



蒙郡華裔家長學生協會  
Chinese American Parents and Students Association  
**CAPSA Newsletter 2008 通訊**

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## 會長的話

梁麗珠

親愛的孩子，又到我們大家庭要歡送你們上大學去的時候了。我們一方面高興你們的成長、茁壯，將展翅飛翔了，也一方面不捨你們的離去。還記得當你們第一次進來這個大家庭的時候，不管是來當小老師的，或當學生的，帶點害羞、帶點焦急、帶點不安，也掩不住心中對未來日子的興奮與期待，就在面前，眼看你們的成長改變，你們變得成熟了，你們變得強壯俊帥，美麗端莊，你們能敏感到你們旁邊人的需要和感覺，使用你們的智慧，幫忙和支持你們周圍需要幫忙和支持的人群。

你們“教”和“學”的戰戰兢兢的態度，誠懇的精神，成為大家庭的傳統，1988年我們大家庭開始作業至今2008年正好二十年，你們的奉獻，你們的努力，維繫着，貫徹着我們二十年的宗旨不變。

- 一：為華裔學生家長、新移民及有需要輔導人士提供課業輔導
- 二：幫助新移民家庭在蒙郡教育制度中適應生活環境
- 三：提供成績優秀的中學生服務，領導才能和教學機會
- 四：提供成人英語輔導，使其進入更好的職場
- 五：到社區展示中華文化、到公立圖書館和學校佈置展示“中國年”的櫥窗，並在社區活動中設立“中國剪紙”攤位
- 六：向蒙郡公立學校當局表達對教育方針及教學需要的意見

在這裏我要特別謝謝各位家長，是你們的養育和滋潤，和孩子們共同維護和扶持我們這個大家庭的成長、茁壯。

祝學業順利!! 身體健康!!

## *A Letter from the President*

Brigitta Dai

Translated by Anita Chen

Dear children,

It is that time of year again for our family at CAPSA to send you off to college. On one hand, we are happy for your immense growth and strength in being able to spread your wings and fly high. But on the other hand, we are reluctant to part from you. Whether you were a tutor or tutee, I still remember when you first came to our family. You were a little bit shy, a little bit anxious, a little bit uneasy, yet unable to conceal your excitement for the coming days. I was there, watching you grow and change. Today, you have matured and strengthened. You have become beautiful and strong. You can sense the needs and feelings of those around you while being intelligent and sagacious in supporting those who need your help.

Your cautious attitude towards your teaching and education, along with your sincere spirit, composes our family's signature traditions. Since its establishment in 1988, our family has come a long way; twenty years later, your dedication, perseverance, and diligence still weave

through and maintain all of our unchanging missions.

1. To provide tutoring services to new immigrants and other needy students and parents.
2. To help new immigrant families adapt to the Montgomery County educational system.
3. To provide community service, leadership and teaching opportunities to qualified high school and middle school students.
4. To offer English classes to adults for better job advancements.
5. To promote cross-cultural understanding through Chinese New Year displays and paper-cuttings at public libraries, schools and shopping malls.
6. To present educational issues and needs to the Montgomery County Public Schools.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank every parent: It is the way you raise and nurture your children that provides the support and safeguard for the perpetual growth and strength of our family.

I wish you all the best in your education and health!!

Sincerely,

***Brigitta Dai***

President

### ***Advisory Board Announcement***

The CAPSA Advisory Board has approved the following nominations and appointments in April 2008:

#### **CAPSA Advisory Board**

Chair:	Miranda Fong
Vice Chair:	Sue Hwa Yang
Other Members:	Carol Chen, Betty Leung and Yingju Tsai
Lifetime Members:	Riley Chung and Brigitta Dai

#### **2008-09 CAPSA Officers:**

President:	Brigitta Dai
VP & Director of Tutoring Program	Aldrin Leung
Vice President, Community Affairs	Sylvia Ma
Treasurer	Lily Shen

### ***Announcement for Tutor***

2008-2009 CAPSA tutor application forms were distributed to all tutors on April 26, 2008. Completed application form and latest report card or unofficial transcript must be sealed in an envelope and hand-delivered or mailed to Aldrin Leung at 10601 Tanager Lane, Potomac, MD 20854 by July 19, 2008.

## **Four Years and Beyond**

**By Kailin Hsu**

It's already been four years since I first started volunteering at CAPSA. Four years since I stood in the crowded line, nervously waiting for my interview. Four years since I gave up my Saturday mornings for tutoring little kids. I think back to those days and remember how hard it was to wake up early on the only day of the week that I had to sleep in. It's still hard to get up but I do so now without hesitation because I know what awaits me.

I remember the joy that enveloped me when I was first accepted into the upper elementary school group. I was excited about being part of an organization that helped those like my parents transition to life in America. I remember picking out my tutee, a shy, young girl who emigrated from China only two months earlier. Tutoring her was harder than anticipated but was, nevertheless, one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. From a tutor, I moved on to become a coordinator of the middle elementary school group, and then the lead coordinator of the lower elementary school. Through these positions, I have gained an incredible experience of interacting with people both on an individual basis and within a group context. As I prepare to graduate from high school and enter college, I will take the communication and leadership skills that I have learned, and apply them to future endeavors. CAPSA has infused me with the initiative to continually seek ways to volunteer in and enrich my surrounding community.

I can, honestly, say that one of my most cherished personal accomplishments is serving as the lead coordinator of the lower elementary school group at CAPSA. My coordinating experience has shown me that teamwork is essential in creating a cohesive, efficient group. I have discovered that being a good leader involves working well with others

– sharing responsibilities with my coordinators, as well as consulting with my superiors and peers when faced with problems and decisions. I have learned to be versatile and open-minded, to listen to and incorporate others' suggestions. But most importantly, I have learned that it is the commitment of each volunteer, mentor, coordinator, tutor, and tutee that holds this tight-knit community together, and propels it toward success. It has been four years since I realized this. Four years since I wholeheartedly interwove myself into this program, and delved into a community service commitment that has shaped my character and endowed me with invaluable lessons. As I leave CAPSA, I am extremely grateful to those people who have fostered within me the ambition and dedication to pursue community service for far more than just four years.

