in 32 years and it also was the first time for almost all of us to experience an earthquake. The soldiers and relief workers were mobilized in the epicenter, Wenchuan County, and other quake-stricken areas of Sichuan province. They committed all their efforts to compete with time to rescue the survivors. The doctors and nurses sacrificed their time to save the injured people. They are the heroes in this battle and the right people to receive our respect. We are sad for those who have already gone to Heaven and give our condolences and know this is the only thing we can do for them, but the most important thing right now is to help the survivors to rebuild their homes. I believe all of us are touched by some of the stories that happened during this disaster and the other countries are impressed by how the Chinese unite together. Other countries also gave us lots of aid. If we can all unite as one, this big problem will become a small problem. For the friends who lost their family, please be brave and remember if you do not give up this second, there will be hope in the next second. We all felt the tremor in Pingliang because of the aftershocks. All the people were afraid of staying home and they just set up tents spending several nights outside. It did affect our regular life. Hopefully, that is all. Here are some different thoughts of the teachers, interns and students about the terrible quake. Please read and see if you have the same feeling.



四川汶川县

北纬 31度
东经 103.4度

“Even if there is one person left in the ruins, we must save him”.

—Premier Wen



I think the earthquake felt very strange, but I did not feel afraid. After the first quake, the government tried to predict more earthquakes, but they never came. I don't understand how an earthquake can be predicted in a specific place at a specific time. It seems to me that the rumors and government warnings just caused a lot of unnecessary panic. There have been a lot of aftershocks since the May 12th quake, but I still don't feel afraid. I hope that the aftershocks will stop and there won't be another big one. My heart breaks for all the victims of this terrible tragedy.

—**Ms. Michelle**



May 12th, 2008 - I experienced the first earthquake in my life. "Earthquake, earthquake", I felt the floor was shaking while Pre-OTC Kyle was saying those two words. Since then the 8-magnitude earthquake becomes a hot topic among people. I could hear things about the earthquake everywhere. I could see the report of the earthquake on most of the TV channels. At this time, we Chinese people united as one, are trying to find ways to help the people who have lost their families, homes, etc. Many donations have been raised up; many supplies have been delivered to the earthquake stricken area, and so on. I believe that with the love of the people who care about this disaster, the victims can rest in peace, and the survivors can overcome the difficulties and rebuild their homes.

—**Crystal Ge**

Dear friends: Lots of things happened recently that have touched us, and also have made us tearful. When we are facing this unexpected natural disaster, it seems everyone's mind has been lost and we feel helpless. Here, I want to say: When the magnitude 8.0 earthquake struck Sichuan, we suddenly realized how precious life is, but how vulnerable life is also. So, please treat the people around you with a genuine heart, and put all your love and care to accomplish every tiny job in your limited life time. I sincerely wish safety, health and happiness for you and your family members.

—**Melissa Du**

Earthquakes sound as horrible as they really are. They are tools that can destroy a small town and even a big city. This is what we have been experiencing ourselves. But we are not scared by it. On the opposite side, this dynamic becomes our encouragement for reaching our goals, it can not stop us from what we are doing. Also, it makes us become much more caring of others and united, not only from the outside but also from the inside.

—**Arleyen Xue**



The earthquake created chaos through out the places where it hit. We have no choice to prevent the natural crisis, but after being sad, we've at least learned one thing—life is limited and weak. We should cherish everyone we love and every minute we breath from now on.

—**Sarah Yan**

The tremendous earthquake occurring in the middle of May made a lot of damage to many cities in Sichuan province, and the aftershocks made more and more people suffer. Thousands of people died; many people lost their family and became homeless, even the people who are in other provinces panicked over it. Like Xian and some other cities, the tents can be seen everywhere in the park, square and even on the street. Because of its unpredictability we don't know when the aftershocks will happen again and how long it will last. The only thing we can do is to be prepared for the emergency and ready to run, but I think every organization such as schools and factories should have its own way to deal with the emergency.

—**Sally Zhang**

This was my first time to experience the building-shaking and feel a real earthquake. In my life. I could not help but be tearful when I saw those terrible and miserable scenes through TV. Yes, every child is a mother's child and every mother is a child's mother. Every life is valuable and priceless in this world. We do not want anyone to leave us, but people's life must go on! Please put aside those miseries and keep going forward.

