

Rosslyn Showcase: Where East Meets West

On behalf of Alberta Education, Rosslyn School will represent all northern Alberta Schools in a video-conference on Tuesday, July 4, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. MDT. “*East Meets West in Alberta*”, has been selected as one of ten sessions for the *Alberta Schools at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival*, June 30-July 11, 2006. As the largest annual cultural event in the U.S. capital, the Festival receives considerable publicity, typically reaching 40 million readers and viewers through print and electronic media. In the past, the Festival was named the Top Event in the U.S. as a result of a survey of regional tourist bureaus -- thus joining previous winners that include the Olympics and the World Expo. The Festival has also been the subject of numerous books, documentary films, scholarly articles and debate.

“The festival is all about connecting people to people,” says Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Education. “The interactive school sessions will demonstrate our educational culture and will showcase the benefits of our multi-million dollar investment in video-conferencing.”

We are excited to have this opportunity to showcase the Alberta experience of our students to visitors in Washington. For more information about the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, you may wish to visit the following websites: <http://www.folklife.si.edu/index.html> and <http://www.albertaindc.com>.

Rosslyn Jr. High is a multi-ethnic school that celebrates the cultural diversity found within its hallways. Our student body is made of 18 different nationalities, many of them being first generation immigrants themselves. To accommodate this diversity, Rosslyn has many special programs; one such program is our Mandarin Bilingual program.

With over 130 students enrolled, from beginner to advanced, this class meets the needs of the most rudimentary to the most advanced. This award winning program and its instructor, Xuping Gao, have received recognition throughout our district.

The students go far beyond the regular classroom work having a variety of extra curricular Chinese clubs and activities. These activities are going to be the chore of our Showcase, Rosslyn: Where East Meets West. Our students will demonstrate various Chinese dances, from the Lion Dance to the Handkerchief Dance, as well as Kung Fu forms and Chinese Drama. The second half of the presentation will include brief Power Point demonstration about how the Mandarin program fits into the overall Video Conferencing Enrichment at Rosslyn.

Mandarin Program and Video Conferencing at Rosslyn

The Mandarin program has strong links with our Video Conference technology. It has participated in our Conference on Higher Level Thinking Skills in Math and Culture where we held sessions with over 400 participants, enlisting the expertise of the University of Alberta, the Pacific Institute of Mathematical Sciences, and even a video conference with Dr. Steven Brown, the Associate Dean of Mathematics from the University of Waterloo. The Mandarin Program participated, via video conference, in *MegaConference Jr.*'s China Exchange on May 18th. This world-wide event connects students with experts, from Australia to Iran to Edmonton, in their diverse fields of study.

Video Conferencing and Pre-AP at Rosslyn

Besides the Mandarin program, another key user of the technology is our Pre-Advanced Placement Program. This program meets on a regular basis with the Director of the Canadian Mathematics Competition, in partnership with other Junior High schools, to delve into higher level Math problems and strategies. In addition to this, we hold regular video conferences with such diverse groups as the Joint Centre for Bio-Ethics at the University of Toronto, the Canadian Research Centre, the National Math

Contest Council and even the Indianapolis Zoo. We are in the process of confirming further conferences with the Tyrell Museum and the Canadian Space Agency.

Besides the expert-based educational opportunities, Rosslyn uses the technology to foster its Professional Learning Community. Teachers from various disciplines get together on a regular basis to share resources, best practices and development strategies for implementation of the new Pre-AP Curriculum.

Showcase Program:

Coordinating Teachers: Terry Godwaldt, Xuping Gao, Principal: Don Darling

- 1) Brief introduction of Rosslyn School
- 2) Dance Showcase
 - Chinese Handkerchief Dance
 - Lion Dance
 - Kung Fu forms
 - Chinese Drama
- 3) Power Point on our school and community at large
 - including pictures of past video conferences
- 4) Question and answer time

Rosslyn School invites the public to attend this event on Tuesday, July 4, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. MDT in the East Gym at Rosslyn School. All guests must be seated prior to 8:45 a.m., doors will be closed at 8:45. Please join us for this exciting event.