## **My CAPSA Experience**

**By Angela Fang**

It was May 6, 2007. I had been waiting anxiously in front of my computer for three hours when it finally came: the letter I had been waiting for. "Dear Angela, Congratulations! The Chinese American Parents and Students Association (CAPSA) Selection Committee is glad to inform you that you have been selected as the lead coordinator for the next academic year." I was so excited! The first thing I did was announce the news to my family. My parents gleamed with pride at my achievement. After four years at CAPSA, I had finally made it to the highest position, lead coordinator.

My initial reason for tutoring at CAPSA was to fulfill my sixty-hour student service graduation requirement. Each Saturday morning, I would reluctantly wake up and go to Robert Frost Middle School to tutor so I could get my hours. The ringing of the bell for snack time or the end of the session was the only event to which I looked forward. However, as the weeks passed, I started to

realize that CAPSA was much more than just getting student service hours—it allowed me to help others while learning about myself at the same time. Now, I look forward to those two hours every Saturday morning where I can share my knowledge with the young Chinese immigrants. It started as a responsibility, which blossomed into an amazing and eye-opening experience. Being a Chinese-American, I thought I understood their struggles because we both must juggle the often conflicting values and thinking of American and Chinese culture. However, during my time there, I realized that adjusting to a new environment and a new culture is much more difficult than I had thought. Once I started to really connect with the children with whom I worked, I learned that everybody deals with change differently. Thus, I had to tailor my methods to accommodate the many various needs of the children. For example, some immigrants had trouble understanding the English language and required a tutor who could speak Chinese well and explain the concepts thoroughly while others could easily read books by themselves and required more help in other subjects. These different learning styles require different methods of teaching to successfully incorporate the new information into the young minds of the immigrants.

My experience as a tutor and a coordinator helped me realize that giving service is not only beneficial to those that I teach, but to myself as well. When I first began tutoring, I was extremely nervous and worried about how effective I would be as a teacher. However, once I started, I realized that I had nothing to worry about. I learned a lot about my own talents. Being in a lead coordinator role, I learned that I can function as an effective facilitator and leader. I also learned how to communicate ideas more clearly, be confident and give confidence to others while exercising patience, which was something that I lacked prior to this experience.

Volunteering at this organization gives me feelings of happiness and gratitude: happiness that I can make a change in somebody's life and contribute to my community and gratitude because CAPSA selected me as a lead coordinator and gave me the opportunity to learn about leadership. One of my greatest aspirations is to make a difference in the world. I feel that by participating in a great program like the CAPSA tutoring program, I have grown towards the person I would like to become. The CAPSA experience has shaped me into a leader who understands how to serve and lead at the same time.

## **Yearly Reflection**

**By Lilly Shu**

The past year has been an extraordinary year for me at CAPSA because I was able to work as a middle school coordinator along with my wonderful peers Jefferson and Kelly. Being a coordinator was a lot different than what I had expected—I always thought coordinators had rather distant relationships with tutors and tutees, always in their own little cult. But I was wrong. As a coordinator, I was able to maintain very close relationships with my tutors and tutees during the school year, and they surprised me everyday. Each Saturday morning, I would learn something new. Everyday I leave CAPSA with the realization that the tutees and tutors in my group are inspirations. No matter how difficult a homework assignment is, neither the tutees nor the tutors give up trying. Working as a team and conquering every obstacle that comes in their path, they never give up. Even when defeated, they show up the next Saturday morning with regained confidence.

Middle school is the largest group in CAPSA this year, but that does not define us as a plate of sand, sloppy and dry. Our group is full of interesting and vibrant characters working coherently together. Our tutors are responsible and patient, while our tutees are

hardworking and studious, though they can be a little hyperactive at times. But even the most hyperactive tutees can turn into responsible, hardworking students when they are in a productive environment. That is what my fellow coordinators and I accomplish every Saturday. We monitor our group to ensure that the tutees receive the most suitable, work stimulating environment. Occasionally, we reprimand the tutors and tutees for not working hard enough and receive complains for “nagging” and being strict. But such “nagging” is always done for the sake of the tutees at our own expenses. As a result, we might seem strict and rigid, but Kelly, Jefferson and I are strong adherents to encouraging our tutors and tutees to explore the path of learning in their methods. Through bonding with the tutors, we want to give them a fun and educational experience at CAPSA, regardless of the cost. We work the hardest and will continue to work the hardest to ensure that this priority is achieved.

I shall never forget the happiness and joy I felt when I received the news that I was to be the next middle school coordinator. But the moment I saw the tutees and tutors working harmoniously together in our group, I felt something more. It was deeper than happiness and joy. It was a deeper understanding of and pride for everyone at CAPSA: we benefit and learn from each other every Saturday. All of us have functions and fit together like pieces of a puzzle. Coordinators monitor, tutors teach, tutees learn and CAPSA would not be complete with any of the components missing.

## **Re-Enforcing Century-Long Roots**

**By Lillian Li**

During this unfortunate, but necessary adolescent phase, I have had trouble remembering my roots. On weekdays, I wake up every morning and go to a school in which I am the only Asian-American girl in my

grade. Surrounded by American slang, American pop culture, and American news, I sometimes feel as if this homogenous environment is diluting my culture, my race, and my language. On occasion, I have the sense that I am walking around in the ill-fitting shoes of a person without an ethnicity: a mere ghost of the girl who used to visit China every summer and chatter in Chinese with a practiced ease. However, when I do find myself losing touch with my roots, I am always reassured by the fact that although I sometimes forget my background, the loss is never permanent. For this confidence, I have only CAPSA to thank. CAPSA is my cultural oasis; it is a weekly reminder that I belong to a people and a unique culture.

My middle school and high school years are filled with the memories and the lessons that CAPSA has imparted. Whenever I talk about my weekend, I always find myself including a small anecdote about CAPSA—a habit to which I know all of my friends can attest. I can honestly say that the CAPSA tutoring program has played an enormous part in making me who I am today. I can go on and on about how CAPSA has made me more efficient, patient, versatile, and confident. However, all these characteristics would not exist, or exist to a lesser extent if CAPSA had not provided the accepting community that I needed in order to grow as a person. If CAPSA were intolerant, hostile, or radiated a sense of false comradery, the results would have been very different.

