

声音

VOICES

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"Every Drop Counts"

The Upside of Positive Reinforcement

Middle School Update



## SAVING THE EARTH

Daystar Grade Four students happily pose after a busy morning. Find out how they're making a difference under "Student Voice"!



IVY SCHOOLS  
艾毅幼儿园



Daystar Academy  
启明星双语学校

## Be Part of 1 Billion!

What is the only internationally observed day that transcends national borders, politics, religion, race, interest groups, and brings all humankind together in a common cause? You've guessed it, it's Earth Day on April 22.



Since its first observance in 1970, more than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year. For us who live in China, this is especially meaningful as we witness the severe degradation of the environment around us. We need to worry about the air that we breathe and the water that we drink, both of which are the most basic elements of human survival. Our Ivy and Daystar families are lucky in that we have the resources to protect ourselves, and our kids have access to clean air, water and food both at home and in school. But millions of families and children are not as lucky.

Typically, we may think that it will take a significant effort to protect our environment, such as taking public transportation, sorting and recycling trash, or reading a paper on the computer screen rather than printing it out. But there are actually many simple things you can start doing to make our planet healthier. For example, start by eating less meat! Nearly one-fifth of greenhouse gas emissions are caused by the meat industry. Or when you are at the supermarket, pick items that are locally produced. Not only is it healthier as vegetables start losing nutrients as soon as they are harvested, but you reduce the CO2 it took to transport the vegetable to you.

I believe that to make a difference to our community we need to continue to raise awareness of our environment until we come to a tipping point when people feel guilty when they don't sort their trash. It's much like queueing up, which is now the socially accepted behavior, but certainly wasn't so 5 years ago. Let's start by celebrating Earth Day!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Hsu'.

Jack Hsu

CEO and Founder of Ivy Group

# Celebrating Our Environment

## at Home and at School

by **Elizabeth Hardage**, Chief Academic Officer, Ivy Education Group

Spring is such a wonderful time of the year! Throughout Beijing you can see flowers starting to bloom and the trees are filling out with beautiful green leaves. When I go to visit our local campuses I constantly see how our students are blooming as well in their learning. I had an encounter with an Ivy student recently where she explained in great detail the life cycle of an insect and how what we do as humans can harm these insects. It was a great reminder of the important role we play as adults in helping our students, and our own children, make these connections about our environment.

The question then becomes how do we as parents help our students make these connections at home? Some of the greatest ideas I have for doing this comes from the Montessori teachers I worked with many years ago when I was a Chinese teacher in Washington, DC. I watched daily how they would work with students on their practical life skills. One of the practical life skills they focused on was taking care of our environment. Students on a daily basis were responsible for taking care of any class pets, watering the plants, and making sure that plants and animals were taken care of when they went away for summer holiday. There are many concepts here that we can take away from Montessori teachers and use at home!

Having simple conversations about our environment with our children is another way we as parents can support our students in their understanding of the connection we have with our environment. For example, when your kids are outside playing you could try asking them questions about what they see or what they





hear. Some questions might include, do you see any evidence that spring is coming? Why do you think we can now hear the birds chirping, but we couldn't a few weeks ago? Why do you think the flowers are starting to bloom? Why didn't the flowers bloom during the Spring Festival? These questions will surely get your children thinking about why these changes are starting to happen as spring is approaching.



Recycling at home is also a great way to not only help children make connections with being a responsible citizen of our environment, but it also builds independence. Encouraging our students to recycle is something I see all the time at our Ivy schools and Daystar Academy. Many of our schools ask students to bring in recycled goods to create beautiful works of art. For example, the Ivy school my daughter goes to recently used recycled materials to create an ocean habitat. With the help of her teachers, my daughter and her classmates easily made the connection that if we can recycle something then it will not end up in the landfill. As a result, they were able to see how their actions could have an impact on our environment.

On April 22nd, the world will celebrate Earth Day. I hope that our Ivy families can talk about this holiday with their children and the role they can play in supporting our environment. Happy Earth Day!



**Elizabeth Hardage** is the Chief Academic Officer for Ivy Education Group. She is an expert in immersion education, school administration, and curriculum design and assessment. Elizabeth is a speaker of Mandarin Chinese. Her 13-year career as an educator has focused on Chinese/English immersion education.

