

Dear All, it is a great pleasure to share with you our November Newsletter. Here you will find out what's up in our community. I hope you enjoy it. **By Juliane Karlsson**

SENIA-Beijing Autumn Conference

The 6th of November saw the **SENIA-Beijing Autumn Conference**, hosted by **Dulwich College Beijing**. Nearly 140 participants registered to attend the one-day conference and enjoyed a keynote speech by Mindwell Co-founders, Kevin Hawkins and Amy Burke. Delegates heard how becoming more 'mindful' about ourselves can lead to more 'mindful teaching' and ultimately, more 'mindful schools'. An underlying message of the keynote was that **mindfulness is not something that can be achieved overnight, it is a journey, that takes time and self-knowledge**. We were grateful to Kevin and Amy for sharing their passion and expertise.

The 12 afternoon sessions welcomed local speakers, all of whom volunteered their time to present on their own areas of expertise. Workshop titles ranged from "Support and Strategies for differentiating in Chinese Language Arts" to "What the Clinicians can't say!" The amount of talent and knowledge displayed within the SENIA-Beijing group is consistently incredible, and the workshops did not disappoint. Unsurprisingly, feedback from the workshops requested more time and less restrictions on numbers of participants in each workshop. The overall message was that delegates were left wanting more! **SENIA- Beijing is incredibly grateful to all the presenters who volunteered to run the workshops.**

If you would like your school or organization to **host a SENIA-Beijing Conference** in the future, please get in touch via the SENIA-Beijing WeChat group or through our board e-mail (beijingchapter@seniainternational.org). **Hosts are fully supported by the SENIA-Beijing Board**, and if you are able to offer your venue, we would love to hear from you.

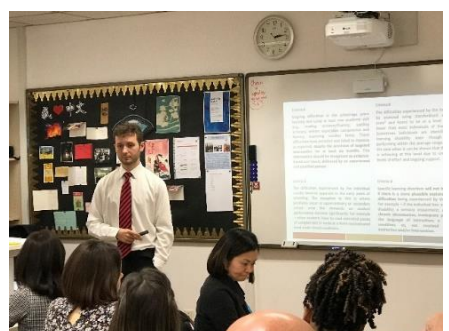
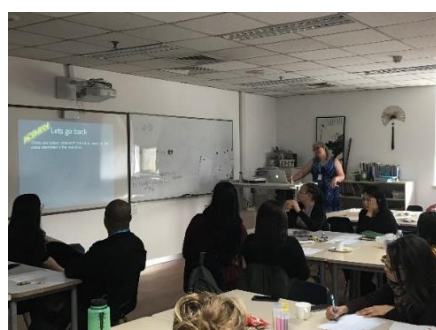
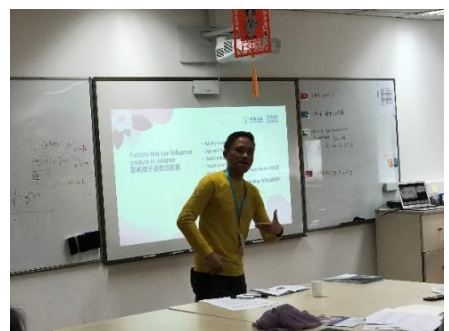
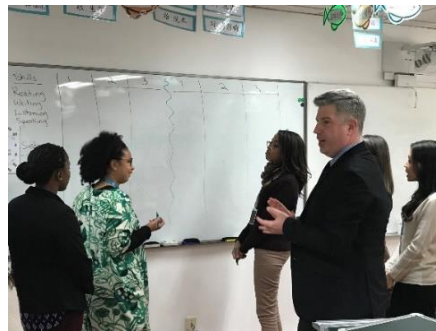
We are looking forward to seeing you all again at the next 'SENIA-Beijing Conference and Resource Fair' in April. This event will be hosted by **Keystone Academy**. Thank you all for your continued attendance and support.

By Katy Cameron



You are our recipe for a successful event!!! We cannot express how much your workshops influenced our practices. Thank you all!

Behind the scenes



This is our driving force, full of energy, love, experience. Working as a collaborative group gives us more than we can imagine.