An enclave hidden inside a middle school cafeteria, CAPSA is proof that I am never truly alone. There is a sense of belonging that I know is felt by everyone who is a part of the program. At CAPSA, vulnerabilities and disabilities are never judged at face value. Every Saturday, first, second, and even third generation Asian-Americans can be seen grouped together, helping and being helped by one another. This weekly practice never feels forced; rather, there is a sense of complete

naturalness when it comes to helping one's cultural brothers and sisters.

I am constantly in awe at how the American and Chinese cultural spheres seem to merge seamlessly at CAPSA. The sounds of Chinese and English mixing in the crowded cafeteria, the school homework and English assignments sharing the two-hour tutoring sessions, and the equal amounts of festivity and attention devoted to the mid-year Christmas party and Chinese New Year paper cutting are all evidence that at CAPSA, one is not limitedly defined as either Asian or American. CAPSA is truly the best of both worlds.

## **Learning from CAPSA**

**By Jennifer Chu**

Having been at CAPSA for the past six years, it feels strange to think that this program won't be a part of my Saturday mornings for the next few years. And thinking back on these years, it's even more amazing to see how much CAPSA has grown since its humble beginning. CAPSA's strong principles, amazing members, and supportive Asian-American community have all contributed to the success the program has today.

Personally, being a part of CAPSA has taught me so much, especially my experiences as the lead coordinator of the Upper Elementary School group. CAPSA has exposed me to different types of situations which I had never encountered before, and has challenged me to face and view situations in a new light. Even after my four years at CAPSA as a tutor, I was only able to appreciate the program fully after becoming a coordinator. Being the lead coordinator has required me to become independent and diligent. A lot of the responsibility lies on the coordinators to make the program run smoothly and efficiently, so we must always make sure that we are doing things to the best of our abilities.

But most importantly, it is what the program and its members have given to me in return that have made my time here feel most worthwhile. As the number of Saturday mornings spent at CAPSA has increased, I have watched the bond between the tutees and tutors quickly develop. Shy little tutees who at the beginning of the CAPSA sessions in September merely said a word to their tutors, now openly joke around and talk with them. Tutors also, who were apprehensive about dealing with little kids, talk to their tutees as they would to friends of their own age. These tutees and tutors liven up the academic atmosphere, making CAPSA not only a place of learning, but of fun as well. These are the true friendships CAPSA has built that make me proud to be their coordinator and in the CAPSA program.

In my last year at CAPSA as a lead coordinator, I have undeniably grown as an individual in so many ways. Who knows how the experiences and knowledge gained from CAPSA will help me in the future? What I do know, however, is that right now, I couldn't be more appreciative and proud to have been a part of the CAPSA tutoring program.

## **Understanding Culture**

**By Alice He**

After being a part of CAPSA for the past four years and eagerly waking up every Saturday morning to arrive at its front door, I realized that CAPSA is so much more than just a tutoring organization; CAPSA is a place where two cultures collide, where backgrounds mix and everyone walks away each week learning something new.

I started volunteering at CAPSA in 2004 and have continued to stay with CAPSA ever since because I truly enjoy CAPSA's welcoming and friendly environment. As a tutor for three different tutees during my three years of tutoring, I developed a unique relationship with each one of my tutees and

was excited and eager to share any newfound knowledge I may have obtained that week. I enjoy tutoring so much not only because I get a chance to watch my tutees improve before my very eyes, but because we are able to share our different cultures with each other—I as a Chinese girl who is heavily influenced by American culture, and they as Chinese children who have yet to be affected by the luring hold of American society. In my tutoring sessions, while I incorporate my stories of life growing up in the metropolitan area so that my tutees may transition smoothly from their native countries to America, they share their own stories of life back in their native country with me so that I will not forget where I came from.

My time at CAPSA could not be complete without my experience as a coordinator. As a coordinator, I was given the chance to observe CAPSA from a different perspective. Every once in awhile, I stand and simply watch in awe at the sea of tutors and tutees, bustling about and laughing in delight. It is times like those when I truly see the vastness and significance of the CAPSA program to both the tutor and tutee groups, and I realize how fortunate I am to be a part of CAPSA.

CAPSA is such an influential organization because, not only is it concerned about its own tutors and tutees, but it is also involved in the Chinese community in the metropolitan area, informing others about Chinese culture by putting up Chinese New Year displays in local libraries and making paper cutouts for all people to enjoy. I am truly inspired by CAPSA's sense of giving back to the community. Because of CAPSA, I am more involved in local Chinese celebrations and exhibitions, helping bring awareness to our magnificent Chinese culture.

This organization is by far my most favorite place to volunteer, not only because I love to share my knowledge with the tutees, but also because CAPSA has such a wonderful and friendly environment. Every Saturday

morning when I walk through CAPSA's doors, I am greeted by several smiling faces and the sound of joyful laughter. I am very fortunate to be a part of CAPSA, and its lasting impression and influence on me will stay with me always.

## **What CAPSA Has Done For Me**

**By Richard Fan**

I remember one day in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade my mother told me that I would be tutoring at CAPSA. At first, it was not something to which I looked forward. Who wants to spend every Saturday morning tutoring when you could be sleeping? With not much to say, I reluctantly cooperated with my mother.

While participating in my first tutoring session, I felt nervous and lost. I wasn't quite sure what to do since I had never tutored before that. Now, when given the opportunity, tutoring is significantly more enjoyable.

I have learned a lot in my six years of tutoring. In these six years, I devoted my time to tutoring elementary school students, ranging from first to fifth grade. Each year has given me a new experience while performing the same task. From teaching English to a new Taiwanese immigrant (which by far was one of my more challenging tasks) to teaching basic math to those in elementary school, each experience has provided me with new insight.

When I think of CAPSA, I do not just think of a tutoring program, I think of a tightly knit community built on the foundations of strong relations between every single member. I believe forming relationships is critical for the growth of the CAPSA tutoring program. Tutors not only have to create bonds with their individual tutees, but they have to form relationships with their respective coordinators, other tutors, and the parent volunteers. This tightly knit community prevents any one person from being isolated.