# OUR RECYCLING PROJECT

by Eva Chirnside, Hortense Justo and Susu Zhao, Grade 4, Daystar Academy

**Susu:** Have you ever wondered why the 4th grade class room is empty on the last Wednesday of every month?

Well, I will tell you. If you walk out through the South Gate of our main building, you will see many big bins, each labeled plastic, paper or aluminum. The 4th graders are busying themselves by helping other kids recycle. From toddler to grade six, everyone is recycling!



**Eva:** Every last Wednesday of the month Daystar has a recycling day where students can bring in things that can be recycled from home to recycle at school. Grade 4 organizes this project by reminding the other classes the day before the last Wednesday of the month. Ms. Wilma is the Grade 4 English teacher who had the idea of getting us to make decorated boxes to put in the classrooms that we were assigned to. The idea was that the students in those classes could put their used or scrap paper into the boxes, and those boxes would be emptied out on recycling day to be recycled.



**Hortense:** At first when we did the recycling effort, the bins were not full at all. I remember seeing two or three bins with just five or six things in it. We were discouraged after we saw them. But after a few recycling projects, we were shocked to see all the bins were overflowing with recyclable stuff! There was so much cardboard that we had to put it next to the bin. Now every recycling day the bins are like fireworks shooting in the sky-there is recyclable stuff everywhere!



**Susu:** Now you know that our school is a recycling school, but do you know why we recycle? Easy! We recycle to help save the earth. We help by reusing things like paper, plastic and aluminium. For example, paper is made out of wood, so we have to chop down trees to make paper. So think about it. the more trees we cut down, the worse the pollution gets. Without trees, nothing can survive.

**Eva:** Why is recycling important? There are 3 key ideas, Environment (Ecology and nature), Pollution (climate change) and Sustainability (making a low impact on nature but continuing to produce). Recycling is important because if we don't recycle then our waste will go into landfills and affect our environment. If we recycle something then we don't need to make the original material again. Some materials like plastic creates pollution when we make the original material. That pollution together with the sun's rays create climate change. If we recycle an old product to make a new product, then we won't be polluting by going through the process of making new materials.

**Hortense:** I think we've worked very hard on the recycling project for the past few months. But we are not done yet-we still have three more months. We've done a lot and put in a lot of effort, but it's still not perfect. We can do much better and I wish we can continue!



## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!



## Let's Spread the Environmental Protection “Virus”

by Jingjing Che, Chinese Lead Teacher of Pre-K1B Class, Ivy MI Kindergarten Lijing Campus



Hello everyone! I am Jingjing Che, the Chinese Lead Teacher of Pre-K1B Class at Ivy MI Kindergarten Lijing Campus. I graduated from Beijing Normal University, and have been a preschool teacher for over 15 years. I love my profession and my children, and I believe caring and loving every child as my own child, is a necessary ingredient for a successful teacher.

At Ivy MI Kindergarten Lijing Campus we view the children through the lens of the Multiple Intelligences theory, which can be summarized in three words: Educate, Understand, and Trust. Each child is different and we tailor our curriculum to suit the needs and interests of every child.

We offer a Chinese-focused program and an English-subsidary program, and host different themed events each month. We have recently hosted an “Earth Day” activity with the theme of “Nature and Life”. We helped students develop their environmental awareness by encouraging them to understand what is environmental protection and helping them express how they feel about it. The activity was a big success! Each class had such unique ideas, so we decided to stage an exhibition to showcase their ideas.





The theme of the first floor's exhibition is **"Life and Water"**. It shows that:

1. We have witnessed the severe degradation of the environment around us, and need to be concerned about the water that we drink.
2. Heavy industry has polluted our rivers with noxious chemicals. We are trying to filter water but with very little effect.
3. With increasing awareness about the environment, most people are beginning to make an effort to protect our environment. Water resources are getting better.
4. With significant and continuous efforts, water will hopefully become pure and clean again. Everyone will be happy living in our beautiful planet.

The theme of the second floor's exhibition is **"Nature"**. It shows that:

1. There used to be lots of animals in forests, but they are gradually becoming extinct because of deforestation.
2. Water pollution and deforestation have led to debris flow and sand storm. Air pollution has gotten worse and we are suffering from the severe haze.
3. We have begun to raise environmental awareness to protect animals and our environment.
4. We have started doing things to make our planet healthier, such as taking public transportation, sorting and recycling trash.



