



For Immediate Release

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High-resolution photos available

EAST MEETS WEST IN SD'S MOST DIVERSE CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

- WHAT:** Barnard Elementary Mandarin Chinese Magnet School's third annual **PASSPORT TO CHINA: Year of the Rabbit**
- WHEN:** **9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesday Feb. 2**, for local dignitaries (journalists welcome)
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, big public celebration (please advance!)
- WHERE:** 2930 Barnard Street, San Diego, CA 92110

SAN DIEGO – Jan. 19, 2011 – You could close your eyes and imagine you're in Beijing – but once you opened them, you couldn't possibly make that mistake.

- The children at Point Loma's **Barnard Mandarin Chinese Immersion Magnet School** are 37 percent Hispanic, 30 percent white, 21 percent African American, 12 percent Asian/Pacific Islander.
- Thirty percent are English learners.
- Sixty-one percent are socioeconomically disadvantaged.
- Many students belong to military families, with parents fighting in distant lands.



Yet here they are, like something out of "Rainbow Nation," shouting "Xin Nian Kuai Le!" (*Happy New Year!*) and lecturing guests on the Year of the Rabbit – "*Nián de tùzǐ*" – in Mandarin, of course.

This is an unlikely educational rags-to-riches story. In 2006-07, Barnard's low enrollment and poor academic performance pushed it dangerously close to closure: Only 28 percent of its second graders scored proficient or better in English on standardized tests. Something had to give.

The school district rolled the dice and tried to turn things around by opening one of Southern California's first Mandarin magnet schools, wagering that learning another language and culture would spark little minds. In came Principal Edward Park, a raft of new teachers, and a singular, quixotic mission: Groom these children to handle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, and help make them competent and confident global citizens.

Three years later, the gamble is clearly paying off. The number of second graders scoring proficient or better in English skyrocketed from that dismal 28 percent to a stunning 69 percent by 2008-09 – and the gains are as impressive in other grades as well.

Barnard has been named a **California Distinguished School**, and in 2010, it clocked one of the greatest gains of any school in San Diego on the **Academic Performance Index** and other standardized tests (see accompanying fact sheet). There is still much to do, but there is also much to celebrate.

Please join us on Feb. 2 and Feb. 5 to celebrate Chinese New Year – and our achievements! We'll have a traditional lion dance, martial arts demonstrations, Chinese musical performances, and, best of all, performances by Barnard's incredible students. The festival draws hundreds of people from all over the county.

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BARNARD

MANDARIN CHINESE MAGNET SCHOOL K-6
A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL



FACT SHEET: BARNARD'S RAPPEL UP THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX

SAN DIEGO – Jan. 10, 2011 – **Barnard Mandarin Chinese Immersion Magnet School** clocked one of the greatest gains of any school in San Diego on the **Academic Performance Index** last year.

What's the Academic Performance Index?