Now in my first year as a middle elementary school coordinator, I hold a great sense of pride in being able to assist the running of this program. I have been able to gain skills, such as leadership, that are necessary for the rest of my life. I have learned the importance of teamwork, which is necessary among coordinators to maintain an orderly environment for tutors and tutees.

Six years at CAPSA seems like a long time, but these six years have gone by so rapidly. Now when I go to CAPSA, the thought of earning community service is well in the back of my head. My dedication is a result of the satisfaction of being able to reach out to the community. As a tutor, it was the irresistible smile on the tutee's face at the end of the day that drove me back year after year. As a coordinator, the thought of being able to help the Chinese community leaves me overjoyed at the end of each session. The feeling of reaching out to the community even without getting anything back is wonderful. Looking back now, I have no regrets and only optimism for joining CAPSA. Six years ago, I made one of the most significant decisions of my short life.

## **The CAPSA Experience**

**By Kelly Shih**

Last summer, I stood on the Taichung platform of Taiwan's high-speed rail, about to board the train that would take me away from my parents for the longest time in my seventeen years. I stood there, ticket in hand, staring at the array of different numbers stamped across it, unsure which platform I was supposed to be on. I meekly tried to flag down, in Chinese, the travelers rushing by me. I knew I was fluent in Mandarin. I knew I could ask them correctly. But in an uncomfortable environment, by myself, with trains speeding by, surrounded by people rushing past me, oblivious of my confusion—I felt helpless.

I imagine that my trivial moment of fear is dwarfed by the experiences of many new immigrants to the US who are immersed in a foreign culture and forced out of their comfort zone. In my six years at CAPSA, through interacting, tutoring, and eventually coordinating, my goal has always been to give the students a true sense of belonging, to eliminate any sense of helplessness. "Belonging" does not mean speaking English perfectly, recognizing every vocabulary word in the chapter, or memorizing the periodic table. Homework help is necessary but tutors must interact and talk with their students. Let the students know you are truly listening to them, no matter how they are communicating to you. They can speak in broken English and you can speak in broken Chinese, but through the process, through the building of a relationship, you realize that it is what someone says that matters, not *how* they say it. When a tutor can let their student understand that principle, whether outright or implicitly, that very sense of belonging which we strive for—to let students know they are welcomed and can embrace both their existing and new culture—will be fostered.

Not only are these students adapting as immigrants, but they are also growing as people; the years we catch them in—child to teen—are their most important periods of growth and development. Peers always understand each others' thought processes most thoroughly, yet older people, with their experience, can often teach us the most. At CAPSA, we can combine these attributes with tutors that can soundly understand the mentalities of their students, while having a few extra years of wisdom along with infinite knowledge of American culture. The best tutors are those who can both help *and* understand.

At CAPSA, helping with homework and improving English is giving tutees stability—a foundation for them to branch out and discover things for themselves. It is a



springboard we work with them to build to propel themselves forward, to be successful in America and successful in life. Tutoring at CAPSA is not just teaching material and—as I’m sure you’ve asserted or heard many times in tutor interviews—not just for SSL hours. It is being one piece, no matter how big or small, of the most important time in someone else’s growth—giving one feather for someone else’s wings—and making sure you do the most, and give your best, in doing so.

## **CAPSA: Another Year Gone**

**By...**

**By Kevin Hwang**

Another year has gone by and it has only added to my growing adventure at CAPSA and another piece of my life. Every Saturday morning, dedicated parents and teenagers help immigrants adapt to an unfamiliar and new world. However, CAPSA is more than just that, it is a timeline and record of people’s growth, maturity, and progress through everyone’s combined effort and dedication.

It is my fifth year at CAPSA and it is still amazing seeing people grow and transition. I remember teaching my first tutee during my first year at CAPSA in the lower elementary school group, and now five years later, he’s still at CAPSA as a tutee in the middle school group—still energetic as always, yet reaching a new point of maturity. Being a part of that person’s growth and development is truly an amazing experience and also paralleled with my own journey at CAPSA. Having been with the lower, middle, and upper elementary school groups, this year I got the opportunity of being a high school coordinator adding another chapter in my CAPSA adventures. Coordinating with the high school group has really been a special experience for me because it allowed me to familiarize myself with the other end of the CAPSA spectrum. It not only helped me build on my skills but it also allowed me to develop new relationships

with people. Being a high school student myself, it was also easier to relate to the tutors and tutees and the things they are going through in their lives. The pressures and expectations on a high school student can be extremely draining and difficult. Burdened with all these pressures and expectations, these high school tutees, who have only stayed in the US for a couple of years, now also have to dedicate a good two hours of their lives to struggle hard and learn the English language. Seeing what they have to go through has given me more motivation to help ease their struggle and it is great to see that dedicated tutors share the same motivation.

Now another year has gone by and here I am, sitting in front of my computer, writing another reflection for this newsletter, and not only realizing that I only have a couple of minutes before I have to turn in this reflection by the deadline, but I also realized that CAPSA is truly an example of many great things: a helping hand, memories, hard-work, dedication, teamwork, leadership, and growth. These are the things that will be engraved in me forever.

## **CAPSA Reflection**

**By Karin Luk**

Over the years, I have come to realize what a valuable experience CAPSA has been. I started as a tutee, came back as a tutor and am currently a coordinator. It’s been great to be able to help kids with their schoolwork, but I must say that the part of CAPSA that I treasure the most has been being able to get to know a group of people. Though I have another year before I leave CAPSA, I am ready to say that I will never forget the kids that I have met here. Though I only see them for two hours each week, the memories of the kids that I have known will be something that I will always carry with me.

CAPSA has also changed me as an individual. My experiences at CAPSA have

taught me how to be a responsible and patient individual. As a tutor, I got my first real taste of responsibility. When I realized that I was directly and deeply involved with someone else's education, even only for two hours, I felt like I had the responsibility, as a tutor, to do all I could to help. My own pressure to improve made my tutee improve too. As a tutor, I also learned the value of patience. Sometimes a tutee takes longer than you would like to do something, or it just takes a while for that tutee to focus on their work. In those situations, patience is key because every tutee is different and we just have to learn how to deal with each of them in a calm way.

