

## Chinese School Staff Development Day Lin Shao

On 8/26/06, Chinese school has the first Staff Development Day at the Chinese Community Center, 11 Avis Drive, Latham. As similar as every school year, all new or old school teachers, administrative staff, and PTA representatives were invited to this meeting.



However, one special agenda in this year's meeting proposed by Peisheng Zhao, the new Principal of the Chinese School, is to enhance teachers' teaching skill by inviting outside speakers. The featured speaker of this meeting is Dr. David Yun Dai, a professor of SUNY, Albany.

The meeting started with self-introduction among the school administrators and the teachers. The

Vice Principals introduced major school activities in this year. In the coming Fall semester, there will be two faculty/staff meetings, two school council meetings, one teacher parent conference, and a general meeting at the end of the semester. Mr. Guoping Fei, Vice Principal, briefly introduced routine school activities such as School Picture Day, Scholarship Award, graduation application, Overseas Essay Competition, and Christmas Party. This year's Learning Fair will focus on "China Today". Vice Principal, Shao Lin planned some new cultural activities including Mid-Autumn Riddle Game, Chinese idiom story telling (< 5<sup>th</sup> graders), Travel Around the World photo slide show, Chinese antithetical couplet show in Chinese New Year, Painting / Chinese Calligraphy Competition and exhibit, and Making Your Own Mother/Father card by using Chinese Characters. The purposes of all these extra-curriculum activities are to promote Chinese culture and to stimulate students' interest in learning Chinese. Sharon Shieh, the Vice Principal of the Traditional Chinese Classes also introduced her new plan on class arrangement. Another highlighted area this year is to develop a comprehensive teaching plan for the Chinese as Foreign Language (CFL) classes. Shao Lin and Weiqing Chen, the Council Chair will work with all CFL teachers and some parent representatives together to establish objectives of the CFL courses, initiate curriculum, choose best textbooks and develop a long-term plan for the CFL students. The dates of these Chinese School events can be found at [www.albanychineseschool.org](http://www.albanychineseschool.org).

The invited speaker, Dr. Dai gave an informal talk entitled "Motivating students to learn a second language: some instructional consideration". He discussed key components of a successful second language class and also shared his experience on how to stimulate students' interests. By using his expertise on educational psychology, he also introduced some practical methods. Many teachers asked questions and also shared their concern or teaching experiences at the meeting. According to most teachers, motivating students' interests in learning Chinese seems to be the most critical and timely tasks for the teachers



and school administrators in the Chinese School. All activities planned in this year described above are also served the same purpose.

Finally, all meeting participants enjoyed the delicious Chinese food prepared by Dragon Buffet Restaurant and every family's specialty dishes. To help school administrators choose the best textbooks, Our senior teacher, Yin Dong spent a lot time to compare and comment different textbooks after lunch.