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Howard County Chinese School

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DONATION DRIVE

Help us save lives in Turkey and Syria, where the needs are greatest by making a loving, tax-deductible gift now.

All donations go to helping those suffering from the deadly Earthquakes in Tukey and Syria through the Doctors without Borders Charity. Accepting Cash, Check, or Paypal. Paypal to accountant @hccs-md.org. Checks made out to "Howard County Chinese School". Paypal and Check payments must have a note: "Donation to Earthquake Relief".

Thank you for your support.



HCCS Chinese New Year Gala Volunteer Appreciation Party

Each year, HCCS BOD hosts a volunteer appreciation party to thank all the volunteers who helped making the Chinese New Year Gala and Food Fair a successful event. This year's appreciation party is held on March 18th, at 6pm and at Clarksville Middle School. Thank you, all the volunteers, for your kindness and support to this significant event and we are looking forward to seeing you in the party!

2023 HCCS Spring Festival Gala Available on YouTube!

The 2023 HCCS Spring Festival Gala for the Year of the Rabbit was an amazing event, the first in person one since 2019 before the pandemic! The gala featured 23 fantastic performances that captivated the hearts of over 1,000 audience members. The pre-gala Food Fair and cultural exhibition were also well-received and added to the festive atmosphere. If you missed the celebration, don't worry! We have put together a video with all the highlights of the evening that we think you'll love. Enjoy!

Gala Overview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7ZRAqEWi6c...

Video Editor: Joe Li

Gala Interview: https://youtu.be/AYMBpVnVMwE

Video Editor: Alexander Zhu



hccs-md.org/gazette

Alice Chen

Editor-in-Chief, Public Relations Youth Journalist

Youth Journalist/Editors Kenneth Wang Emma Lu Alexander Zhu Joe Li Isabella Chen Sandra Wang

MISSION OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CHINESE SCHOOL Established in 1998, Howard County Chinese School (HCCS) is a non-profit organization located in Howard County, Maryland. Its central mission is to advance Chinese language education, foster cultural inheritance, and promote community wellbeing.

School Website: https://www.hccs-md.org/

 ${\it Facebook:} facebook.com/HowardCountyChineseSchool$

Twitter: twitter.com/HCCS_MD

YouTube Channel:

youtube.com/@howardcountychineseschool8338

ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of Howard County Chinese School, The Gazette encourages school students and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the next issue of Gazette is the 15th of every month.

Email editorial copy and writing to pr@hccs-md.org.

HCCS 2023 Chinese New Year Gala and Food Fair

BY Alice Chen



January 22nd, 2023 marked the Lunar New Year. To celebrate, **Howard County Chinese School** (HCCS) held the 2023 HCCS Spring Festival Gala at Glenelg High School, inviting everyone in the community to learn, experience, and celebrate our Chinese culture! This is the 24th **Howard County Chinese New Year** Gala and 4th Food Fair hosted by HCCS, and all made possible with the support from our staff, teachers, students, performers, and community. In the event, there was a food festival, a cultural exhibition, and performances, all showcasing Chinese culture, Chinese food, and Cultural arts.

More than one thousand people attended this event. Council Chair Rigby representing the Howard County Council stated that "The Rabbit, the symbol of this year's Lunar New Year, represents patience, luck, and peace.

Howard County Chinese School, established in 1998, is committed to honoring and teaching the traditions, language, and culture of China, accomplished in part of the annual celebration of the lunar new year". She extended the County Council's "best wishes to students, staff, families of HCCS in this start of the Lunar new year," hoping they would "enjoy and celebrate this most exciting and enjoyable occasion!"

The gala was a huge success. bringing the community together to celebrate this beautiful holiday. It was a community-wide effort, made possible by the support of the HCCS Executive Committee (EC), Board of Directors (BOD), Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Student Governance Association (SGA), Howard County Cultural Center

(H4C), local Asian American organizations, and over one hundred volunteers. Thanks to all those who helped make this event a memorable and joyful celebration of the Lunar New Year.