Though these are only two of the many lessons, I've learned here at CAPSA because I learn something new every time. Whether it's about one of the kids or about me, it's always rewarding. I can say with confidence that coming to CAPSA is two hours that is always well spent.

## **Building Friendships**

**By Anita Chen**

Because I've been at CAPSA for six years now, I've often been asked what the best part of CAPSA is, or what I'm going to remember most, or what part of CAPSA means most to me. It's a difficult question to answer – will I remember the hours typing up tutor-tutee matchups, the chaos of registration day, or the food at the Christmas and end-of-the-year parties? Upon further thought, I decided that one thing is going to stick with me the most from CAPSA: the relationships that I have forged during my time here.

When I first began CAPSA in seventh grade, I did it for the quintessential motive of getting community service hours. For my first year, I simply adjusted to the routine two hours I spent tutoring every Saturday morning; I even grew to resent that I couldn't sleep in. It wasn't until my eighth grade year that I met the wide-eyed student that would

change my tutoring experience forever: Calvin Shiao. He was a fifth grader with Attention Deficiency Disorder (ADD), prone to jerking around sharply to stare at different points on the ceiling, or making remarks such as:

“Why am I here?”

“This is stupid.”

“I don't get this. Let's draw!”

At that point in time, I knew that I needed to take tutoring step by step in order to succeed. I began slowly, by building a personal relationship with Calvin; not only did I talk about my life, listen to his stories, and ask him what he wanted to be when he grew up, I even gave him a birthday present. With this newfound trust, Calvin and I soared miles and miles beyond his rudimentary level of poor English. It wasn't always smooth sailing – the primary reason for my success was patience. I continually had to answer Calvin's philosophical questions and respond accordingly to his capricious outbursts of frustration. But he became a little brother to me, broadening our relationship beyond the walls of CAPSA. I grew to learn about his hilarious school friends, his fear of failure, and his doting mother.

In tenth grade, I was selected to be a coordinator for the Lower Elementary School Group (K-1), and have since been assigned to the High School Group. Week after week, I assign tutor/tutee match ups, distribute and sign paperwork, and play the mediator among tutors, tutees, and parents. I have been faced with sobbing kids and tutors that are as unsure and reticent as I was when I first began CAPSA. But my favorite part of becoming a coordinator has been the privilege of building relationships with tutees, tutors, parents, and adult volunteers alike.

The relationships and friendships that I have come to love and cherish over the past six years are forever going to be fond memories in my mind. I wouldn't trade them for anything in the world, and that's precisely what my favorite part of CAPSA is.

## **Transformations**

**By Tiffany Chang**

Things have changed since I first joined CAPSA. When I first signed on as a LES tutor, I was a sixth grader that was lost in the shuffle of tutors and tutees, coordinators, and mentors. I was neither here nor there; all I knew was that I came here every weekend to help tutees with their homework. During those first few years at the program, I began to transform from a teacher that helped my tutee out with his work, to a tutor that developed a relatable and close relationship with my tutee. I began to realize that I wasn't there to point out how to do a problem; I was there to help a child do better in school and feel more comfortable in their environment.

Only other tutors at this program can ever know how it feels to help a child fit in, adjust, or just form a special bond with that one tutee. As I grew to see the inner workings and personal fulfillment CAPSA brought, I eventually became a coordinator. It is not a job for the lazy; coordinator duties had me here *and* there. It is a tough job, but well worth not only coming to one smiling face in the morning, but a whole group of them. It is something I look to take on every weekend, and which becomes only more rewarding as I go on.

All the while, CAPSA was going through a transformation as well. This somewhat small program of one-on-one tutoring had flourished into an organized system of tutors and tutees. The program grew larger and larger, and the best part was, the intimacy of the program had not been lost. There was still that sense of closeness and familiarity that came with the very first tutor-tutee match-up.

It's a wonder how I came to change so much in only six years. It's a wonder how CAPSA flourished so successfully and so permanently. Whatever it is, I know that I have changed since I first started with

CAPSA. CAPSA itself has changed. And all for the better.

## **Making a Difference**

**By David Jia**

Each Saturday morning, I go to a different school, one where I teach lessons, assign homework, and offer patience. Since the beginning of sophomore year, I have volunteered at the Chinese American Parents and Students Association, providing one-on-one tutoring for Chinese students struggling in school. For the first two years, my students were of middle school level, and my lesson plans consisted of a diverse array of homework and regular sessions to practice oral and written English. After only a few months of tutoring, I was able to identify with my teachers at school; I understood why they walked into the classroom everyday to put up with kids who talked in class, were disappointingly immature, and just didn't understand what was being taught. Their pleasure in teaching was fueled by two motivations: altruism and pride. And my experience was no different. In my first year, I was assigned a seventh grade boy named Kevin who had been in America for only two months and could speak few English words. But, by the end of the year, he could chat with me fluently in English; I hardly dared believe how much I had accomplished. Last spring, I was selected as the coordinator of the High School Group; my tasks may have changed, but I have not lost sight of what CAPSA is all about. My job is to monitor discipline, ensure that tutors and tutees are properly matched, and give advice and assistance to tutors in my group. Seeing the students improve their English and manage their homework with diminishing amounts of help envelopes me with the satisfaction of having made a difference in their lives.

## **Supporting through CAPSA**

**By Jefferson Teng**

As I think about my four years of high school, I think about the many experiences I have encountered. Some of my most memorable moments have come from CAPSA. I joined CAPSA as a tutor in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Though it was surprisingly awkward to sit down and introduce myself as my tutee's teacher, I learned that he, like the other immigrants, was just like me. Together, we worked to tear down the language barrier that was preventing his imagination from being put into words.