Environmental protection is not a one-time thing. Instead, it needs time and continuous effort to popularize the concept, so that it can become widespread behavior. We can start by doing simple things to protect our environment, and hopefully it will spread and gradually affect more and more people like a "virus".

As an educator, I think we should not only teach students knowledge from books, but also guide them to get closer to nature, and feel its beauty. I believe both education and environmental protection are essential in our lives!



# EVERY DROP COUNTS

by VOICES Reporter

Earlier in the school year, the 2B (grade two) students together with their teachers had brainstormed what they felt was an issue at school that could be improved. The children had enthusiastically shared their thoughts-and in the end identified that **WASTING WATER IN THE BATHROOM ("FEEL")** was their top concern.

They had also been quick to try and offer an "immediate" solution. Their teachers Ms. Ishbel and Xu Te Laoshi then explained to the students that this was very natural, the instinct to try and go to the "DO" right away without truly understanding and assessing the issue before coming up with a solution.

So the students did just that. They observed each other washing their hands, determined on average how many times a day they washed, and the average duration (10 seconds). They then calculated how much water that amounted to, based on the number of students at school. The result?

**They realised that the amount of water being used was equivalent to turning on a tap of water ALL morning long.**

Once they were able to make it tangible how much water was actually being used, it truly put in perspective how much water we were wasting. It made it clear what their **"IMAGINE"** should be (to save more water), and further fuelled their desire to "DO" something about it.

So they brainstormed for solutions. They went home and researched automatic/smart taps. They discussed the pros and cons of making posters. Some felt like they were just like wall paper and would probably be ineffective. Others suggested going into the classrooms to talk to students directly but many also felt that wouldn't work.



**"DO":** In the end, they decided to write letters to the new Middle School project architect to propose using automatic taps in the new MS building, and changing the taps in our current bathrooms. The students all felt this would be the most effective. They wrote the letters in three different languages, English, Chinese and German because they had a German student in their class, and some members of the architect team are German!



They have now completed their letters and are arranging a time to meet with school leaders and **"SHARE"** their thoughts...and hopefully make a difference! Stay tuned!



teach How (step  
by step) to save  
water



# Why PERSPECTIVE Matters

by Riverside School Visit Team Members

We shared briefly last month how a team of Ivy/Daystar staff visited the inspiring Riverside School in Ahmedabad, India in January. The school was founded by **Kiran Bir Sethi**, the architect of Design for Change. While there, we observed many instances where they practiced wonderful character building experiences. Here's one.

In India, like in China, the college entrance exam is considered to be the be all, end all. Kiran wants to break that tradition-at least for her own students. So about 3 weeks before the exam-they take 3 days to **put life in PERSPECTIVE**. It's called the "INSANE" or "Inner Sanity" experience.



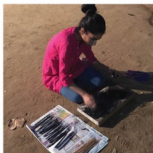
It begins with a visit to Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram (or home), as he is originally from Ahmedabad. We accompanied them, and it was so incredible. Just walking in you could already feel the peace-it just envelopes you. The magnitude of what one single man was able to inspire and accomplish, through non-violence, freeing a nation-was awe-inspiring.

The students then came back and heard from a general who has volunteered to be posted not once, but twice in Kashmir-at a post that's considered the most physically demanding in the world. Why he did what he did (loyalty to fellow military officers, honour, national pride) was also very touching.



Then, all 27 soon to be graduates were made to roll incense sticks, sitting on the bare ground for 3 hours. For your reference, Riverside is a private school so the students are from fairly well-off families. But Kiran made them do this-because a child labourer has to roll a thousand incense sticks A DAY to make four rupees (five mao).

So after about an hour and half Kiran walked around-and saw that between the 27 of them they had only rolled just over 500. And she said to them “between all of you-you haven’t even rolled four rupees worth of incense! **Perspective.**”



It’s easy to get wrapped up in our every day lives, and to forget how lucky we actually are. Witnessing the INSANE experience at least helped me, personally, to remember that. I continue to be inspired by the visit every day.

We will share more stories in the next issue-and how we are hoping to adapt some of Riverside’s best practices for our schools.