HCCS 2023 Chinese New Year Gala Performance

BY Isabella Chen, Sandra Wang

On January 22nd at Glenelg High School, an in-person Chinese New Year Gala was held to celebrate the 2023 Lunar New Year after the 4 year COVID pandemic. In the gala there were 23 programs with Mrs. Yan Huang as the director and a total of 250 performers. This was a huge success as there were more than 1,000 tickets sold for people to watch the performances. The performances included different bands, dances, and more, helping to promote Chinese culture and modern arts.

What's worth mentioning is that this is the 7th year Mrs. Huang has directed the Chinese New Year Gala in HCCS, which is a very significant event for the Howard County Chinese community. Mrs. Huang stated, "Howard County Chinese New Year Gala provides a platform to honor our culture, to show the next generation that we are proud of our heritage, to help our kids to build up the confidence about our identity. This is why we are trying our best to keep this event ongoing and make it bigger and better. This event also gathers Chinese American families and makes us feel that we are not alone in this new homeland. We have a community, where we will get support when we need help."



Some performers of these programs were interviewed, and a common challenge for performing was coming back from Covid-19. A lot of effort went into these performances as conductor, Wang Zhan, of the Chinese Youth Orchestra and Music Director stated, "In the last three years, we haven't had any in-person concerts because of COVID. We overcame a lot of difficulties and we put in a lot of effort so we could rehearse in-person." Mrs. Guifang Yan, art director/dance teacher of the Phoenix dance group said "More than 20 years of work was put into this performance." Dancer Olivia Wu from Gina Ling's dance studio hopes the performance will "motivate the audience to keep pushing through and persevere like we did through COVID", as shown through their contemporary dance, "Resilience: The Pandemic Journey". Another thing to be added from Wang Zhan's interview was that the concert will "try to have both Western style music and Chinese traditional music together." He continues on to say that "this will mean a lot to the kids in the orchestra, because they really don't have a lot of chances to play Chinese music in their schools."

The performances altogether promoted Chinese culture through activities like Wushu (Martial Art), Taichi, traditional dances, traditional music, instruments, songs, and costumes.

Thanks to all the people who attended once again. And our deep appreciation goes to the sponsors of the gala: Tea Horse Restaurant, M&T Bank, Fluency Security Corp, Yama Sushi, Loving Care Home Services, Super Tech HVAC Services Inc, Dr. Eyal Bor, Peter Chang Columbia, EquestrAsian Sports Association of Maryland Inc., Chang (Medicare), Jessie Huang, JACS Solutions Inc., Build U Home, Dr. Shun Lu realty estate, American Association of Retired Persons, Mr.

Ming Guo, Mrs. Cheng Chen,

Howard Community College ELC,

Dentist Dr. Xuewei Li, Mr. Xiao Peng

Air conditioning, Community Health

Iniative, Mr. Qixi Li, Go2MedSchool Consulting LLC, and Howard County Arts Council. Kudos to all the performance working groups for a great job well done!.

Please enjoy the HCCS 2023 Chinese New Year Gala performances in the

following YouTube videos!: https://www.voutube.com/watch?v <u>=qe UafC70Gw</u> part 1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v =aVsyKnWcvXc part 2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v =IH5FNSfMRuM part 3



















News

Winners of the 2022 President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)

BY Alice Chen

Congratulations to all of the winners of the 2022 President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) from Howard County Chinese School (HCCS)! We are incredibly proud of our 22 applicants who have been awarded this prestigious recognition for their outstanding community service.

A big thank you to everyone who made this possible, from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation for founding this award, to the HCCS community for sponsoring PVSA since 2019. The recipients of this award are truly inspiring and their positive impact on our community is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

The winners will be honored at the HCCS appreciation and award ceremony on March 18, 2023. We invite all HCCS community members to join us in celebrating the achievements of these remarkable individuals. Let's continue to inspire one another and make a positive impact in our community!

Congratulations once again to all of the HCCS 2022 PVSA winners!