Whenever I had a problem in school, I could always fall back on my family – my parents were always willing to help. Though I understood most of what was going on in my classes, the constant guidance of my parents was the driving force of education. At one point in time, when I was considering quitting CAPSA, I realized that as a student, I had needed endless hours of support and help to get through school. The tutees at CAPSA are just the same, but with their parents also struggling to grasp the English language, it is difficult for them to build the sort of support system I had. The two hours every Saturday morning were definitely not enough for my tutee to obtain the help I had received from my parents, but the amount we learned from each other was definitely a symbol of hope that he could succeed.

As a coordinator, I no longer have the complete pleasure of working with one individual tutee, but I love the variety of personalities I get to interact with each week. The number of tutees I have gotten to know is rewarding in and of itself, but I have learned that being a leader is a difficult task – something that many people do not recognize.

CAPSA has been a place where I can return the good deeds that others have done for me, as well as gain experience for a job in the workplace. I thank CAPSA for the

opportunities, and will always remember the time that I have spent here.

## **Significance of the CAPSA**

### **Community**

**By Jonathan Chang**

“Oh no, not another day,” I sighed to myself. That was my typical first thought of each Saturday when I first joined CAPSA in eighth grade. Now, four years later, my view of CAPSA has changed enormously. Back then, I saw CAPSA as an obligation and a loss of sleep, but now, upon review, I realize how much more of a role CAPSA has played in my life and how I have played a role in CAPSA. CAPSA stands for Chinese American Parents and Students Association. But, it is so much more than just an association—it is a community where friendship resides, where knowledge is shared.

I have seen so many children walk through the doors of the little cafeteria of Robert Frost Middle School for the first time, reluctant and wishing they could be somewhere else with all their hearts. But gradually, you can see a change in them. Slowly but surely, their reluctance, their shyness disappears. This is what our amazing community at CAPSA does. They cannot help but be affected by everyone's friendly willingness to help. For many of these tutees, immigrating to the United States has left them no friends besides their families. For many of these tutees, their tutors are their first treasured friends. However, even though friendship soars in this community, a certain respect is always maintained between the tutees and tutors. And it is this respect that has allowed for CAPSA to achieve its mission: to help tutees learn.

Having grown up quite a bit in the past four years, I recognize the extreme significance CAPSA has contributed to my growth into a more mature person.

***CAPSA Tutoring Program would not be possible without the time and effort put in by all the coordinators and tutors.***

**Lower Elem. School Group**

Kailin Hsu  
Alice He  
Lillian Li  
Amber Chen  
Kevin Chen  
May Chen  
Julia Gao  
Jeffrey He  
Hannah Ho  
Kenneth Ke  
Jacqueline Kwan  
Ariel Lai  
Adrianna Lee  
Paul Liu  
Katie Ni  
Michelle She  
Carol Shou  
Eshane Wang

**Middle Elem. School Group**

Angela Fang  
Richard Fan  
Karin Luk  
Jana Lee Butman  
David Chen  
Julia Chen  
Peiling Chen  
Sarah Chen  
Tingshen Chen  
Howard Chow  
Kevin Chuang  
Gabriel Fan  
Ben (Kuang-Jen) Hsieh  
Susan Jiang  
Wesley Jong  
Edward Shi  
Lucy Tan  
Kevin Teng  
Eray Wang

**Middle Elem. School Group****(Cont'd)**

Austin Wei  
Wensheng Wei  
Ann Xi  
Donna Yang  
Alexander Zhu

**Upper Elem. School Group**

Jennifer Chu  
Jonathan Chang  
Tiffany Chang  
Victoria Chai  
Julia Chang  
Kevin Chang  
Christina Chen  
Cliff Cheng  
Lesley Chu  
Howard Fan  
Michelle Gu  
Jaimie Hsu  
Ruo Wei Li  
Jenny Luo  
Vivian Wang  
Monica Wei  
Angela Yang  
Lawrence Yen  
Angela Zheng

**Middle School Group**

Jefferson Teng  
Kelly Shih  
Lilly Shu  
David Cao  
Bo Chen  
Jeechee Chen  
Wenjing Chen  
Jennifer Chen  
Emily Cheng  
Stephanie Chow

**Middle School Group****(Cont'd)**

Steven Chu  
Ed (Yi) Gao  
Hubert Huang  
Adele Huang  
Grace Lee  
Brian Lin  
Edward Lo  
Steven Lu  
Andie Ng  
Eric Wan  
Victoria Wang  
Victoria Xu  
Jessie Yan  
Nancy Yue  
Tami Zhan  
Chenmuren Zhang  
Kirk Zhang  
Clayton Zhang

**High School Group**

Anita Chen  
Kevin Hwang  
David Jia  
Brian Fan  
David Guhl  
Michael Hsu  
Belinda Juang  
Eric Kuang  
Candace Sunny Lee  
Nathan Lim  
Philip Pei  
Tiffany Qiu  
Xin Shan  
Irene Wang  
Kevin Wong  
Angela Ye  
Meng Zhai  
Lana Zhang

***Thank you for your dedication and support to the CAPSA Tutoring Program***

## 感謝 *Thank You*

*Chinese American Parents and Students Association (CAPSA) would like to express its sincere gratitude to the following adult volunteers, teachers and coordinators for their dedicated effort and support to provide tutoring services to new immigrants and other needy students, help them adapt to the MCPS education system, and provide community service and leadership opportunities to qualified high and middle school students.*

蒙郡華裔家長學生協會特別感謝下列各位義工、英語班老師和協調員支持本會，為華裔學生家長、新移民及有需要輔導人士提供課業輔導，幫助新移民家庭在蒙郡教育制度中適應生活環境，並提供成績優秀的中學生領導才能訓練和教學機會。

Jonathan Chang 張書巖  
Tiffany Chang 張昌恬  
Michael Chen 陳坤民  
Brigitta Dai 梁麗珠  
Terry Fan 范維敏  
Alice He 何婷婷  
Jim Hsu 徐賢宗  
Kevin Hwang 黃凱群  
Grace Lee 李佩恩  
Lisa Leung 梁潔瑩  
Pearl Liang 梁可珍  
Sue Lin 林淑娟  
Sylvia Ma 馬思敏  
Douglas Ross  
Kuodung Shih 施國棟  
Chungte Teng 鄧忠德  
Michael Tseng 曾泓誠  
Sue-Hwa Yang 王淑華