## Snapshot

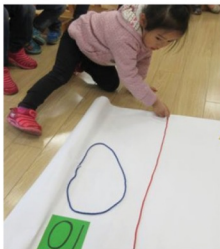


Ivy Summit Residences Campus (Ningbo) hosted a Spring Sports Meeting! The sports meeting was divided into 3 parts, including individual events, group events, and family events. Both parents and children took it very seriously and had a great time.

Spring is here. In order to develop children's environmental awareness, Ivy Eco-city Campus (Tianjin) hosted a "Set Up Signs For Plants" activity. During the event, we appealed to students to protect the environment. Let's start by protecting the plants at school!



On March 15<sup>th</sup>, Daystar Academy (Beijing) proudly welcomed Yale's a cappella choir. They spent an amazing afternoon with all Daystar students! They started off going from class to class to introduce themselves and answer questions. The upper elementary students then joined a master class which concluded in a big concert in the gym, with everyone cheering and applauding to an unforgettable performance!



In order to help students write numbers successfully, the teachers of the Pre-K2 class at Ivy Three Thousand Castles Campus (Chengdu) designed various kinds of games for children to get familiar with numbers. This will lay the foundation for future learning.



Students of the Pre-K 1B class at Ivy Tianshi Campus recently celebrated "Sharing Friday"! All prepared stories for their classmates. During the sharing time, they attentively listened to all the stories. The activity helped children improve their confidence and their ability to express themselves.

Under the guidance of teachers, students of the Pre-K 2D at Ivy First City Campus (Xi'an) made wind indicators, and felt the wind with them outside. Try and make one with your child together!



Students of the Pre-K 1A at Ivy La Botanica Campus in Xi'an made an eggshell painting with colored eggshells. The eggshells had been colored in the previous art class. Both classes were about "Spring in Eggshell", and were well received by the students.



On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Ivy Ocean Express Campus held First Sport Day themed with "Let's get moving!" at Daystar. Everybody enjoyed this event and had a wonderful day!



On April 1<sup>st</sup>, Daystar's Toddler and Casa organized an Art Exhibition to teach the children about different arts of the world. The kids rotated through all stations which included chinese calligraphy, clay molding and fashion design! The little ones especially had fun trying art on their own!



# Positive Reinforcement: A Hopeful Outlook

By **Hannah Tu**, Counselor at Psychological Health Center,  
Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics

As a parent or educator, have you found yourself in a dire situation where your intentions to nurture children only seemed to lead to frustration and an increased resistance to change? Learning to use positive reinforcement instead of punishment may be the answer you have been looking for.

Chris was a bright Grade 4 boy. However, his tutor Meg was driven crazy by his poor concentration. Here's how Meg tried to keep him focused.

## Punishment

Meg set a rule where whenever she caught him daydreaming, evidenced by an inability to answer her questions or repeat what she said prior, 5 extra minutes would be added to their two hour session. This made Chris extremely nervous during class and caused him to make mistakes he wouldn't otherwise have made. Time kept adding up along with Meg's anger until Chris finally broke into tears when class was extended to 3 hours.

### *Comments*

Punishment can be defined as the imposition of a penalty (5 extra minutes added) as consequence for an offense (daydreaming). This handy weapon from our arsenal, although tempting, hardly ever works. Meg was busy being a "bad cop", watching for Chris' "crimes" and enforcing the consequences, but it drew her away from the main concern—helping Chris improve his attention. The imposed fear hindered Chris' performance. All his efforts to improve were ignored and the slightest offense never escaped the eyes of the "bad cop".



## Positive Reinforcement Approach

Meg decided to impart Chris with grace, choosing to ignore his minor mistakes, encourage him when he succeeded by letting him know her approval through words (I appreciate your concentration and persistence!), smiles, wide eyes, joyful tones, high fives, etc. A ripple effect occurred. Chris was not only more engaged, but also his confidence was bolstered—he felt good about himself and was willing to take on more challenges and wouldn't quit easily.

### Comments

Positive reinforcement rewards the desired behaviors and encourages a child. Be careful what to reinforce and be creative with the rewards. The reward for Chris' good behaviors (concentration and engagement) came in the form of verbal (praise) and nonverbal (smiles, wide eyes, joyful tones, and high fives) confirmation. Research (Kohls et al, 2009) has shown that social reinforcement (positive facial expressions) works as well as non-social (money) reinforcement. Make sure the reward is enticing to your children, for instance, one more bedtime story, a special meal, or "no-chore day" coupon. Token chart can work well with older children.

