

Subject: Continuance of Chinese School

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Notice to All Registered Families

(This notice is also being forwarded to new families that were waiting for placement.)

Sadly, I am contacting you to let you know that we will be refunding your pre-paid program fee for this year's Chinese Heritage & Language Program. To date we have only received registrations for fewer than 20 children, and several families have notified us that for various reasons, they will be unable to return (location, scheduling and the economy all being factors in making this difficult decision.) Additionally, because adoptions from China have slowed to such an extreme, we don't have many new children coming home. This means we have only collected about \$6000 of the \$14000 it would take to run the program as outlined. It is clear that we cannot fulfill your expectations of the program as we had originally planned it, and some form of re-organization is needed if we are to continue.

While our options are clearly limited, some of the suggested changes include searching for a less expensive location, reducing the class calendar to every other week (of course working around holiday weekends), and / or combining children of different levels, but similar age. In the event we are unable to work out a replacement program, Man-Li has graciously offered to consider private lessons at her home in Syosset for those that want to continue.

As many of you know there was a regional board meeting held Friday night for our chapter. Many, many parents in attendance expressed an interest in our program but extreme difficulty in making the commitment to every Saturday. We have been asked to consider finding a way to provide smaller series of cultural workshops. This would allow families to sign up for short term programs, and hopefully make it easier for more people to participate.

The reorganization of an educational program will require time, effort, creativity, and some flexibility amongst the participants. We warmly welcome your assistance, suggestions and ingenuity in formulating a new plan. In the near future, we hope to schedule a meeting place and time where interested parents can convene to discuss the future.

In the interim, please accept our heartfelt apologies.

If you paid by check, your original check will be returned to you. If you paid via credit card, FCC-NY will process a credit to your account.

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