Michelle Chang 陳蔚寧  
Anita Chen 陳安笛  
Jennifer Chu 朱貞瑋  
Angela Fang 方琪  
Iris Fang 吳洵  
Ruyi He 何如意  
Kailin Hsu 徐凱琳  
David Jia 賈施遠  
Aldrin Leung 梁偉根  
Jenny Li 李茵  
Nae Ning Lin 余乃寧  
John Liu 劉博海  
Grace Maa 馬永燕  
Lily Shen 余秀雯  
Sujuan Shih 顏素絹  
Jefferson Teng 鄧淇之  
Sheena Weng 翁幼德  
Tiffany Yang 楊文婷

Su-Hwa Chang 張樞華  
Carol Chen 潘芳雲  
William Chu 朱元山  
Richard Fan 范書愷  
Miranda Fong 鮑怡  
Jeng Hsu 徐娟娟  
Billy Hsu 徐明甫  
Jack Jia 賈欣  
Betty Leung 何杏芳  
Lillian Li 李旻旻  
Yen-Ching Lin 唐延青  
Karin Luk 陸麗君  
Cong Ning 寧聰  
Kelly Shih 施凱莉  
Lilly Shu 舒畫  
Ying-Ju Tsai 簡瑛珠  
Meeifang Wu 吳美芳  
Yue Yun Yu 余月雲

## 學生通知 *Announcement for Tutee*

CAPSA 課業輔導現已接受應屆學生申請新學年度(2008-09)課業輔導，申請表格已於4月26日派給各位同學。如在8月15日前註冊的同學不須在9月6日到CAPSA面談和辦理註冊手續，請在9月13日上午十時到Robert Forest初中正式上課。

2008-2009 CAPSA tutee preregistration application forms have been distributed to all tutees on April 26, 2008. Tutee applicants who registered by August 15, 2008 will not be required to attend a tutee interview and registration on September 6, 2008. They will start the first tutoring session from 10 am to 12 noon on September 13, 2008 at Robert Frost Middle School.

## 家長座談會 *Parent Workshop*

蒙郡華裔家長學生協會於 2007-2008 學年在 Robert Frost 初中舉辦七次家長座談會。主題都是與子女和教育有關的。本會將於下學年在 Robert Frost 初中繼續舉辦家長座談會。歡迎各位家長踴躍參加! 有關 2008-2009 學年家長座談會詳情, 請在八月後上網 <http://www.capsa-mc.org> 覽閱, 或請致電簡瑛珠老師 (301) 762-5329, 或到 CAPSA 課業輔導班查詢。

CAPSA held seven Parent's Workshops in 2007-2008. Workshops covered a variety of relevant topics focused on education and parenting. For more information on parent workshops in 2008-2009, please visit <http://www.capsa-mc.org>, contact Mrs. Yingju Tsai at (301) 762-5329 or ask the CAPSA front desk after August. All parents are welcome!

Date (日期)	Subject (主題)	Speaker (主講人)
9/22/2007	Understanding the MCPS System 認識蒙郡公立學校	Ms. Lily Shen, MCPS ESOL Parent Community Coordinator 余秀雯 (蒙郡公立學校ESOL家 長社區聯絡員)
10/20/2007	Getting Ready for College 為上大學做好準備	Mrs. Nae Ning Lin, MCPS Teacher 林余乃寧 (蒙郡公立學校老師)
11/17/2007	Facing Adolescents 面對青少年	Mrs. Nae Ning Lin, MCPS Teacher 林余乃寧 (蒙郡公立學校老師)
1/19/2008	Communication and Discipline 溝通與管教	Mrs. Nae Ning Lin, MCPS Teacher 林余乃寧 (蒙郡公立學校老師)
2/16/2008	The Effective Strategies for Communication and Discipline 細談溝通與管教的方法	Mrs. Nae Ning Lin, MCPS Teacher 林余乃寧 (蒙郡公立學校老師)
3/15/2008	How to Nurture a Self-Motivated Learner (Part One) 自發的學習者(一)	Mrs. Nae Ning Lin, MCPS Teacher 林余乃寧 (蒙郡公立學校老師)
4/19/2008	How to Nurture a Self-Motivated Learner (Part Two) 自發的學習者(二)	Mrs. Nae Ning Lin, MCPS Teacher 林余乃寧 (蒙郡公立學校老師)

## 社區文化活動 *Community Events*

Thanks to all the volunteers for helping out at the paper cutting events and Chinese New Year showcase at the Montgomery County libraries, shopping malls, Rockville Civic Center and local elementary schools

以下是 CAPSA 在 2007 -2008 年參加的社區文化活動、謝謝所有義工的協助：

- ❖ 十一月二十五日張樞華、張昌恬、施凱莉、顏素絹參加在 Rockville Civic Center 舉辦的聖誕樹大展、以各式精美的中國小掛飾、裝飾出具有中國風味的聖誕樹。展期一個月。

11/25/2007 Christmas Tree Decorations at Rockville Civic Center Glenview Mansion: Tiffany Chang, Su-Hwa Chang, Kelly Shih, Sujuan Shih

- ❖ 一月十九日翁幼德、黃凱群、陸麗君、馬思敏、朱貞瑋、梁麗珠、顏素絹到 Silver Spring 圖書館陳列中國新年祭祖台、祖先牌位、蠟燭、香爐、酒茶糖果供品以及十二生肖雕塑品，展期一個月。

1/19/2008 Silver Spring Library Chinese New Year Display: Sheena Weng, Kevin Hwang, Karin Luk, Sylvia Ma, Jennifer Chu, Brigitta Dai, Sujuan Shih

- ❖ 一月二十六日翁幼德、王淑華、施凱莉、顏素絹、梁麗珠到 Germantown 圖書館陳列中國新年文化風俗櫥窗，展期一個月。

1/26/08 Germantown Library Chinese New Year Display: Sheena Weng, Sue Yang, Kelly Shih, Sujuan Shih, Brigitta Dai

