

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

11.08.23

Cricket Editing Team

EVENT OF THE MONTH: **Holiday Folk Fair**

Cultures from all around the world united at Milwaukee's 2023 Holiday Folk Fair. Cricket Chinese Academy was immersed with all different types of cultural traditions, such as Irish dance.

Hundreds of booths were set up on this magical day, including one of our very own. Several of our volunteers introduced Chinese cultural customs and crafts, helping children making dragon paper crafts, a massive success! Our custom zodiac sign heat-press merchandise also made an appearance at the Folk Fair, which proved to be extremely popular. Our volunteers all had a wonderful time educating and conversing with those that came to our booth. Additionally, several food booths were set up, filling the air with a delicious aroma and joyous conversations over a warm drink. It was lovely to gather with the cultures of the world and take a dive into their practices and customs. It's a reminder that art takes many forms and is completely limitless.

The Milwaukee Holiday Folk fair is the perfect experience for not only volunteers, but also visitors and those curious enough to immerse themselves into the cultures of the world. It's highly encouraged if you didn't make it this year that you check it out next year! This family friendly event guarantees a great time for people of all ages. Additionally, the diversity and inclusion is bound to make everyone feel safe and welcomed. We hope to see you at the 2024 Holiday Folk Fair!

Article Written by: Lari Li



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At the Holiday Folk Fair event, Cricket Chinese Academy had a booth introducing visitors to Chinese calligraphy, an ancient Chinese art style. At the booth, kids and adults alike can get their name written in Chinese with calligraphy ink and paper by a Cricket volunteer. This is to introduce more people to a traditional Chinese art form, allowing people to understand Chinese culture and appreciate its beauty. Next, Cricket Youth Leadership Group editors have put together a brief written introduction to the history and importance of Chinese calligraphy.

Chinese Calligraphy

A piece of paper, a stick of ink stone, a writing brush, and rich black ink are said to be the Four Treasures of the study. So simple, yet these four jewels can be used to create such complexity. Words on a paper can hold immense meaning, conveying powerful messages to the readers. These words, one by one, connect into a sentence, a paragraph, an ancient language. For Chinese culture, not only are they used to communicate but also viewed as a traditional art form, known to be as Chinese calligraphy.

Some say, “a picture is worth a thousand words”. In China, words were first developed from simplified pictures that held meaning. This allowed the ancient Chinese to be able to establish a complicated language at an early time of 1250 BCE. In many European languages originating from ancient Greek and Latin roots, letters are put together for sounds and structures that build upon one another to develop a meaningful word. However, in contrast, the earliest stage of Chinese language were picture based characters, called Oracle bone script, carved on the back of turtle shells. This first form of writing in China was used to communicate with spiritual deities and ancestors, many samples of Oracle bone script are preserved today. Most importantly, the history of Chinese calligraphy experienced a rapid evolution during the 16th century BCE, when a mass development of styles were introduced. One style categorized as the seal script, commonly used for official engravings on stone and carved seals. Designed for its purpose, seal script is known to be symmetrical and constructed with even pressure when writing, creating thin lines. Next, clerical script was introduced, written with flat and wide characters, also mainly used for official documents and records. Differentiating from seal script, clerical script allowed for more freedom when writing and varying weights of each stroke in the character. After the introduction of the seal script and clerical script for formal use, cursive script was implemented for informal communication and daily use. This script connected the strokes together and was a variation of the seal and clerical script in cursive form. During 105 CE, a man named Cai Lun, was able to invent paper and the paper making process for the Han Dynasty. This was a major shift in Chinese calligraphy and was known to be one of the most significant inventions by the Chinese. After the invention of paper, calligraphy and writing further increased due to the easy access. The people of China now begun to study the different scripts starting with the regular, otherwise known as standard script. This script was studied by beginners because of its distinct strokes and clear, recognizable characters, developed last in the history of different calligraphy styles in China.

As one can see, calligraphy held immense significance to the Chinese culture and valued higher than any other Chinese visual art form. Calligraphy was a beautiful way to display self-expression and is a medium where a person’s thoughts, feelings and creativity could be best conveyed to the audience. Cricket Chinese Academy can also best advocate for Chinese culture by sharing this piece of Chinese style with you. Cricket hopes that you learn and further explore the depths of Chinese culture to understand the significance and purpose of each piece of Chinese culture.

Article Written by: Jenny Mei

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WHO ARE WE?

"As part of Milwaukee Chinese Community Center, a non-profit organization serving Southeast Wisconsin communities, Cricket Chinese Academy welcomes families from different backgrounds. We focus on providing Non-Chinese heritage families an opportunity to connect with Chinese culture through language programs and festive cultural activities throughout the year."

Click [HERE](#) to register!