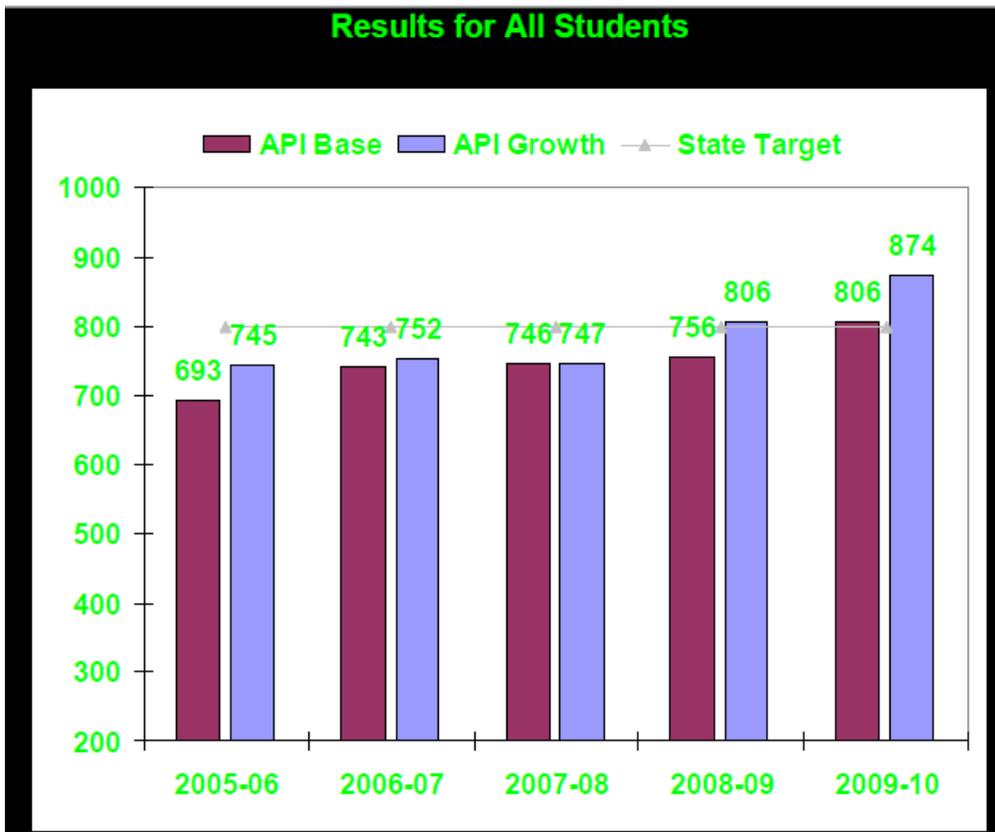
The API is a numeric score between 200 and 1000 that measures a school's overall academic performance and progress. An API reporting cycle consists of two components:

- (1) base information, and
- (2) growth information.

Base scores are released in the spring; growth scores are released in the fall.

The Growth API score (blue) is compared with the Base API score (purple) to determine how well the school is progressing toward the statewide performance target of 800.

Barnard became a Mandarin magnet in the fall of 2007. This chart illustrates the program's success:





FACT SHEET – PAGE 2

Student performance on other standardized tests also show dramatic gains since the Mandarin immersion program began in the 2007-08 school year:

In reading, the percentage of Barnard students who were proficient or advanced leapt from 49 percent to 67 percent over the three years.

In math, the percentage of Barnard students who were proficient or advanced leapt from 58.8 percent to 81.6 percent over the three years.

Clearly, there is still much work to be done – but we are confident we are on the right path. We’re looking forward to adding the 2010-11 scores to these charts.

Student Achievement Data

On California Standardized Tests, taken by children in grades 2 through 12 each year

Reading (%Proficient and Advanced)

Year	Barnard	San Diego Unified	California
2007-08	49%	47.1%	45.7%
2008-09	62.6%	52.3%	49.9%
2009-10	67%	58.1%	55%

Mathematics (%Proficient and Advanced)

Year	Barnard	San Diego Unified	California
2007-08	58.8%	41.9%	42.7%
2008-09	71%	45.7%	45.8%
2009-10	81.6%	59.6%	57.3%

You can read [through Barnard’s School Accountability Report Card here](http://www.sandi.net/2045109229572967/lib/2045109229572967/research/sarcs/2009-10/SARC017.pdf).

(http://www.sandi.net/2045109229572967/lib/2045109229572967/research/sarcs/2009-10/SARC017.pdf).

You can also [examine Barnard’s performance on other standardized measures here](http://www.sandi.net/2045109229572967/blank/browse.asp?a=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&c=58286&2045109229572967Nav=|&NodeID=1609).

(http://www.sandi.net/2045109229572967/blank/browse.asp?a=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&c=58286&2045109229572967Nav=|&NodeID=1609)

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STORY IDEAS

Interviews can be set up quickly. Contact Sforza (714.350.5365) or Principal Edward Park (619.224.3306)

The principal hides an ax behind the stage. Principal Edward Park was born in Korea, came to America when he was 8 years old, and spent 15 years as an administrator in Los Angeles schools before taking the helm at Barnard. He has a wife, two children – and an electric Gibson, which he stashes behind the stage in the multi-purpose room and brings out to serenade staff and students with the occasional patriotic tune – and the Doobie Bros. “Long Train Running.”