January 30, 2023

Dear HCCS Community Members,

It's our great pleasure to announce that 22 applicants from HCCS have been awarded the 2022 President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). In 2003, the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation founded the President's Volunteer Service Award to recognize the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity. This award honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner of the nation and inspires those around them to act (see https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov). HCCS has started to sponsor PVSA since 2019 to recognize outstanding community service from students and parents in the HCCS Community.

Winners of the PVSA will receive a certificate of achievement and a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States. The award recipients will be honored at the HCCS appreciation and award ceremony on March 18, 2023. We're grateful to have them as part of our community. Their services have positively impacted our community and inspired many to take many positive and impactful actions as well.

Congratulations to all HCCS 2022 PVSA winners!

The HCCS BOD Award Committee

2022 President's Volunteer Service Award Recipients

(in alphabetical order within the group and achievement level)

Name	姓名	Age Group	Achievement Level
Alice Chen	陈晓雅	Teens	Gold
Estelle Chen	陈子涵	Teens	Gold
William Li	李荣谦	Teens	Gold
Joshua Soong	宋恒义	Teens	Gold
Kenneth Wang	王楷量	Teens	Gold
Aiden Zhang	张庆尧	Teens	Gold
Austin Zhang	张铭翰	Teens	Gold
Aaron Zhong	钟安然	Teens	Gold
Ryan Zhou	周瑞安	Teens	Gold
Grace Chen	陈行敏	Teens	Silver
Ray Chen	陈祉睿	Teens	Silver
Mark Li	李洵麒	Teens	Silver
Jeffrey Xu	徐乐	Teens	Silver
Julia Chen	陈悦扬	Teens	Bronze
David Liu	刘浩翔	Teens	Bronze
Alexander Cui	権で洲	Young Adults	Bronze
Alexandra Liu	刘沫瑶	Young Adults	Bronze
Ming Li	李明	Adults	Silver
Jing Li	李静	Adults	Bronze
Hui Liang	梁辉	Adults	Bronze
Yan Sun	孙艳	Adults	Bronze
Cuiwei Zhao	赵翠微	Adults	Bronze

News

Winners of the 2022 Howard County Chinese School (HCCS)-Ivy Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Award

BY Emma Lu

Congratulations to everyone who won the Howard County Chinese School (HCCS)-Ivy Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Award. Starting from 2021, the HCCS-Ivy GEM Award recognizes people who have served the HCCS for over 10 years. It is a great honor to receive this award.

Congratulations Jianping Dong, Guoyi Fu, Ye Jiang, Hui Liang, Yaping Wu, Ziqiao Zhang!

A big thanks to the Ivy Direct for making this award possible! The awardees include two HCCS teachers and a member of each from the HCCS Executive Committee, the Parent-Teacher Association, the Howard County Chinese Cultural Center, and the HCCS Board of Directors, all making great efforts to improve our community!

On March 18, 2023, the HCCS-Ivy GEM Award recipients will be honored at the HCCS appreciation and award ceremony, so please join us to help support and congratulate all of their contributions to our community!

Remember to continue to support each other and help each other to make a greater community!

Congratulations again to the hard work of each of the awardees!



January 30, 2023

Dear HCCS Community Members,

It's our great pleasure to announce the 2022 recipients for the Howard County Chinese School (HCCS)-Ivy Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Award* (哈维中文学校常青藤服务奖). The HCCS-Ivy GEM Award was established in early 2021 to recognize individuals with exceptional service and sustained contributions to the Howard County Chinese School. Each award recipient has served HCCS for more than ten years. The award recipients include two HCCS teachers and a member of each from the HCCS Executive Committee (EC), the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), the Howard County Chinese Cultural Center (H4C), and the HCCS Board of Directors (BOD). The 2022 HCCS-Ivy GEM Award recipients will be honored at the HCCS appreciation and award ceremony on March 18, 2023. Please join us to congratulate them!

