Chadwick School, deadline 1/20, SAT 2027, size 845

<http://www.privateschoolreview.com/school_ov/school_id/1644>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chadwick_School>

老牌名校，非常难进。很多名人的母校。

<https://chadwick.seniormbp.com/SeniorApps/facelets/registration/loginCenter.xhtml?appId=AD>

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**My Mother**

Name: Ms. Yu Bai (白钰)

Address: 501 Via La Selva，Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Home/Cell Phone: 678-883-8688

Occupation/Job Title: Movie Producer

Specialty: Film and Movie Production

Position: Founder

Company Name: Hope Century Motion Pictures (<http://baike.baidu.com/view/9296033.htm>)

Work Address: 4 Tongfujiadao Hutong, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100006

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Email: [listygao@gmail.com](mailto:listygao@gmail.com) (I am answering her email)

Educational Background: Master of Fine Arts

**My father**

Name: Mr. Xixi Gao (高希希)

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2205548/>

<http://wiki.d-addicts.com/Gao_Xi_Xi>

<http://movie.douban.com/celebrity/1310336/movies?sortby=time&format=pic&>

Address: 501 Via La Selva，Redondo Beach, CA 90277

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Occupation/Job Title: Director/Producer

Specialty: Film and Movie Production

Position: Founder

Company Name: Hope Century Motion Pictures (<http://baike.baidu.com/view/9296033.htm>)

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**Parent Questionnaire**

**What essential qualities are you looking for in a school, and what are your priorities for your child’s education?**

Academic excellence is the first and foremost quality we look for in a school. A school is after all an academic institute. Chadwick stands out as one of the best schools in this respect. We want our only daughter to be well prepared for the next step of her education, both academically and socially. This is why we also look for emphasis on the social aspects: character, responsibility, and charity. Both of us are well known in the Chinese entertainment industry. Like families who receive regular public attention, we, including Listy, shoulder some public responsibilities and have to meet certain expectations. For Listy, it means she is expected to be well bred and good mannered, and ideally to have a big heart to fulfill a prominent role in the society. We heard a lot of good things about Chadwick and were thoroughly impressed by the Chadwick graduates we have met. We believe it is a right choice for our daughter.

**Because we are interested in the whole child, please tell us about yours—interests, hobbies, talents, academic interests and abilities, personal qualities.**

During an extended visit to the U.S. more than two years ago, Listy fell in love with the American education. Unlike the intensely exam driven Chinese education, the American education focuses more on all rounded personal development. Listy requested to continue her education in the U.S. This is why we are here. Listy has been adapting to her new environment nicely, even won a 5th place in the ACSI (Associated Christian Schools International) Math Olympics recently.

Born to a family of the arts, Listy is well versed in music and performing art since a young age. She has been learning piano since 5. She received China Central Conservatory of Music Level 7 Piano Certificate at age 9, and level 9 (highest possible) at age 12. Her instructor was Xi You, a famous pianist and a rank 1 (the highest out of 13 possible ranks) professor at China Central Conservatory of Music. Professor You believed that Listy is a rare prodigy of the music and was grooming her for professional piano playing until she took a pause to pursue an U.S. education. Listy has been practicing piano on her own since we moved to the U.S. Her plan is to resume the piano playing once she is done with the High School application process. Her music performance has been an indispensable part of the parties and charitable events we host. Our guests have come to anticipate it. During her years of piano playing, she won multiple awards and gave numerous performances in recitals and concerts, including the invitational performance on stage with the internationally acclaimed pianist Richard Clayderman at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing for his 2012 Christmas Concert.

Listy was also active on stage, she participated in theatrical plays in school when were in China. In 2010, she had an opportunity to show her acting talent by playing the childhood part of the leading female character of the 30 episode TV series “Exclusive Disclosure”.

She is also an experienced photographer. She first learned the skill from her cousin, then received tutoring from our cinematographers. She loves cartoons and learned how to draw from it. She designs birthday and greeting cards for friends. She also loves writing. She posts novels and screenplays on her blog, which has 1000+ fans. She loves gaming and as a result is extremely interested in computer programming. She used to participate in astrology club and speech club and would like to continue in the future. She also tutors her friends Chinese.

**Context helps us more fully understand and appreciate your child's talents, opportunities and challenges. From your perspective as a parent, are there important experiences or factors (positive or negative) that have had an effect on your child’s academic or social progress to date? For example, this may include changes of home or school, social environment, or family situation.**

As movie and TV producers and directors, our jobs involve extensive travel. When are shooting on location, we can be away for days or even weeks. Listy is often left under the care of her grandparents or our personal assistants. Fortunate for us, the lack in parenting did not have an ill effect. Instead it contributes to her unusual maturity beyond her age. She learned to manage her own schedules: school, piano and all her extracurricular activities. In addition to being named a Merit Student every year, she was an avid participant of the cultural fairs and science fairs and won multiple prizes every year. She is well loved in her school and in our social circle.

Her maturity was the main reason why we supported her unusual request to continue her education abroad at such a young age. The transition is not without challenges. She deals with the difficulties just like the way she dealt with her unusually hard technical piano pieces: no complain, just endless practice until perfection. In the end, on the stage, her fingers danced on the black-and-white as if effortlessly. Only we knew the making of it was anything but effortless. If she wants something badly, she gets it done, no complain, no question, and no push necessary. We cannot be more proud of her, not even when compared to the long list of awards we have won for our movies and TV series.

