



Sister School Newsletter: Ren He Jie (RHJ) delegation at Talbot Trail Public School (TTPS) October 2-5, 2018



Talbot Trail Public School in Windsor Ontario and Ren-He-Jie Primary School in Chongqing China have been sister schools for quite a few years through a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada's Partnership Project, "Reciprocal Learning in Teacher Education and School Education between Canada and China" co-directed by Drs. Shijing Xu and Michael Connelly. In 2016, Dr. Shijing Xu at the University of Windsor, in partnership with Dr. Clara Howitt at the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB) and Mr. Chris Mills (Supervising principal of special education at GECDSB, former principal of Talbot Trail Public School), worked with Dr. Shijian Chen and Dr. Yibing Liu at Southwest University to pair up Talbot Trail Public School (TTPS) with Ren-He-Jie Primary School (RHJ) as part of the Windsor-Chongqing Sister School network.

To strengthen TTPS-RHJ sister school partnership, Mr. Mills visited RHJ In April 2016 as part of a delegation led by Dr. Shijing Xu. The same year in October of 2016, four teachers from RHJ (Ms. Lan Jin, Ms. Li Zhang, Ms. Huarong Wei and Ms. Lucy) visited TTPS, followed by a returned visit of five TTPS teachers (Ms. Pam Badiuk, Mr. Chris Hickman, Ms. Liz Tremaine, Ms. Enza Wood and Ms. Hall) to RHJ in March 2017.

Given that the exchanged visits had greatly deepened TTPS and RHJ's reciprocal learning partnership, in October 2018 under the invitation of Dr. Shijing Xu and Mr. Mills, four teachers from RHJ — Ms. Liu (Director of international Communication and Curriculum), Ms. Panpan Jiao (Math teacher), Ms. You Wu (English teacher) and Ms. Li Wang (Kindergarten teacher) — made another visit to TTPS. The purpose of their visit was to enhance sister school ties and strengthen teacher reciprocal learning in the areas of math, science and kindergarten education.

What follows are highlights of RHJ's delegation's visit in Windsor in Oct 2018.

加拿大和中国之间的教师教育和学校教育的互惠学习项目是由许世静教授和康纳利教授协调的为期七年，由加拿大社会科学及人文研究委员会资助的项目。加拿大和中国之间的学校教育涉及多伦多与上海，北京和长春学校之间的姐妹学校，以及温莎和重庆学校之间的学校教育。Mr. Mills 校长再2016年四月曾经访问过人和街小学，同年十月人和街金岚主任等一行4人访问了Talbot Trail 小学，2017年3月，代理校长Ms. Badiuk 等一行5人回访

了人和街小学，2018年的10月份，受到了许世静教授（中加互惠学习项目负责人）和Mr. Mills 先生的邀请，重新对Talbot Trail 小学进行访问。

Day 1, October 2, 2018

The RHJ delegation arrived at Windsor and experienced an authentic Canadian breakfast under the invitation of Dr. Xu. After breakfast, the delegation explored Windsor with Mr. Chenkai Chi, Dr. Xu's Research Assistant, as their tour guide.

许世静教授热情的欢迎了重庆代表团，邀请代表团品尝加拿大早餐。

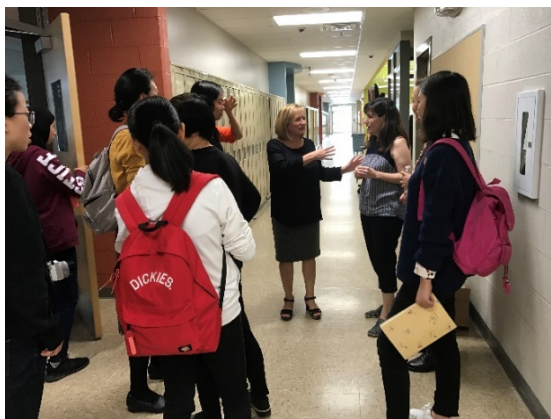


Day 2, October 3, 2018

Before visiting their Talbot Trail Sister School, under the arrangement of Mr. Chris Mills, the RHJ delegation received an opportunity to visit two other schools in Windsor — Prince Edward Public School and West Gate Public School — that were also members of the Chongqing-Windsor Sister School Network. Thanks to the school tours led by Principal Iandolo (in Prince Edward Public School) and Mrs Connelly and Mr Roth (in West Gate Public School), the RHJ delegation were able to observe how math, science, language and special education classes were conducted in Canada.