Howard County Chinese School (HCCS)-Ivy Going the Extra Mile (GEM) 2022 Award Recipients (2022常青藤服务奖获奖名单) (in alphabetical order 按姓氏拼音顺序)

Name	姓名	HCCS 部门
Jianping Dong	董建平	PTA 哈维中文学校家长会
Guoyi Fu	傳国毅	H4C 哈维中文学校文化中心
Ye Jiang	蒋晔	EC 哈维中文学校校委会
Hui Liang	梁挥	BOD 哈维中文学校董事会
Yaping Wu	吴亚萍	Teacher 哈维中文学校教师
Ziqiao Zhang	张子乔	Teacher 哈维中文学校教师

The HCCS BOD Award Committee

^{*} The HCCS-Ivy GEM Award is funded by a donation from Ivy Direct*.

Their Stories Our Community

BY Alice Chen and Alexander Zhu

On December 18 at Howard Community College, a panel hosted by the AAPI Youth Ambassadors Program (YAP) & the Howard County Chinese School (HCCS) SGA, honored 3 Chinese American elected officials' path to their offices in public service. The panelists were MD State Delegate Elect and Former BOE Member Dr. Chao Wu, as well as current BOE members Dr. Linfeng Chen and Dr. Yun Lu, all hailing from various different cities of China. They shared their experiences throughout the campaign process, ranging from what inspired them to campaign all the way to their current duties in office. Whilst talking about some of the surprises and challenges that came from campaigning, they also shared their insights that gleaned throughout the journey. They brought up some current events and issues occurring in Howard County. They encouraged everyone to stand up, voice up, and campaign for the issues they care about. It is a great and rewarding experience that allows one to help the community. At the end, they commended some of the great things about HCCS and the awesome and amazing things you learn there, where you can learn about Chinese culture and heritage as well as embracing your identity.

All three guest speakers went through a multitude of events during their public service. At times, they were tired, angry, and frustrated. However, their efforts were not in vain, and they succeeded, gaining a position, putting their viewpoints on the



Yun Lu, Chao Wu, Linfeng Chen

table for education-based legislation to help the community. Overall, Dr. Ming Li, chair of HCCS Board of Director (BOD) summarized their experiences best with a quote from Muhammed Ali, where you should "Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion".

Dr. Wu came from Hubei, immigrated to America in 2003, and later in 2010 moved to Howard County, Maryland. All of the Officials' experiences differ, and Dr. Wu's experiences are very unique. Dr. Wu originally was a Board of Education member in Howard County, but was recently elected as a Maryland State Delegate. He stated that a lot of significant events happened during the past 20 years that inspired him to get into the public service. Around 2004, when ABC news had a program where Jimmy Kimmel agreed with an audience's response of "kill everyone in China" to the question on how America should

pay back the debt to China, Dr. Wu could not tolerate what Jimmy Kimmel had said. This led him to join protests, he noticed that "everyone supported each other, was a part of the community", but the protests were only on an insignificant level as the challenge to change something already set was tremendous. This was when Dr. Wu decided that he "needed to get involved at a higher level", on a "platform, a table to share opinions where he could represent Chinese American and do something more" for his community. This led him to becoming a part of the Board of Education in Howard County, and later becoming a Maryland State Delegate Elect. Originally, his goal was to unite the Chinese American community in order to better represent, but he "realized that there is no way I can appeal to everyone" and that "it's not my role to do that anymore". Dr. Wu wants everyone to realize that Chinese Americans have different opinions, just like all other communities, but he will continue working on finding and advocating the common interest for the wellbeing of the community. With the burden lifted, he focused his attention on his new goals where he wants our younger generations to be treated like Americans, not like foreigners, but that will take a long time with lots of participation from everyone. He stated that "people will adapt to our actions, to our presence, because sometimes just being on the table can change the dynamic and the direction the conversation will go". but unfortunately "we don't have much of a presence. We are not there, and eventually people forget about our perspective". Dr. Chao Wu wants to be a part of the force to change that and will continue encouraging the younger generation to participate with him to be a part of that change.