Chinese Culture & Language Learning
 Reach the Life Possibility
 Inspire the Curiosity
 Community to Connect
 Knowledge enable Appreciation
 Empower to Communicate
 Tenacity to be Excellent

2023-2024
 Sunday School Language & Cultural Program

Cricket I (Pre-K/K, Level K) Selina Wang	Cricket II (6-7, Level 1) Izzie Yi	Cricket III (8+, Level 1) Julia Nie
Cricket IV (Adv. Level 2) Lin Ye	Cricket Adult Xiaoyun Zhang	Supplemental virtual lessons Liya Ma

NEW UPDATE TO CRICKET ACADEMY PROGRAMS!

Cricket has just introduced 3 new supplemental programs for learning Chinese with Cricket Academy. Each are 8 week programs per semester, in two new locations, Whitefish Bay School District and the Brookfield School District. See below for details.

Brookfield School District
 16

New in 2023-2024
 Cricket After School Program

- Supplemental program *different* from regular Sunday program
- 8-week program per semester
- Whitefish Bay School District
 Tuesday starting from Sep. 26, 2023
 Thursday starting from Sep. 28, 2023
- Brookfield District
 Thursday starting from Sep. 28, 2023

Want to Learn Chinese?
 Join in an Cricket Chinese Academy's after-school lessons to learn about Chinese language and culture!

CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

8 WEEK OPTIONS 3:15-4:15 PM
 Cumberland- Tuesdays 9/26-12/5
 Richards- Thursdays 9/28-12/7

Please register through the Recreation Department or read more about the programs in our Fall Program Guide page 8.

Whitefish Bay School District
 Brookfield Elementary
 Cumberland
 Whitefish Bay Recreation



Email Cricket Academy Admin if you have any questions.
admin@cricketacademy.org

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MORE FUN COMING SOON!



LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS HERE!

<https://forms.gle/2AXmYq7s2tcLYJkK7>



Follow Cricket Chinese Academy!

Facebook - [@CricketAcademyMilwaukee](https://www.facebook.com/CricketAcademyMilwaukee)

Instagram - [@cricketacademy_mccc](https://www.instagram.com/cricketacademy_mccc)

Website - <https://milwaukeechinese.org/cricket-academy/>

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/cricketacademy4717>

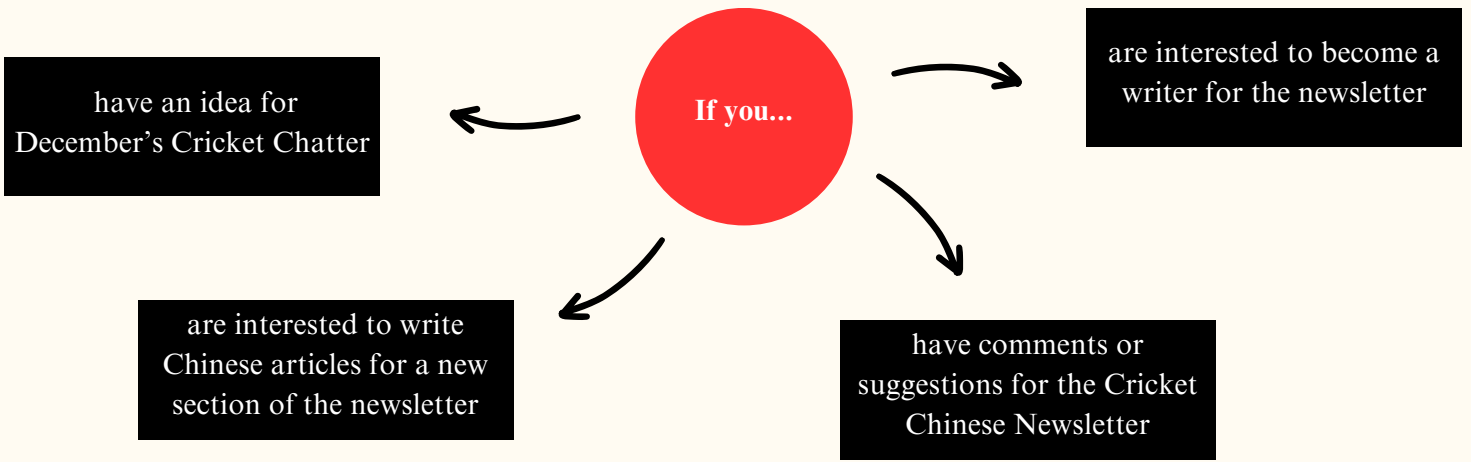
Cricket Chatter

COMING SOON: January Newsletter

Interview with Youth Group CCA Teachers

As the Cricket Chinese Academy school year progresses, the Cricket Youth Leadership Group teachers are getting more familiar with their class, exploring more Chinese culture through fun and engaging lessons plans. Also, with the Chinese New Year Festival approaching, Cricket Youth teachers are assigned with the task of getting the students ready for their very own Chinese dance performance. In the January Newsletter, Cricket editors will be conducting an interview and sharing with you all the fun stories from the teachers! Stay tuned for this interview article for more information on the experiences of Selina and Alan, our level K Cricket Chinese Academy teachers.
Article Written by: Jenny Mei

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