Throughout my years of working with children, I'm always surprised at how they thrive on encouragement and praise. Positive reinforcement is a practical and powerful parenting instrument but takes time and effort to learn and master. I recommend Dr. Jane Nelson's book *Positive Discipline* as a start.

*Ms. Tu received her Master degree from the Institute of Law, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in 2007. She was later awarded a Master in Mental Health Counseling from Palo Alto University in 2015. Ms. Tu is a nationally certified counselor (level 2) through the Department of Labor, and is a member of the American Counseling Association (ACA).*

#### Reference:

Kohls, G., Peltzer, J., Herpertz-Dahlmann & Konrad, K. (2009). Differential effects of social and non-social reward on response inhibition in children and adolescents. *Developmental Science*, 12,



We are delighted to share that we have completed all of our new Foreign Teacher Hires for Daystar's Middle School!



**Mr. Steve Olah**  
Country: Canada  
Co-Head of Middle  
& High School



**Mr. Colt Turner**  
Country: USA  
K-12 Director of Curriculum,  
Instruction and Assessment



**Mr. Mark Myers**  
Country: USA  
Director of Student Life  
Grades K-12



**Ms. Jessica Heyman**  
Country: USA  
Coordinator of English  
Curriculum Grades K-12



**Mr. Matt Heyman**  
Country: Canada  
Athletics Coordinator  
Grades K-12



**Ms. Shawna Turner**  
Country: USA  
English Language and  
Literature Teacher



**Mr. Nick Grasso**  
Country: USA  
English Language



**Ms. Bonnie Lui**  
Country: Canada  
English Humanities Teacher



**Mr. Kevin Watson**  
Country: United Kingdom  
Visual Arts Teacher



**Mr. Eugene Wang**  
Country: Canada  
Math Teacher



**Mr. Mark Espinosa**  
Country: Philippines  
Science Teacher



**Ms. Emily Johnson**  
Country: USA  
Librarian

**Ms. Holly Poppell**, (Country: USA) School Counselor for Elementary and Middle School (Photo not available)



**SAVE YOUR DATE!**



IVY EDUCATION GROUP  
艾毅教育

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**We will be going to a Migrant School outside of Beijing to help paint their school, donate books for their library, and provide plants in ceramic pots painted by none other than our kindergarten students!**

**More details to come through Wechat and Ivy/Daystar online as to how  
YOU can help!**

**Ivy Bilingual School Orchid Garden Campus**

## Charity Bazaar

**Friday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
9:00-11:30 a.m.**

**We will be holding a Charity Bazaar to raise funds for orphans living with physical disabilities at the small community school "Our Learning House".**

**Our students will sell their artworks to help the cause.**

**There will also be food, games, face painting, performances and plenty more!**

**If you need more information, please contact 010-84397080/84397665**

**Orchid Garden, No. 18 Xin Jin Road, Cui Ge Xiang, Chaoyang District, Beijing**

## SCHOOL LISTING

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### Ivy Academy

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(010) 8451-1380/1  
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#### Central Park Campus

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Beijing 100020

### Ivy Bilingual School

#### Ocean Express Campus

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#### Orchid Garden Campus

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Chaoyang District, Beijing

#### Summit Residences Campus

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#### Waterfront Campus

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Community, southeast of Youyi South Road and  
Tanjiang Road, Hexi District, Tianjin

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Xi'an (Diagonally across the East Gate of Jiaotong  
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### Ivy MI Kindergarten

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#### Tianshi Campus

(010) 8159-6405/06/07  
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No. 52 Beiyuan, Tianshi Ming Yuan, Tongzhou District,  
Beijing

#### First City Campus (Chengdu)

(028) 8408-0922/8145-7868/6420-1210  
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District, Chengdu

#### Three Thousand Castles Campus

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Second Ring Road, Chenghua District, Chengdu

#### First City Campus (Xi'an)

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Zone, Xi'an

#### La Botanica Campus

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Chanba District, Xi'an

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**CHANGE** AND **INSPIRE**

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