Dr. Yun Lu is currently a Board of Education member. She comes from Beijing, immigrating to America in 1997. She came to Maryland in 2002 and moved to Howard County in 2012. She never thought she would ever be running for office until she went through the BOE's school redistricting in 2019. She disagreed with the redistrict proposal of moving around 7,400 students to achieve the goals of good-looking districts. She believed that providing quality education for the students was more important, making decisions based on evidence and data, not based on political agenda. This stems from her background of working in statistical analysis for the government. During those 3 months, she worked hard to let the BOE understand her viewpoints through protesting and testimony in the BOE work sessions. However, as a member of the general public, she does not really have as much influence, so she determined that she could be doing more by running for office. It was especially hard for her, as she ran during the Coronavirus pandemic. She is extremely thankful for all the support and help she got from others. Her main philosophy is that she believes in good human nature and kindness, which is what she believes helped her get elected. She understands that what the community needs is harmony, and not uniformity, with everyone needing to understand each other better. This is why she believes her

unique viewpoint brings a lot more to the table to allow the board to make more well-rounded decisions. For instance, there are very few Asian American Board of Education members, so when she and some of her colleagues tried to pass a resolution at the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) to mitigate AAPI hate, many others did not think it was necessary because they did not understand her viewpoint. However, by informing them of some instances of hate occurring, such as some of the negativity she faced during her campaign purely because of her race, the resolution passed as they became more understanding of the situation and her viewpoints. Also, coming from a statistics background, she understands how to remove bias when collecting data from the general public as well. So the unique skill set she brings works together with other board members' skill sets and viewpoints to more accurately represent the community's needs. She wishes for others to be empathetic by stopping stereotyping and considering each person's characteristics individually. Furthermore, she encourages everyone who is considering running for office to run despite the challenges. It is a significant workload with little pay, especially much more added work during pandemic. She found it at times very challenging to juggle serving on the board with her own job as well as her life at home. She considers herself an introvert and finds it very challenging at times when she has to face people who are angry and unhappy at the board's decisions. But she considers it all worth it in the end, as you get to be the decision

maker and a leader, changing how things are if you are unhappy with it. Due to her job with the government, she cannot run for many other positions, so after her term is over she will likely take a break and focus on her own hobbies.

Dr. Linfeng Chen, like Dr. Lu, is a current Board of Education member in Howard County. He came to America in 2002, moved to Maryland in 2010. He expressed how much he "treasures what I have now with our county" and hopes through his hard work, people will know "we are American, we are 100% Americans" and how our community will contribute to society just like everyone else. Dr. Chen said "maybe my English is not perfect, but I am trying my best to do my job". Throughout the seminar, Dr. Chen expressed his thanks to the community for helping him throughout his campaign. Dr. Chen said that "when I look back. I have received so much help that I realized I'm not conducting the campaign by myself, I am conducting together with a big strong community". As a newly elected Board of Education, he received a lot of suggestions from Dr. Wu and Dr. Lu. He realizes that "the diversity in the team, the team effort makes a huge difference", so his secret for his campaign is to listen more. He stated that this was a big learning curve and looking back in the past ten months of his campaign, he "can feel himself growing with the community". When asked about what he enjoyed about his position, he responded saying: "The responsibility, and feeling that people respect my opinion. I think it's very important to have the feeling that you can impact and do the best you can". Now that he has been elected, he will focus and work hard on representing all Howard

County residents including Asian Americans.

Thanks to Dr. Wu, Dr. Lu, and Dr. Chen for sharing their valuable experiences with the community. We sincerely wish them best of luck and success on any future endeavors they pursue. Also, thanks to our Moderators, Estelle Chen and Jeff Shang, PTA President Silver Chai, Vice Principal Changyi Li, and HCCS SGA Member, William Li, for a successful and engaging seminar.









Howard County Executive Lunar New Year Celebration

BY Kenneth Wang

Last Saturday on January 21st, the Columbia Mall held its annual Lunar New Year celebration as a way to celebrate Asian culture. This celebration was hosted by executive Calvin Ball and sponsored by Howard County Chinese Cultural Center (H4C), **Howard County Chinese School** (HCCS), and other Asian organizations. There were performances with singing, dancing, and music, and there were stalls set up to showcase these cultures to the public for everyone to enjoy. We'd like to extend a huge

Congratulations to all who helped to organize and set up the event, as well as everyone who participated in the performances! Happy Lunar New Year!







