

**EAST-WEST  
SCHOOL OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDIES**

# The Bridge



Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2011

## Save the date!

- *Community Advisory Board meeting*  
March 31  
3pm - 4:30pm
- *School Musical - The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*  
May 26  
7pm - 8pm
- *PTA General Meeting*  
April 2  
10am - 11:30am
- *Spring Recess*  
April 18 - 26

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## G2G Scholarship Contest – Six winners from East-West!

East-West had 6 winners for the G2G New Visions Scholarship Contest in all 4 categories, Essay, Art, Song, and Video. We had the most winners from one school.

**Kwaku Oware-Addai** and **Bethany Si Yue Mong** both won \$1000 (1st place), **Max Pournie** and **Dimitrios Galo Almeida** won \$500 (2nd place), and **Tiffany Thomas** and **Londel Collier** won \$250 (3rd place).

Congratulations to the winners!

Winners of the contest were announced on Tuesday, March 8th, at the G2G Talent Show Extravaganza at Madison Square Park. Films were shown on a large screen. Winning songs and dance acts were

performed live. Winning essays were read live before the audience, and winning artists described why their work represents the meaning of G2G.

Excerpt from “The Tale” by Kwaku Oware-Addai:

*College life is necessary  
you need it to succeed*

*College is where dreams come alive  
It is really a place where you can  
really strive*

View the winning entries at  
<http://nycg2g.strutta.com>



**Kwaku Oware-Addai won first place with his poem “The Tale”**

## East-West First Annual Poetry Slam

Ms. Binaso and her 10th grade English class organized East-West’s first annual poetry slam last Friday.

The room was filled with students and staff members. Students performed pieces that they had carefully revised and rehearsed over weeks. Ms. Hartong, the Drama teacher, also read one of her own pieces. A panel of student judges rated the performances. The time, effort, and passion that had gone into creating this event

was evident. Thank you to Ms. Binaso and her 10th graders for their hard work!



**Performers from the East-West Poetry Slam**



Erhu

## 2011 Chinese Erhu Afterschool Program

East-West School of International Studies is proud to announce our first year erhu program to ALL STUDENTS. There will be only 10 seats for the program which will accept students with good attendance and grades of 75 and above in all subjects.

Ten classes will be held weekly by professional erhu instructor, Mr. Wang, between March 23 and June 8th, 2011. This program is made possible and sponsored by Hanban, the Chinese National Office for

Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, as we are now a member of Confucius Classrooms Network. We strongly encourage all students to take this advantage. Learning erhu will help students develop music and spatial intelligence, think critically, and most importantly, it enhances teamwork skills and discipline. All these will help students succeed in school and in life.

What is erhu? The erhu (Chinese fiddle) is an ancient music instrument that is ex-

tremely popular in China today for both traditional and contemporary music. It has two strings and is played with a bow.

To learn more about our new role as a Confucius Classroom, please view our press release on [ewsis.org](http://ewsis.org) under "East-West in the News."

***"Please keep  
Japan in your  
thoughts."***

***- David Bantz,  
Japanese teacher***

On March 11, Japan suffered an 8.9-magnitude earthquake, the greatest one in its history, as well as a devastating tsunami.

As an international studies school with Japan as one of our areas of focus, we responded immediately so that all students and staff were informed of the disaster and understood the severity and scope of its destruction.

Mr. Bantz, one of our Japanese teachers, and Ms. Panday quickly prepared a presentation as students and staff filed into the auditorium for Morning Muster. Students viewed video clips of the tsunami and learned which parts of Japan were affected. Mr. Sherman encouraged teachers to adjust their lessons to explore different aspects of the disaster, such as the scientific cause behind

earthquakes.

Building compassion for countries and people who exist thousands of miles away and have different customs, beliefs, and language is an international school's ultimate goal. By increasing awareness of the interdependence of our wellbeing, we strive to train our students to become empathetic and proactive global citizens.



Ben Sherman

## Letter from the Principal

The East-West School of International Studies is a small comprehensive 6-12 school that trains students to become experts in an Asian culture and language and prepares them for a career in an international world. Our core competencies are English, math, science, technology, and language. East-West students will graduate with a Regents diploma, proficiency in an Asian language, and the ability to use technology as a tool for lifelong

learning and communication in preparation for college success.

East-West prepares New York City students of all racial and socioeconomic backgrounds for a four-year college and for a productive professional life working with cultures beyond their own. We believe that a focus on Asia can help students develop guiding values such as community, discipline, high standards, and perseverance.

Together, we create opportunities for our students' success.

