

News



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HART'S HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (WHITESBORO) AND YU CHENG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (TAIPEI, TAIWAN) TO INTERACT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE AS PART OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE INITIATIVE

Oct. 24, 2008, (New Hartford, N.Y.) – On Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008, from 7:30-8:30 p.m., students from Hart's Hill Elementary in Whitesboro will meet students from Yu Cheng Elementary School in Taipei, Taiwan through a videoconference to share cultural projects with one another. The videoconference for Whitesboro students will take place at Hart's Hill Elementary School.

Students from Taiwan will share their Lion Dance project (for more information on the cultural background of the Lion Dance and a performance video clip, go to <http://www.trilliumlearning.com/TLERN/Taiwan/Taipei/YuChengES/YCESProjects/YCESChaoChinHuang/YCESCCHuangHome.php> and click on "The Lion Dance Project" PowerPoint or Movie links). Students from Whitesboro will share their Pinwheels for Peace and Fall Festival projects. Students from both countries will also have a chance to ask each other questions about their projects or personal interests.

This presentation is made possible through the Chinese Language and Culture Initiative funded by the US Department of Education, Foreign Language Assistance Program. The

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three-year initiative takes place through the use of distance learning, videoconferencing, and teacher training and has two main facets:

- To build cultural awareness, opportunities for international collaborations and increased interest at the K-5 level; and
- To begin standards-based instruction in Mandarin Chinese at the 6-12 level.

The initiative is administered through the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison (OHM) BOCES, which will also provide technical assistance and a Mandarin Chinese language teacher for translation assistance at this event. There are currently five elementary schools participating at the K-5 level: Jefferson and Watson-Williams Elementary Schools, Utica; Harts Hill Elementary, Whitesboro; and General William Floyd and Holland Patent Elementary Schools, Holland Patent. There are 11 schools in 9 districts participating at the 6-12 level: Clinton, Holland Patent, New York Mills, Oriskany, Sauquoit, Utica (Donovan and JFK Middle Schools), Waterville, Westmoreland and Whitesboro (Parkway and Whitesboro Middle Schools). New Hartford High School also offers Mandarin Chinese instruction through OHM BOCES.

Trillium Learning provides a Web portal, teacher support and training and coordinated the arrangements between the two schools for the event.

For more information, please contact Tipton Abrahams, Senior Public Relations Specialist, OHM BOCES, telephone number 315.793.8610 or email tabrahams@oneida-boces.org.

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