在Mr.Mills 先生的安排，人和街代表团有机会访问温莎的另外两所公立小学 – 爱德华王子小学和西门公立学校。感谢由校长Ms. Iandolo（爱德华王子公立学校）和 校长 Ms.Connelly以及副校长Mr. Roth先生（在西门公立学校）安排的学校参观。人和街代表团观摩了数学，科学，语言和特殊教育等不同的课程。





After the school tours, Dr. Shijing Xu and Ms. Yuhan Deng (Graduate Assistant) brought the RHJ delegation to the Point Pelee National Park. Ms. Liz Tremaine from Talbot Trail Public school joined the trip with her son. The delegation took a shuttle bus to the beach and enjoyed the natural beauty of the park. At the Canadian southern tip, a group was taken.

许世静教授邀请人和街代表团游玩加拿大国家公园霹雳角。



Day 3, October 4, 2018

On the morning of October 4, the RHJ delegation arrived at Talbot Trail Public School with Dr. Shijing Xu and a few other members from the Partnership project team. Mr. Mills, Mr. Baker (Principal), Ms. Pottie (VP) and other TTPS teachers and students welcomed the delegation with open arms. With the translation help of Dr. Xu and Dr. Yishin Khoo (Dr. Xu's post-doc fellow), Mr. Mills, Mr. Baker and Ms. Pottie introduced to RHJ teachers the history and current demographics of TTPS. RHJ teachers also introduced the basic information of their school.

重庆代表团第三天到访了Talbot Trail 小学，受到了Mr. Mills 先生，Mr. Baker 先生，Ms. Pottie 女士和老师学生们的欢迎。他们为代表团准备了点心招待代表团。双方互相介绍了各自学校的情况。



After the morning introductory session, Mr. Mills, Mr. Baker and Ms. Pottie showed the delegation around the school and arranged a variety of classes for the delegation to observe. The RHJ teachers observed Ms. Sheridan's (Grade 7) STEM activity "Art Bots," Mrs. Jackie Lamb's (Grade 3) math lesson, Mrs. Liz Tremaine's (Grade 6) art lesson, a few Kindergarten classes, and Mr. Hickman's (Grade 6) math lesson. They were most impressed by TTPS teachers' ability to address students' special needs and carry out integrated learner-centered lessons with their students.

Mr. Mills 先生, Mr. Baker 先生, Ms. Pottie 女士为代表团安排了不同的课程让代表团观摩。



Prior to their visit, the RHJ delegation had discussed with TTPS teachers about the possibility of co-planning and co-teaching two lessons together. Subsequently on the afternoon of October 3, Ms. Wang (RHJ's Kindergarten teacher) and Ms. Pan (RHJ's Math teacher) had a planning session with Mrs. Amy Fathers-Yott (TTPS's Kindergarten teacher) and Mr. Chris Hickman (TTPS's Grade 6 teacher) to discuss the lessons they would like to teach together on the next day. Dr. Yishin Khoo and Mr. Chenkai Chi provided translation assistance to the teachers to help them communicate and collaborate in their own language. After some careful planning, Ms. Wang decided to co-teach a lesson with Mrs. Amy Fathers-Yott that involves the use of pipe cleaners (Niu Niu stick 扭扭棒) to strengthen Mrs. Fathers-Yott's kindergarten students' skills and knowledge in language arts and science. Ms. Pan and Mr. Hickman agreed to co-teach a Grade 6 lesson that invites students to design 3D containers used for storing crayon bundles.

下午, 王莉老师和Ms. Yott 老师共同备课, 他们准备用扭扭棒来教学生理解不同的形状, 潘娇娇老师和刘咏梅主任和Mr. Hickman 老师共同备课, 他们准备让学生为一捆蜡笔做一个保护壳, 让学生学会设计一个三维的展开图。

After a day of hard work, a dinner was held at a local Chinese restaurant, Dr. Xu hosted the dinner to thank everyone for making the RHJ's visit a great success.