**Parent involvement and satisfaction with a child’s school are fundamental to school success for children of all ages, particularly in an independent school. We welcome any information that you may supply regarding the ways you have been involved in your child’s school community and the ways in which you would like to be involved at Chadwick.**

Publicity makes or breaks a movie or a TV series. This especially true in China, where the media workers have the implicit duty of upholding the social value. An actor’s misstep, e.g. drug problem or politically incorrect comment, can easily get a finished movie banned and millions of dollars of investment down the drain. Our studio hosts publicity events of various themes to maintain positive public sentiment. The most events are the ones with charitable causes or educational sponsorship. During the 2008 Sichuan earth quake and the natural disasters that followed, our studio contributed heavily to the rebuild of the disaster areas, especially the rebuild of the schools. Many of our fund raising events were held in Listy’s school and feature student performances, which Listy always participated.

As new arrivals to this country, we are still crossing the language and cultural barrier and getting accustomed to our new community. Once we settled in, we will be more involved in the community in more forms and ways, just like what we have been before. For the near term, charitable donations would be our main form of participation.

**Student Questionnaire**

**What three words would teachers use to describe you?**

Artistic, Inquisitive, Creative

**How would your closest friend describe your:**

**Best qualities:** All-rounded, Easygoing, Caring, Honest, Humble

**Greatest challenges:** Athletics, Forgetfulness

**What is your favorite subject in school, and why does it inspire you?**

Computer is by far my most favorite subject because I love to play computer games. I can beat boys in the games. When I grow up, I want to create my own computer games. I have been learning programming in JavaScript. It is both fun and challenging. I still have a lot to learn before I can create my own games.

**Over the past two years, what activities have you been involved in outside of the classroom? Examples might include the arts, athletics, community service, hobbies, etc. Have you earned any special recognition for your participation? Please let us know which of these have been important to you, and why they have been significant.**

I have been playing piano concerts up to my departure from China. Then I practice it on my own. I plan to resume it in high school. I have taught myself drawing because I know great art work is essential to computer games and anime. An illustration I drew for my history assignment received perfect score. I am now also fascinated by fashion design. I go to fencing and tennis classes.

**What are your favorite movies and/ or books, and why?**

I love the anime movie Spirited Away because of the main character Chihiro Ogino. When she is trapped in a ghostly world and her parents turned into pigs, she has to work to free the spirits and her parents. Chihiro is of my age. Her resolve, hard work, and compassion reflect my personality and I hope to emulate her character in my own life.

**What makes your favorite teacher so special?**

My favorite teacher is Ms. Ran Zhang from my elementary school. She was my home room teacher. She was very strict but gave us constructive criticisms all the time. We were all a little afraid of her, especially the naughty boys. But we also loved her because she made sure we learned a lot of things. The thing I liked the best about her was that our classroom was always ranked #1 in our grade.

**If you had any superpower, what would it be, and why?**

It would be mind-reading. It would be nice if I could tell what people have in mind. Knowing what people is thinking can lead to a better solution to everything because I can address what people really want or like and not what they say they want or like. I can also tell who are terrorists and try my best to help people focus on making living condition better rather than killing other people.

**Tell us about a moment with friends that was just plain fun.**

It is always plain fun any time I hang out with my friends: playing games, shopping, chatting, or simply sitting around doing nothing. The innocence of youth is like fireworks: an explosive display of fleeting beauty. When you are young, you care only about each other. There is no second guessing, no competition, and no discrimination. It is pure friendship, unpolluted by the worldly interests.

**What do you hope for in your new school, both inside and outside of the classroom? How would you like to contribute to the school community?**

I hope to learn a lot of knowledge because I want to go to a top college in the future. I hope for passionate teachers because good teachers inspire you and spark your interests. I hope for a chance to compete in the real Math Olympics. I hope for classmates who will become my new best friends. I hope for a good music program so that I can continue to do my piano performances.

**Please choose one question and continue on another page if necessary: • What is the greatest challenge you have faced in your life? How did you meet it, and what did you learn from it?**

**Chadwick School is committed to graduating students of ‘exemplary character’ who are respectful, honest, compassionate, responsible and fair. Please describe an experience that displayed or developed your character.**

My greatest challenge was to come to the U.S. for school. Studying abroad for a few weeks is one thing. Attending a school full time is another. The difference is that you are not pampered as a foreigner any more. But I asked for the move so I could not complain about it ☺。 I just have to listen more closely, study more, practice more and adapt gradually. I think I am doing well now. I started to win Math competition. I am sure I will win more.

**Chadwick believes leadership takes many forms: elected or appointed leadership positions, ethical leadership, and informal leadership, such as showing initiative in teaching a group project or volunteer activity, or the ability to set an example, or involve or motivate others. Describe a situation where you assumed a leadership role or where you failed to demonstrate leadership. What did you learn from this experience? Please continue on another page if necessary.**

In terms of leadership, my parents are my best role models. My dad is a movie director and my mom a producer. They could just work for studios. But they had bigger dreams. So they started their own studio which is named after my dad. After many years, the studio is now going public. The lesson I learned is that you want to have big dreams to be a leader. This is true with my piano playing. I was one of the best of Professor Xi You’s students. I reached the highest possible level (level 9, Central Conservatory of Music of China) at only age 12 because I wanted to be the best. I practiced a lot more than required. I did not stop until I reached perfection. The drive and desire is the important thing with leadership.

My parents’ studio hosts many social events and publicity events. I helped out a lot, first through my piano performances, then with chores like compiling guest lists or following up with florist. I have become very good at asking for help and I found myself handling bigger and bigger things. The lesson I learned was that it is impossible to do everything yourself. Leadership means you make a lot of friends and ask your friends to help you out, so that you can achieve what you want to accomplish. You delegate work to people.

I have been a follower in my new American environment. This is fine. To be a good leader, you want to be a good follower first. Because you want to know what your followers are thinking. I will be a good follower before I learn to play a leadership role.