

Sept. 23, 2011

Hazel Whitman
4202 SE Insley Street
Portland, OR 97206

Holden Leung and Christine Lau
Asian Health and Services Center
3633 SE 35th Place
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Mr. Leung and Ms. Lau,

The purpose of this letter is to express my family's appreciation for the work of the staff at Yu Miao Preschool. My husband Kurt and I have been sending our daughter Cyd to your school for about five years.

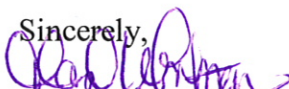
Three weeks ago Cyd entered second grade in the immersion program at Woodstock Elementary School. In her Mandarin classroom she has become a leader because of the confidence she has to use her Mandarin. This week at Back-to-School night we noticed that Cyd had more stars on a chart for verbal presentation than any of her peers. She told us she earns those stars by speaking aloud in Mandarin. We have also noticed that other students come to Cyd for help with their Mandarin work. Also there is much joy in our home as she expresses her love of singing in Mandarin, as well as to dance in styles influenced by Chinese culture.

Another event we experienced this week is a change that happened while eating at a Chinese restaurant we have gone to for a few years. During this visit Cyd was speaking in full sentences holding conversations with the people that work there. Formerly she would say hello, thank you and goodbye – but not speak at length.

Because we do not speak any Mandarin and she was in no other settings to practice it this summer, we know that Yu Miao is responsible for her current Mandarin skill level. We are certain that without her experience at the school this summer Cyd would be at an entirely different, lower Mandarin ability level. We are appreciative of Terry Yang's leadership at the school and the positive ways we have witnessed her interacting not just with Cyd, but all the students. We also find the other staff to be friendly, helpful and our daughter relates well with them.

Thank you for keeping our most precious family member on a path toward loving not just the Mandarin language, but also Chinese culture as well. We will continue spreading the positive word about your school and how you are enriching lives and creating opportunities.

Sincerely,



Hazel Whitman

cc: Terry Yang