



# 幼稚园新闻

kindergarten news

二〇〇八年六月

Dear friends and family:

Hi everyone! It's hard to believe July 4<sup>th</sup> has already come and gone. And another milestone, I've hit my 10 month marker here. I am still enjoying my job, making new friends, and staying connected with old ones. Thanks for being someone in "that number."

As you've guessed, June was much ado about graduation, with an "s." Three schools in all, but I only participated in two of them. The two graduations were about as different as daylight and dark. One was sentimental,

mushy, FULL of tears and tons of photos; the other was more of a special presentation that parents could enjoy. Both had their charms!



My part in each graduation was also about as different as East is from West. However, I spoke three sentences in English at each one, and interpreted for myself in Chinese...a first. If you want to hear what I sounded like (minus the "nerves") please download an audio clip I made as a demo:

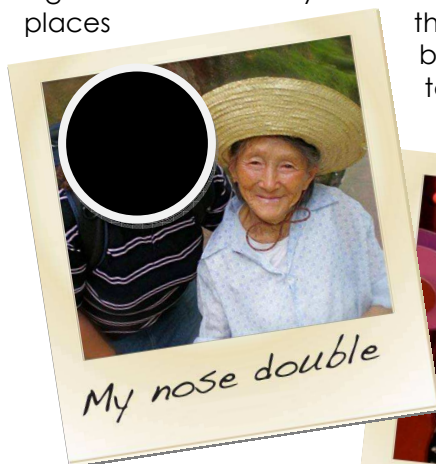
[www.teachandtravel.tv/graduationspeech.mp3](http://www.teachandtravel.tv/graduationspeech.mp3)

Even as we ran around like chickens without our heads prepping for graduation, I had time to think about what classes will be like now that my older kids have moved on. As nature has it, they were all leaders in one area or another – makes me wonder which kids will step up to take their places. I have a few ideas in mind, but time will tell if I'm right. Things will work this way for the rest of their lives. As they move on, I'm pretty sure all of them will leave gaps that others behind them should fill. That was the design from the beginning; my role is to be sure they leave gaps so I can influence the next batch to fill them and make new and different ones for the group behind them. Strange job, really when you think about it, but it's an excellent vantage point.

As several of you already know, this month I joined facebook.com. Why? Because it's a great way for me to stay posted on how kids from "my previous life" are doing. I'm learning all kinds of things about kids who "graduated" from my classes at NLC. I'm watching the next batch fill the gaps and the original group go places

they only dreamed of when I first met them. I have a "piece of flair" on my board that says, "I'm a teacher...what's your superpower?" I feel very lucky to be able to answer my calling!

-- AC



**NOSE DOUBLE:** While tromping around the world's largest Buddha I noticed this elder's great smile...and then her nose. Who would have thought a Chinese woman would have my American nose? I hope I get around as spryly as she does when I'm her age.

**NEXT GENERATION:** Meet Tom, one of the new leaders in my English class since graduation. He is, quick and tons of fun. I think he was waiting for his moment to arrive. He's doing great!

**THE WORLD'S LARGEST CARVED BUDDHA...** I've now seen it twice. It's like the St. Louis Arch of China. I went with a teacher friend to check out a teaching opportunity. We had a nice time, but the great "Buddha Stairmaster" nearly got the best of me. Not only are there thousands of steps, but they're twice the standard thickness, so my legs were jelly by the time we were finished.



Special project for earthquake victims at the school.



Teaching about sharing what one has with others. My friend's daughter checking out the "chickies." I'm not sure why they're dyed such bright colours. Can you tell it's ducks in the second basket?



Chinese version of a food court – outdoor, of course. Typical scene at the water's edge.



Tradition states these locks are to lock in happiness for the person whose name is engraved on the lock...but be sure to throw away the key. My personal advice would be, "if you want to be happy, stay away from the steps."



View of the giant Buddha's head up close...The giant Buddha's view of LeShan.



A long, hot, sticky morning of hiking up and down, down and up steep steps.



Hands and feet that cannot move...and if they could, wow! I'd hate to try to find shoes that fit!



A statue of this little joker marked each trash can for some reason. Sidewalk café...



In my mind, the bridge at left joins "thousands of steps" to other "thousands of steps" – simple as that! Fish anyone?

**LIAN RI – Teaching Shapes** – How does a teacher make learning about shapes fun and interesting? I'm not sure exactly, but after three weeks of teaching the same material at my "3<sup>rd</sup>" school, I taught directly to the kinesthetic kids! They seemed to love it and can now fall on the floor in several shapes.



I'm not sure who was more shocked, the teachers or the students...

I even got on the floor to demonstrate that I was serious! Well, as serious as laying on the floor in shapes can be.

### GRADUATION...S



Heading out to practice – very professional. One friend said the silver gloves (morning exercise routine) reminded her of Jiffy Pop!



Singing an emotional song about family complete with hearts that lit up and parents proudly snapping photos. This next one was a bit of a surprise for me. Six of the seven graduates displayed their agility and ability to get dressed, pack their backpack and fold a blanket as part of the graduation ceremony. At one point, a boy's parents were so into cheering their son on, that it sounded like cheering for a three-legged race. It was emotional, but fun as well.

**FAMILY PHOTOS** – Most recent pics from my brother. I am so crazy proud of my brother, his wife, and their two gorgeous kids. They have just moved to North Carolina and seem to be settling into their new surroundings. Can't wait to see them this fall!



Hannah and Darrin.



Jennifer, Hannah (13) and Josh (11 this month).

P. S. – It's Sunday night for me, 11:06 p.m. to be exact, and I'm excited about two things as I wrap up this update. 1) A dear friend of mine will be with me for the next three weeks; she arrives in less than 14 hours. 2) I went to a great party this weekend with some old friends; had a great time dancing and singing and chatting together. Looking forward to our next time already!

Thanks for keeping me in mind, everyone! It means the world to me!!

**Until next time...**

**Several of you have been asking when I'll come home for a visit. The answer is...  
October! I'll be at Conf in NC and will be looking for you there.**