- ❖ 二月二日何如意、鄧淇之、顏素絹到 Aspen Hill 圖書館陳列中國新年文化風俗櫥窗，展期一個月。

2/2/08 Aspen Hill Library Chinese New Year Display: Ruyi He, Jefferson Teng, Sujuan Shih

- ❖ 二月二日陳蔚寧、張書巖、范書愷、陳安笛到 Twinbrook 圖書館的展示牆佈置中國新年風俗及旗袍，展期一個月。

2/2/08 Twinbrook Library Chinese New Year Display: Michelle Chang, Jonathan Chang, Anita Chen, Richard Fan

- ❖ 二月九日鮑怡、徐愷琳、方琪、賈施遠、李茵、顏素絹、梁麗珠在 Lake Forest Mall 中國新年活動提供剪紙服務。

2/9/08 Lake Forest Mall Chinese New Year Paper Cutting Event: Miranda Fong, Kailin Hsu, Angela Fang, David Jai, Jenny Li, Sujuan Shih, Brigitta Dai

- ❖ 二月十六日何如意、施凱莉、施凱倫、顏素絹在 Germantown Library 中國新年活動提供剪紙服務。

2/16/08 Germantown Library Chinese New Year Paper Cutting Event: Ruyi He, Kelly Shih, Karen Shih, Sujuan Shih

- ❖ 四月二十五日王淑華、顏素絹為馬大臺灣學生會夜市活動提供剪紙服務。

4/25/08 University of Maryland at College Park TASA Night Market Paper Cutting: Sue Yang, Sujuan Shih



**Chinese American Parents and Students Association (CAPSA)**  
**Income Statement (5/1/2007 - 4/30/2008)**

**INCOME:**

Membership Dues	\$4,810.00
Rental Sharing Fee	\$2,010.00
Donation	\$7,957.24
Civil Center Decoration	\$50.00
Library Decoration Allowance	\$50.00
Interest income	
Reserve CD	\$105.96
Operational CD	\$141.61
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$15,124.81</u></b>

**EXPENSES:**

Facility and Required Expenses	
School Facility	\$7,121.00
Liability Insurance Premium	\$350.00
Web Expense	\$18.38
PO Box	\$92.00
General Office Expenses	\$629.34
Newsletter Printing	
Copying Costs (toner, cartridge, paper or outside copying)	
Postage	
Office Supplies	
Operation Expenses	\$247.30
School Supply	
Teaching Material	
Refreshment-weekly snack for students	\$961.42
Cultural Presentation	\$31.49
Events	
Christmas-	
Party materials	\$71.03
Gifts for Students	
K-12	\$115.78
Adult Class Teachers	\$143.97
Adult Volunteers	\$183.77
Year End Ceremony	
Party materials	\$76.13
Appreciation Gifts	
Adult Class Teachers	\$140.00
Adult Volunteers	\$0.00
Coordinators & Seniors	\$130.00
Tutors/Tutees Awards	\$340.00
Miscellaneous	
Bank Charges	\$0.60
Advertisement	\$100.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>\$10,752.21</u></b>

**SURPLUS****\$4,372.60**

**Chinese American Parents and Students Association (CAPSA)**  
**Budget (7/1/08 - 6/30/09)**

**INCOME:**

Membership Dues	\$0.00
Rental Sharing Fee	\$8,000.00
Donation	\$4,990.00
Other Income	
Decoration Allowance	\$100.00
Interest Income	\$300.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$13,390.00</u></b>

**EXPENSES:**

Facility and Required Expenses	
School Facility	\$8,000.00
Liability Insurance Premium	\$400.00
Web Expense	\$120.00
PO Box	\$100.00
Office & Operation Expenses	\$950.00
Newsletter Printing	
Copying Costs (toner, cartridge, paper or outside copying)	
Postage	
Teaching Material	
Office & School Supplies	
Equipment	
Copy Machine	\$150.00
Refreshment-weekly snack for students	\$1,000.00
Cultural Presentation	\$200.00
Advertisement	
Yellow Page	\$350.00
Newspaper	\$100.00
Events	
Christmas-	
Party materials	\$100.00
Appreciation/award	
K-12	\$250.00
Adult Class Teachers	\$150.00
Adult Volunteers	\$200.00
Year End Ceremony	
Party materials	\$100.00
Appreciation/award	
Adult Class Teachers	\$150.00
Adult Volunteers	\$200.00
Coordinators & Seniors	\$250.00
Tutors/Tutees Awards	\$400.00
Bus Rider Subsidy	\$200.00
Miscellaneous	\$20.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>\$13,390.00</u></b>

## ***Friends of CAPSA***

*CAPSA would like to thank the following Friends of CAPSA whose donation greatly helped us facilitate our weekly tutoring program, cultural displays and other services.*

### ***Diamond Sponsor***

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Josephine Wang

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Michelle Lai

Qun Ying Li

Sujuan Shih

Irene Wu

Chen Hwa Chen

Yuan-Chung Chu

Hei-ti Hsu

Long Ping Lau

Nancy Liu

Ying-Ju Tsai

Gui-Lin Zeng

Hui-O Chen

Brigitta Dai

Eugene Hwang

Jian Hui Li

Sylvia Ma

Ifang Wang

## ***Thank you!***

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Enclosed is my/our donation of 茲附上我(們)的捐贈:

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\$ _____	\$1,000 - \$1,999	Platinum 白金
\$ _____	\$500 - \$999	Gold 黃金
\$ _____	\$100 - \$499	Silver 白銀
\$ _____	\$50 - \$99	Bronze 青銅
\$ _____	\$5- \$49	Brass 黃銅

Please make check payable to CAPSA. 支票請寫 CAPSA。

Your contribution will greatly help us facilitate our weekly tutoring program, cultural displays and other services. CAPSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. For more information, please call Mrs. Brigitta Dai at (301) 761-4281 or (301) 251-9280. Thank you.

您的捐贈將對我們的學生課業輔導、文物展覽及其他義工服務有極大的幫助。本會是屬於 501(c)(3) 的非營利組織，您的捐贈在法律允許下是免稅的。詳情請與梁老師聯絡 (301) 761-4281 或 (301) 251-9280。謝謝！