晚上，许世静教授宴请了代表团和参与此次来访的校长和老师，感谢他们对姊妹校交流的支持。



In the evening, the RHJ delegation, alongside Dr. Xu and Mr. Chenkai had an opportunity to watch an ice-hockey game under the invitation of TTPS teachers — Ms. Sheridan, Mr. Mills, Ms. Pottie, Mrs. Fathers-Yott and Ms. Dearing. Bonds between the RHJ and TTPS teachers tightened as they cheered loudly for the same hockey team!

晚餐后，Talbot Trail老师和校长邀请代表团去观看加拿大冰球比赛。并且为他们安排了一个特殊的环节：在运动员上场前，为他们加油。



Day 4, October 5, 2018

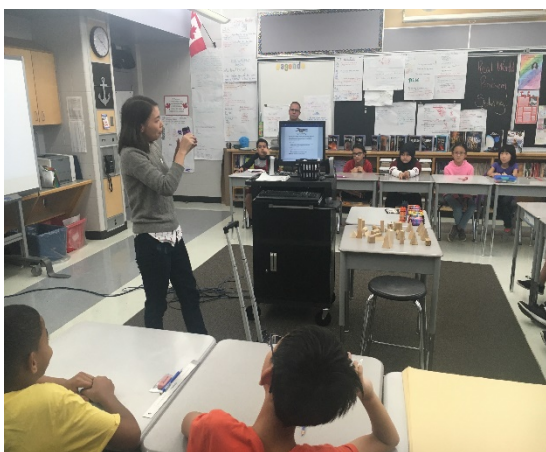
On the morning of October 5, two joint lessons were carried out by TTPS and RHJ teachers as planned. In Mrs. Fathers-Yott's kindergarten classroom, Ms. Wang greeted each student and introduced her pipe-cleaner lesson with the translation help of Dr. Yishin Khoo. Together with Mrs. Fathers-Yott, Ms. Wang divided the students into groups of four and asked each group to put together a thematic picture using pipe cleaners of different shapes and colours. While students were doing their group work, Mrs. Fathers-Yott and Ms. Wang walked around the classroom to provide guidance to individual students. The joint lesson ended with Ms. Wang giving each student a panda sticker brought from China.

王莉老师和Ms.Yott 老师共同授课，教学生如何用扭扭棒理解不同的形状。



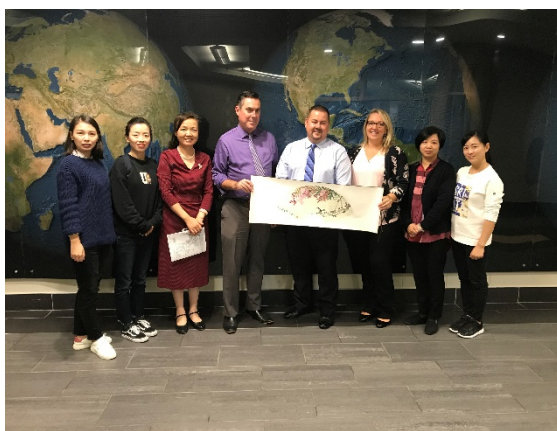
After Mrs. Fathers-Yott and Ms. Wang's lesson, it was Ms. Pan and Mr. Hickman's turn to co-teach their math lesson. Ms. Pan first introduced herself and the math problem that she and Mr Hickman wanted the students to solve with the translation help of Mr. Chenkai Chi. Then, Mr. Hickman and Ms. Pan distributed lesson materials to the students and observed how they solved a math problem which required them to make a 3D net for a bundle of crayons. When the students were ready, Mr. Hickman invited Ms. Pan to pick a few students to share their math strategies with everyone else in the class. Together, Ms. Pan and Mr. Hickman commented on the students' strategies in order to help them improve their solution and thinking.