—**Regina Peng**

To Be Persistent

By Sophia Sun

“Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there”

—Josh Billings

This quotation tells me that persistence is important in doing things to the finish line. It is always easier just to say something than actually doing it. I know that sometimes it is hard for me to insist on one thing, especially when I can not see the result soon. It is not a good habit to have because I realized how important persistence is from our Science Fair Project. During our Walk to Beijing class, it's hard for me to keep going when I am very tired and hot. I just hope that the finish line is right in front of me. But, when I think about the benefit of this, and the purpose of this class, it pushes me to go forward. I understand that persistence is not only needed for this task. It is going to help me excel in many areas in my life. It will take me a long time to develop, but it is worth it for me to take time to develop it. Without persistence I will never reach the finish line of anything.



Jon is one of the 2007 OTC graduates. He's been working in Shenzhen for almost one year since he graduated. He came back to apply for a passport because his company will send him to Nigeria for business. The Grade 2 graduation ceremony will be after 4 weeks, and everyone is worrying about finding a job, so let's see what his advice is ?

I Want to Tell You.....

By Jon Zhou



As the graduation is approaching, I'm sure you all have complex feelings, as we have all experienced last year, because you are going to make a big decision. Here I would like to share what I experienced with you guys for your reference.

What kind of job am I going to get? Am I qualified for the position? Can I get a job with OTC certificate? I guess these questions are coming through your mind now. I want to tell you that you all can get a good position if you try. Your confidence is gradually building up as the passage of the time at OTC draws near. You may fail the first time, but don't ever give up because you will learn something from that. You will meet a lot of talented people with high diplomas. Don't be afraid about that. You need to keep in mind the advantage you have-speaking great English.

One more thing I want to tell you is don't ever say I don't know. Maybe you really don't know the answer for some of the questions, but try to answer it in another way, even though you don't know the answer. You may say you are a quick learner because you have learned how to be a quick learner or you may just say you will get the answer and tell them later. Anyway, you need to learn how to handle this kind of question.

Finally, I wish all of you good luck!

Sports Day Shows OTC's Character

By Joy Corliss

Sports Day fell on May 8th and 9th this year. Both students and staff from Oasis Training Center participated in various athletic events. Sports Day is two fun filled days of track and field events. There were long and short distance running, team relay races, high jump, long jump, shot put, and discus.

OTC had many victories over the two days. The boys relay team blew their competition away to take first place in the event. Jenni, Grade 2, proved herself to be a great jumper placing in both the high and long jump events. Agnes came in second in the 200 meter race. Ms. Christy out threw all of the women teachers (and some of the men) and won first place in the shot put. These are just a few victories, CONGRATULATIONS to all who participated.

*Honorable Mention: the teacher relay team had the best showing in years, almost finishing in the next to last place. It was the closest race in history for the OTC teachers.

Now a more personal note, I had a great time during the field day. I enjoyed spending time outside with all the students and staff. It was a good time for the students to practice English and have good conversations. I was also impressed by how much students supported each other during races and other events. Where I am from you would not see students running beside their classmates, encouraging them to keep going. I even saw students cheering on people they did not even know! Everyone showed immense spirit and character.



Angel's Angle

2008 has been a hard and tough year for China and as long as we live, we will never forget the day of May 12th when the devastating earthquake struck. We experienced the scare ourselves, so we can imagine how the victims felt. Life became so out of control after the deadly 8.0-magnitude quake and we didn't have the choice to decide to live or die. The disaster didn't have mercy on us, but we need to have mercy for those who lost their family members and homes. I highly appeal to you to do what you can do for them. As a Chinese, please allow me to give my sincere thanks to whoever has helped them.

How you can help:

- * Donate blood
- * Donation through the post office: Red Cross Society of China [中国红十字总会] No 8, Beixinqiaosantiao, Dongcheng district, Beijing, 100007 [北京市东城区北新桥三条8号]
- * Donation through text message: write the amount you want to donate from 1 to 30 and text it to 1069999301
- * Donation through a bank account:
Account number of Beijing branch, Bank of China: 800100921908091001