HCCS 2023 Spring Festival and Food Fair

BY Kenneth Wang & Emma Lu



The first in-person Chinese New Year Gala by Howard County Chinese School (HCCS) in 4 years was held on January 22nd at Glenelg High School. At the gala, there were multiple exciting booths showcasing the diverse Chinese culture in our community. In particular, these booths represented the various aspects of the Chinese American community in the Howard County area, each with its own specialties and voices. Some booths included in the cultural exhibition section were a Taichi Chinese calligraphy booth, a jewelry booth, a Chinese photography booth, a Chinese pop band, a Chinese choir stand, and even a robotics booth by the FTC robotics team.

It is extremely important to pass on these traditions and cultural activities, either traditionally or by adding a modern spin. Estelle Chen, a high-school student and a small business owner of Happy22Bunny, does this in a creative and fashionable manner. As she stated in

an interview she gave to the HCCS PR Youth Journalist team, "[we named ourselves] 22 because it sounds like the Chinese characters tutu (兔兔), which means rabbit", and this year is coincidentally also the year of the Rabbit. What a creative way to incorporate Chinese culture into a business!

Likewise, the HCCS Taichi Chinese Calligraphy center cleverly mixes two traditional Chinese crafts into one, using the discipline and tranquility of Taichi techniques to create exquisite, flowing pieces of calligraphy. At the new year gala, the group had participants write the Chinese word for fortune (福) using a calligraphy brush. Many participants told the Youth Journalist team how much fun they had, and how they greatly enjoyed the process of learning how to write with a calligraphy brush.

With the beautiful calligraphy art of the Taichi Chinese Calligraphy group, one can't forget the spectacular Chinese pop band and choir stand. The pop band added a thrilling sense of festivity to the atmosphere, playing popular Chinese songs for everyone to enjoy and sing along to. Anyone who entered the room could stop and listen to the many songs, spreading Chinese culture amongst all the gala's visitors. Likewise, the choir stand set up a karaoke machine with many traditional Chinese songs, so people were able to gather and all sing together and have a great time. Everyone had so much fun participating in these events!

Overall, it was a wonderful and fun experience to learn about all the different aspects of the Chinese community and Chinese Culture. The Cultural Exhibition was both educational and engaging, and it was quite incredibly interesting directly seeing all the different aspects of this culture. We look forward to seeing what booths will be in store at the next New Year Gala!



















Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Lunar New Year Concert

BY Isabella Chen, Sandra Wang

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSP) held its first Lunar New Year concert at Meyerhoff Symphony Hall at 8:00PM on January 13, 2023, or National Korean-American Day. In this event, the concert, the exhibits, and the pre-concert cultural performances all promoted the history, culture and customs of many different Asian countries to Americans.

In the pre-concert, the Howard County Chinese School provided Chinese dances, calligraphy, gourd flute (Hulusi), and Taichi performances.

Congratulations to BSO for the successful concert! They were very well received by the audience. We hope this becomes an annual tradition to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Special thanks to Howard County Chinese Cultural Center for providing all these amazing performances. And thanks to all the people who attended and volunteered in this event. We wish everyone an early Happy Lunar New Year!



STUDENT COLUMN

Call for Student Submissions

HCCS Students,

We want to hear from you! If you would like to submit your writing for the next issue of our gazette newspaper, please email your work to pr@hccs-md.org.

The deadline is the 15th of every month.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing your work in the HCCS Gazette,

HCCS PR Youth Journalist Group

JOKES AND RIDDLES

Why was six afraid of seven?	How did the two prunes confirm dinner plans?
Because seven ate nine.	They said it was a date.
Why did the cracker go to the doctor?	What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?
It felt crummy.	"I'm stuck on you."
What did one Hershey's bar say to the other who arrived long past their date time?	Why are artichokes so beloved? They're known for their hearts.
"You're choco-late."	