潘老师和Mr. Hickman 老师共同授课，让学生制造一个三维模型，帮助学生理解表面积。



The morning co-teaching sessions were followed by a de-briefing session in the afternoon. At the de-briefing meeting, RHJ and TTPS teachers were able to further discuss what they had learned from each other through their co-planning and co-teaching experiences. Mrs. Fathers-Yott commented on how her students really enjoyed Ms. Wang's pipe-cleaner lesson and how the lesson had helped her learn more about her students' group work ability. Ms. Wang, on the other hand, expressed her desire to learn more from Mrs. Fathers-Yott's approach to communicating and working with students. For both Ms. Pan and Mr. Hickman, their co-planning and co-teaching experience had provided them with a greater understanding of how math curriculum was organized differently in Ontario and Chongqing. Ms. Pan appreciated the experience of teaching an integrated math lesson with Mr Hickman in his classroom.

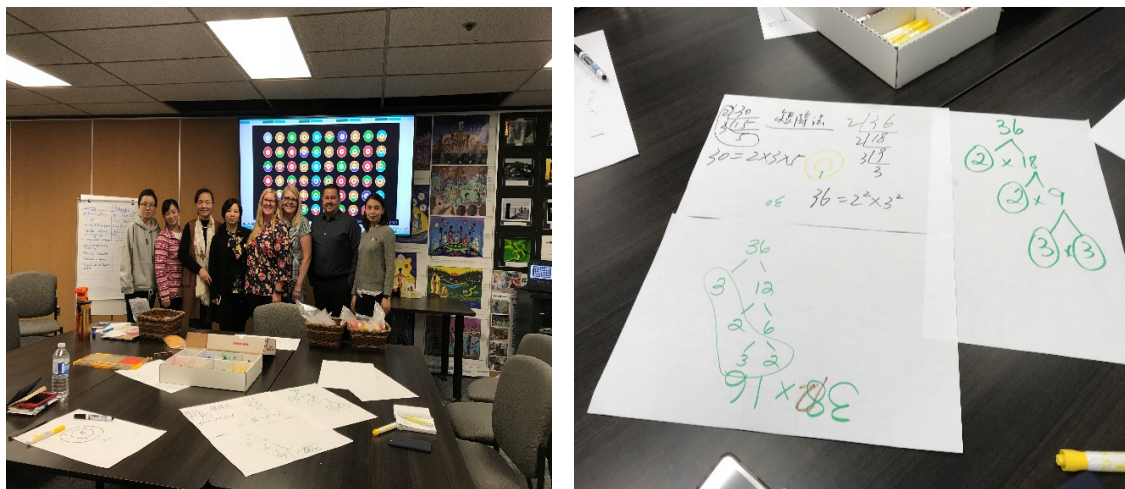
共同授课后，Mr. Mills 先生，Mr. Baker 先生，Ms. Pottie 女士 和几位共同授课的老师与代表团进行了经验分享。



In the afternoon, thanks to the coordination of Mr. Mills, the RHJ delegation paid a visit to the Greater Essex County District School Board. Mr. Mills ordered lunch at the School Board office and invited the delegation to attend a math workshop about challenges and current research on math teaching and learning across the School Board. At the workshop, the RHJ delegation shared their math teaching strategies with the math coaches who delivered the math workshop. Director Liu and Ms. Pan commented on

how such cross-cultural communications had generated new ways of thinking about math teaching for them.

下午，Mr. Mills 校长组织代表团去温莎教委参加一场关于数学的工作坊，代表团和温莎教委数学研究员就数学教学进行了颇有成果的交流。



The official visit ended with Dr. Xu inviting the RHJ delegation to visit the University of Windsor and the Reciprocal Learning Project office located in the University. The RHJ teachers expressed that their visit had been productive and inspiring. They thanked Principal Mills, Principal Baker, VP Pottie, Principal Iandolo, Principal Connelly, VP. Roth, the Greater Essex County District School Board, and all teachers for hosting their visit. They also conveyed their gratitude to Dr. Xu and her research team.

Overall, the visit had improved friendship and reciprocal learning collaboration between TTPS and RHJ's principals and teachers. Both Canadian and Chinese sister school principals and teachers look forward to their next meeting and following collaboration. They agreed to engage in deeper exchanges in the areas of math, science and early child education.

许世静教授邀请代表团参观中加互惠学习项目组办公室，并且赠送了礼物。代表团特别感谢参与此次访问的校长和老师，感谢许世静教授及其研究团队的大力支持。