However, this story started 10 years ago!!! Therefore, the first people first, Reed and Tanya. It has been so far a **GREAT HONOUR** to work with you!



They are the ones who opened a space and a time for this community. And, by doing so, they gave us their precious time, expertise, and possibilities to make SENIA-Beijing what it is today, a support network group. These seeds are growing, and its legacy is in each of us who become responsible for being part of this aspiration to move forward; towards challenges, celebrating the small achievements against the odds, to offer **a better way to help** the incredible special needs field. We are not perfect; we are connecting people and stories that are worth spreading! Everyone is more than welcome to be with us in this **fantastic journey**.



Thank You Reed, Tanya, Katy Gerald, and Juliane. Our Five Stars Team!

Thank You to Us All for our ability to respond to challenges with kindness and our openness to commemorate good news. We are all in this **together!** 😊

By Juliane Karlsson

Save the Dates! It's coming soon!

As you know, in February, Manila will host our SENIA International Conference... To register, please visit: <https://seniaconference.org/register/>



Let's also celebrate our students' achievements!!!!

A poster for the SENIA Student Award. It features the SENIA logo at the top left and a central graphic of several colorful hands raised. The text reads: 'CALL FOR NOMINATIONS SENIA Student Award'. Below this, it asks: 'Do you know an exceptional child or youth with disabilities who is raising awareness or advocating for special needs in Asia? The SENIA Student Award recognizes the contribution of these children and their influence on the community.' There are two boxes: one for 'Prizes' (Monetary scholarship and plaque, Feature article on the SENIA website, Roundtrip airline tickets & accommodations to attend the SENIA Conference, Opportunity to speak at the conference.) and another for 'You do not have to be member of SENIA to nominate; you must, however, live in Asia to nominate. Please submit all nominations to: awards@seniainternational.org'. At the bottom, it says: 'Nomination information can be found at: <https://seniainternational.org/awards/> All nominations packets must be submitted by December 1, 2019.' The SENIA logo is repeated at the bottom.

Sharing stories, connecting lives.

Meeting Li Ying



On Friday November 15th, I've met Li, a confident and smiling girl who is blind. Our meeting was at a small and cozy place and while we are in line to order some food, she listened to the coffee machine sound, and noted "this is the same one I work with at the restaurant".

Li Ying is 28 years old and nowadays she works as a barista at Mian Mian in Sanyuanqiao. Her desire to overcome "the destiny for those who are blind and poor to become a masseuse" made Li write a new chapter in her life. Li Ying is more than welcome at her new job. The staff and owners know the value to hire a special person as Li Ying. Now, moving forward, Li expresses her dreams: **a good job, a happy marriage, and two children.**



In our short talk, facilitated by Allie Haaz from Bethel China, she mentioned how many **smart blind people** she knows. Unfortunately, not all of them have the same opportunity to pursue their aspirations. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), blindness or visual impairment affects at least 2.2 billion people globally, of whom at least 1 billion have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or has yet to be addressed.

"Youngsters are among those at risk," WHO's Dr. Alarcos Cieza told journalists in Geneva. "One of the factors that may influence the increased number of children with myopia, is that children do not spend enough time outdoors. It is a trend that is already observed in some countries like in China," she said. "But of course, it is a trend that we can predict in other countries if they are an everyday habit, especially with children populations."

By talking to Li Ying and walking side by side with her to the subway, I feel how much more we can **learn from differing abilities**. How small steps have huge impacts. I question myself, what are my biases? What do my fears mean? How can I overcome them? Nevertheless, I truly believe that this is our chance to learn together, transforming our spaces as a place where **inclusiveness is far beyond the label of "special school."** Embracing every child, every person in their uniqueness. Developing our abilities based on human rights. **Shifting our perception from difficulty to opportunity.** And, as we all know, this is not an easy task. That's why being together, sharing a common goal, and respecting our differences are key factors to promote real, true innovation.

By Juliane Karlsson

"You can live the life you want;
Blindness is not what holds you back."



Li and her manager. "Love" is written on the manager's hat.

L.I.N.K.

Local Integration of Needs and Knowledge



Thank you for a successful fall conference. A brief reminder that SENIA-Beijing is continuing to service the Local Integration of Needs and Knowledge (**L.I.N.K.**) program. There are **3 initiatives this year** that are currently taking place.

