

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

City's schools connect globally

'True Love Knot' campaign promotes China's culture, art, history and attractions

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The Nanjing Youth Olympics' "True Love Knot" campaign is designed to connect primary and middle schools in Nanjing with their counterparts around the world. Through videos and blogs, students can share their country's culture, art, history and attractions. The following are some examples of the initiative.

YANZIJI MIDDLE SCHOOL 'TIES KNOT' WITH SCHOOL IN DENMARK

On April 2, students at Yanziji Middle School introduced their Danish counterparts to Nanjing's major tourist attractions, including Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, Xuanwu Lake and Meihua Mountain, via video conferencing. Students in Denmark presented their country's social and cultural background and made suggestions about how to build a Denmark culture pavilion at the Nanjing Youth Olympics.

Though the students in both countries spoke limited English, they managed to build an emotional bridge through their passion. After the campaign, many students became friends and have contacted each other through e-mails and letters.

NANJING NINTH MIDDLE SCHOOL CONNECTS WITH SWEDEN AND SUDAN

The Nanjing Ninth Middle School's dance team and basketball squad followed the city's mayor on a promotional campaign for the Nanjing Youth Olympics to Macao and Hong Kong.

The school, known for its sports and arts, successfully built a bridge to a learning center in Sweden with the help of the Nanjing Youth Olympics' organizing committee, but encountered difficulties getting in contact with schools in Sudan.

Instead, it managed to find Sudanese students in Nanjing and invited them to participate in the launch of the Sudan culture pavilion and brief them on Nanjing folk culture and local musical instruments. One Sudanese student gave a speech at the Great Hall of the People when China and Sudan first established diplomatic ties. Students from the Nanjing Ninth Middle School still hope to get in contact with schools in Sudan through the help of that student.



Students from different countries and regions join local students in the "True Love Knot" campaign in Nanjing. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Contact with the students in Sweden is mainly through e-mail. Communication is difficult due to the time difference, but it has never stopped. Popular topics include culture, sports and life in general.

12TH MIDDLE SCHOOL HOSTS VISITORS FROM HK, MACAO AND TAIWAN

On Jan 27, students from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan visited Nanjing 12th Middle School for the 200-day countdown to the Nanjing Youth Olympics and got a taste of the ancient city. At the Old East Gate, students from Nanjing 12th Middle School showed their Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan friends a Nanjing traditional tea house and various folk crafts.

During the visit, Xu Chuande, deputy secretary of the Nanjing Youth Olympics Organizing Committee, gave the guests Olympic tickets. Min Rui, from Hong Kong, said he was very excited to receive the gift and promised to spread the word about Nanjing and the Nanjing Youth Olympics when he returned home.

The Nanjing 12th Middle School also tied the knot with Broad Run High School in the United States. The schools began their partnership in 2009 and the friendship continues to grow.

RUIJIN BEICUN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

As one of the model schools for the Nanjing Youth Olympics, Ruijin Beicun Primary School successfully got into contact with students in the Dominican Republic.

To let their students learn more about the Dominican Republic, the school invited two Dominican students at Nanjing Normal University in January to give speeches about Dominican culture. The school also briefed the two students about the Dominican culture pavilion at the school. The students gave their own advice on the pavilion and performed a Dominican folk dance.

In May, the Ruijin Beicun Primary School contacted the Orion Academy in the Dominican Republic, with the help of the country's embassy in China, and successfully "tied the knot" in June.

13TH MIDDLE SCHOOL HONGSHAN CAMPUS CULTURE WEEKS.

The school held a Norway culture week in March and a Kenya culture week in May.

In December 2013, the school made contact with Ngata Middle School in Kenya through the help of a Kenyan student at Nanjing Agricultural University. A Kenya

culture week was held in May in preparation for the Kenya culture pavilion at the Youth Olympics. During the event, students showcased Kenya's history, architecture, art and sports achievements. A movie-dubbing competition was also organized in which 12 teams dubbed movies including *The Lion King*, *Madagascar* and *Goal!*. After the competition, students watched a film about Kenya and gained a deeper knowledge of the country.

Nanjing 13th Middle School Hongshan Campus also paired with the Ila School in Norway in February. The Ila School spoke highly of the 13th Middle School's Norway culture pavilion after receiving videos and photos. Meanwhile, the Ila School launched an optional Chinese course to provide its students with the opportunity to learn Chinese culture and language. Students at the Ila School wrote e-mails to their counterparts at the 13th Middle School to talk about school life and hobbies. They also asked questions about Chinese culture.

In March, the 13th Middle School launched a Norway culture week named "Listening to the Sound of Norway", where students watched a video about Norway and learned about Scandinavian myths and legends and the polar aurora. They also learned to sing the pop song *What Does the Fox Say?* by Norwegian singer Ylvis.