Sincerely,

Ben Sherman

## 2011 Chinese Mandarin Classes for Adults—OPEN

Dear community members,

I am pleased to inform you that our Adult Chinese Mandarin Class of 2011 will begin on March 12, 2011 from 10:00a.m.-11:30a.m. For the convenience of PTA parents, the times of some classes are scheduled before the PTA meetings (9:00a.m.-10:00a.m.).

You are welcome to participate. No prior Chinese language knowledge is needed. A \$20 deposit is required and will be refunded to those who

attend all classes. Students who arrive late or are absent for any class will forfeit the \$20 deposit. Due to the limited space, remember “the early bird catches the worm.”

I am looking forward to seeing you in the class! Please contact Ms. Chen at [bchen@ewsis.org](mailto:bchen@ewsis.org) or contact the school at (718)-353-0009.

*Ms. Chen*

*Chinese Language Teacher*

Although you are welcome to attend any of the classes and begin anytime, as each one will be an independent lesson, just \$20 will cover the entire ten-week course.

If you are part of an organization, we would greatly appreciate your assistance sharing this information. Please let Julia Cheng know if you would like mailed flyers at [jcheng@ewsis.org](mailto:jcheng@ewsis.org).

中文

## Volunteer at East-West!

As a small school, East-West greatly appreciates help from the community. If you are interested in offering your time and support as an East-West Volunteer, please review the current opportunities and call Ms. Cheng at (718) 795-6688 ext. 4296. You will receive a volunteer application and more information on the screening process.

We look forward to working together to provide

the best education possible for our students.

### Trip Chaperone

We are short-staffed and in great need of community volunteers for our scheduled field trips. Volunteers must be available during school hours, 9 am to 3 pm, and be willing to accompany primarily high school students. To be placed on an on-call list.

### Office Support

Provide clerical support to departments based on need and interest. Flexible scheduling.

### On-call Special Projects Support

Help with special projects as they arise.

*“I am juggling many things these days, but there will always be room for EWSIS.”*

*- Vivian Warfield, active volunteer*

## East-West Dragon Boat team is looking for a sponsor

Due to strong student interest, we would like to offer our students the opportunity to form an official dragon boat team and compete in the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in Flushing Meadows Park this August.

Ryo Shibata, one of our teachers, and his dragon boat team have volunteered to train the students every week and prepare them for the competition.

Would you or your organization be interested in sponsoring an East-West team of fourteen students?

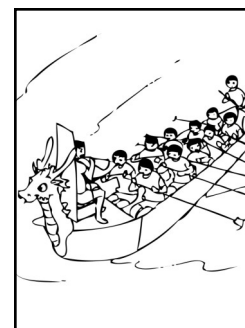
As our corporate sponsor, you will receive:

- Your logo and business name as part of our official team name and jerseys
- Recognition in all related press releases as a strong supporter of local schools

- Tax exemption for the donated amount

The cost of sponsorship is \$600, which would cover the \$450 race registration fee and fourteen team jerseys.

Please contact Ryo Shibata at [rshibata@ewsis.org](mailto:rshibata@ewsis.org) for more information.



Dragon Boat



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## About East-West

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Established in September 2006, EWSIS is a public high school in Flushing, New York with over 550 students from 6th to 12th grade. EWSIS believes that our next generation must be primed for Asia, a region with growing importance and influence. All students are required to study one East Asian language for at least four years.

We prepare students with global knowledge and perspective by offering courses in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean, as well as a range of clubs and exchange opportunities. Now in our fifth year, we have kept to our mission of providing superior education for all students regardless of academic level or socioeconomic background. In 2010, 94% of our high school seniors graduated and went on to college.

Visit us online!

Main Website: <http://www.ewsis.org>

School Blog: <http://ewsis.wordpress.com>

## Spotlight on EWSIS Partner: Community Advisory Board

The Community Advisory Board is comprised of Flushing community leaders who meet regularly with East-West staff to help guide our decisions affecting the school and community.

The Board is a crucial component of East-West's support network. Together, we find ways to develop both the school and the community and address any concerns.

The Community Advisory Board formed in 2009 in response to the need to engage in constructive dialogue with the community. They offer guidance, individually and collectively, on the continued development of East-West.

East-West offers its sincere appreciation to the members of the Board.



In attendance at the January meeting, from left to right: Kenneth Cohen, Valerie Cohen, Shirley Bryant, Dorothy Woo, and John Henry Byas. Not shown: Linna Yu, Ben Sherman, Julia Cheng.

### CONTACT:

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