Barnard students treated as rock stars while studying at sister schools in China. Students Eddie Kapelczak and Victor Ortero spent 10 days in China in October, studying at Chongqing Renmin Primary School in Chongqing, China. They entered a language competition, saw the sights, contemplated the culture. “People would eat slowly instead of eating fast,” Ortero told sdnews.com. “It seemed like they took forever, but they were really trying to enjoy the food.” Eddie stayed on in China, and is studying at our sister school in Shanghai this year. He’s a great singer, and performed at the International Confucius Institute Conference in Beijing, which impressed folks so much he’s been invited to perform at the CCTV New Year Celebration (that’s the state television station).

First year of total Mandarin immersion. Barnard’s kindergarteners and first graders will not hear their teachers utter a word of English this year – or ever. Science, math, social studies – all are taught in Mandarin. (The immersion teachers, from Taiwan and Mainland China, duck behind trees and into hallways when they need to speak to English-speaking parents while children are near. “C’mon, Mom,” the kids say. “Does Lao Sri (teacher) *really* not speak English?” It’s the *Is-Santa-Real?* dilemma all over again.) The immersion program will be extended through grade 12, with classes at Correia Middle and Point Loma High schools.

Cultural bridge. Two teaching interns from Taiwan universities are working at Barnard, living with local families and trying to wrap their minds around America. It’s interesting to them that so many non-Asian families want to learn their language, and their impressions about America can be illuminating – and funny.

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WHY STUDY MANDARIN CHINESE?

The rise of China presents new economic, political and social realities that demand greater U.S. engagement at every level. As the foundation of that engagement, we urgently need to raise the number of Americans who can demonstrate a functional proficiency in Chinese.

China's tremendous economic growth creates new opportunities and challenges for U.S. businesses. Between 1978 and 2002, China's annual GDP growth reached 9.4%, three times the world's average, and in recent years (2001-2004) China accounted for one third of global economic growth.

China is an immense market for American goods and services, and a vital supplier to American manufacturers and consumers. U.S. trade with China exceeded \$245 billion in 2004 (second only to trade with Canada and Mexico).

China's political importance in the Asia-Pacific region is broadly acknowledged and, particularly since 9/11, its help has been sought on difficult issues like North Korea and terrorism. Collaboration with China is increasingly deemed essential for solving a range of global issues, from nuclear proliferation to the environment, from currency exchange to trade laws.

As the most enduring world civilization, China has a major international cultural presence, in literature and cuisine, in music and film, dance and art, religion and philosophy, drawing on its tremendous heritage to enrich our present.

An official language of the United Nations, Chinese is the most widely spoken first language in the world, extending beyond the People's Republic of China and Taiwan to Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, to the Philippines, and to Mongolia.

Chinese will top English as the most-used language on the Internet by 2007, according to forecasts by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

In the United States the Asian and Pacific Islander population is projected to grow 213 percent, from 10.7 million to 33.4 million, in the next 50 years, a substantial demographic shift. Their share of the nation's population will double, from 3.8 percent to 8 percent.

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PARTNERSHIPS

Sister Schools:

Shanghai Oriental Ladder School- Shanghai, China

Chongqing Renmin Primary School- Chongqing, China

Chingshin Elementary and Middle School- Taipei, Taiwan

Geumbyeong Elementary School- Choon Cheon, South Korea

Partners in Education:

Confucius Institute at San Diego State University and Hanban, China

House of China, Balboa Park

Panda Express

Logitec

Radio Korea

Hanin News

We Chinese in America

San Diego Chinese Tribune

World Chinese Daily Journal

Radio Seoul

San Diego Asian Film Foundation

USS Sterret

Korea Daily Newspaper

Amity Institute

Better Chinese Publications