1. **Presentations.** Speak to local learning communities or request a speaker to your local learning community
2. **Peer Meetings.** Request a peer job-alike with another school
3. **Mini-LINK Initiative.** Mini-Links are 5-minutes or less voice or video contributions on a single SEN topic to share with the local community. We are looking to gather a collection of brief, meaningful voice or video recordings and then share the first video right before the winter break.

If you are interested in any of these initiatives, please **contact Dr. Gerald Anthony, SENIA-Beijing Local Liaison and Co-Membership Chair** at gerald.anthony@keystoneacademy.cn.

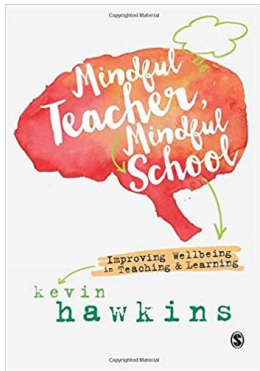
External Expertise List

Sometimes, we don't know who to contact and where to go. When each newsletter is released, we will also share a list of external expertise contacts. The list will be shared with our e-mail list subscribers. If you are still not on this mailing list, please send a message out to Katy Cameron at katy.cameron@dulwich-beijing.cn.

Disclosure: As you are aware, this list is not an endorsement. We understand that every person has unique needs and we hope to provide possible contacts currently available in Beijing. **Please, feel free to contact us if you have any recommendations to our list.**

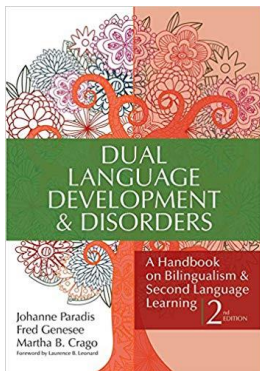
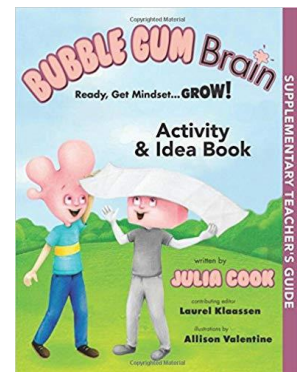


Books, Movies, Sites recommendations



With this guide to mindful practice, teachers new and experienced can learn how to use mindfulness in their own professional and personal lives as well as how to incorporate it in **their teaching to support student wellbeing**.

BECOMING is better than BEING. I have Bubble Gum Brain. I like to chew on my thoughts, flex, bend and stretch my brain, and expand the way I think! I make great mistakes that help me learn. I have Brick Brain. With me, things are the way they are...and they're probably not going to change much. I am the way I am...and that's just how it is. Meet Bubble Gum Brain and Brick Brain: two kids with two **VERY different mindsets**.



As more and more **dual language learners** enter the school system, now's the ideal time for this second edition of the bestselling textbook—essential for preparing SLPs and educators to work with young children who are bilingual or learning a second language. This comprehensive, student-friendly text takes the popular first edition to the next level, enriching it with 6 years of new research and the latest guidance on **best practices**.

My Flesh and Blood is a **2003 documentary film** by Jonathan Karsh chronicling a year in the life of the Tom family. The Tom family is notable as the mother, Susan Tom, adopted eleven children, most of whom had serious disabilities or diseases.



<http://www.icdl.com/> The Interdisciplinary Council on Development and Learning (ICDL) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting each person's development to their fullest potential. ICDL was formed nearly 30 years ago and offers **trainings and online resources** for professionals and parents.



Getting in touch. Meeting the board

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Facebook

Another way to stay in contact is through our **Facebook** page, titled SENIB - Special Education Network in Beijing. It is a closed group, but you can request to join it at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1728937867318355/>

SENIA-Beijing Newsletter/WeChat

Are you interested to collaborate on our next edition? Ideas, experiences, questions, practices, and much more to share... Get in touch by emailing

Juliane Karlsson
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L.I.N.K

Do you want to participate on it?

Talk to **Dr. Gerald Anthony**
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