

Meet the Harlans

Jacob Harlan and his wife Kathrine currently live in Hunan, China, along with their five-year-old son, Riley, and one-year-old daughter, Emma. Jacob founded China Horizons six years ago after returning from a year teaching experience with Kathrine. Having met in 2001 in Chinese class, of all places, they were married nearly a year later, and arrived in China about four weeks after that.



As English teachers, without support from any agency or even curriculum structure, the Harlans were initiated to Chinese culture by about 2,000 middle school students—a fun and very demanding challenge.

Jacob and Kathrine returned home to finish degrees in Business Management and Economics, respectively, and recognized that there was a growing interest in China and her people. China Horizons was born. Jacob has arranged teaching positions every semester since the fall of 2003.

China Horizons has grown continually, and in the spring of 2009, the Harlans—now with two children—made plans to move to China in order to become more involved with the teachers and schools there. Jacob has frequent contact with CH teachers and their school leaders to ensure each teacher has the best possible experience. Living in China is a unique and enriching experience, difficult at times, but filled with learning, love, and making memories. Plus, the Harlans now get to meet all the teachers and hear their crazy stories!

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"Living in China is a unique and enriching experience... filled with learning, love, and making memories."



Chinese Corner

学习中文

华夏天边

0	4	8
零 (Líng)	(Sì)	八 (Bā)
1	5	9
一 (Yī)	五 (Wǔ)	九 (Jiǔ)
2	6	10
二 (Èr)	六 (Liù)	十 (Shí)
3	7	100
三 (Sān)	七 (Qī)	百 (Bǎi)

For Teens

EXAMPLES

- shí sì (14)
十四
- shí yī (11)
十一
- shí qī (17)
十七

For 20, 30, etc.

EXAMPLES

- sān shí (30)
三十
- wǔ shí (50)
五十
- bā shí (80)
八十

For 100's

EXAMPLES

- yī bǎi (100)
一百
- sì bǎi (400)
四百
- liù bǎi (600)
六百



Rebekah Olson

Rebekah lives in Yongzhou and teaches at Yongzhou Number 2 Middle School

Something you've learned from your students

How to be more forgiving

On thing you LOVE about China

The food, and my students

A difference in Chinese schools

Sometimes the students in the back of the class try to smoke, and they spit wherever they want...gross

A Chinese Phrase you know

Wo hen gaoxing renshi ni! (I'm glad to meet you)

Your favorite food

It's a beef dish with peppers, green beans, and rice, and it tastes kinda like Mexican food



Embarrassing Moment in China

In class I asked if there was anyone who would like me to give them an English name a student raised their hand and said they wanted one. The problem was I couldn't tell if the student was a boy or a girl! Inside I was freaking out and the first name I thought of was Brett. So I said "how about Brett?" All the students yelled out "that's a boy's name!" I turned bright red and said "well it actually is a girl's name too, but how about Nikki instead?" She liked that name and sat back down. I felt so bad.

Emily Soule

Emily lives in Shungpai and teaches at Shunagpai Number 2 Middle School

Something you've learned from your students

To be responsible, take your education seriously

On thing you LOVE about China

I LOVE MY STUDENTS!!!

A difference in Chinese schools

They are in school a lot longer. Some students work much harder than most American high school students do

A Chinese Phrase you know

Wo ai ni (I love you)

Your favorite food

This really good awesome red bean ice cream bar, all wrapped in a white, milky-smooth, creamy outside



Embarrassing Moment in China

A group of us were traveling in Kunming and I had been wearing socks and tennis shoes. We randomly decided to get a pedicure. I took off my socks and shoes and noticed my feet stunk really badly. I didn't say anything, hoping the smell would go away before they noticed. They however soon noticed the smell and realized it was me. I was so embarrassed. When we left, I didn't want to put my stinky socks back on my good smelling feet so I just left the socks and ran away. I didn't know what else to do! There are no garbage cans in China!



Only in China

- Driving Regulations... What driving regulations
- Did you know 5 people can fit on a mo-ped? Yep it's possible
- One English phrase the Chinese have mastered... "You are Beautiful"
- A grilled cheese sandwich may be the most complicated meal to explain. At least in China
- Honking in China is as common as smiling in the U.S.
- Have you seen those kids who have the backs of their pants cut out, so you can see their little bottoms?
- being told everything we want to eat is unhealthy while they are smoking a cigarette and drinking a beer



China Has Taught Me

Ever since I was little I've always been told to be a good example. You never know who may be watching you and may learn from your example, whether it's good or bad. Being here in China has taught me just how true this saying really is. One day I learned that my students thought all Americans were left-handed. I couldn't understand why

they would think this, until they pointed out that I wrote with my left hand. It's such a small detail that I wouldn't think would be noticed. But sure enough, they noticed. For my students, we are the first foreigners they have seen, so whatever we do or say they think goes for all Americans. This has taught me to make sure I am always being a good example because people do notice, especially here when you don't exactly blend in with the crowd. People will notice what you do or don't do.



---Alison Hubble

Food Story

As we headed out to dinner, the school picked a place that we had been to earlier in the week with delicious food, so we were excited that we might get some normal food. But we were completely wrong. The dishes were all a little exotic but Emily and I would just try each one



together. They all started telling us to try a dish that had not been touched by anyone, so I was a little nervous. If the Chinese people are not eating it, then it is a good sign for us to stay away as well. But I said, "What the heck, what could it possibly be? I've eaten everything." I asked them what it was and they all just laughed and said they would tell me after I ate it. So I grabbed some off the plate and I counted to three and placed it in my mouth.



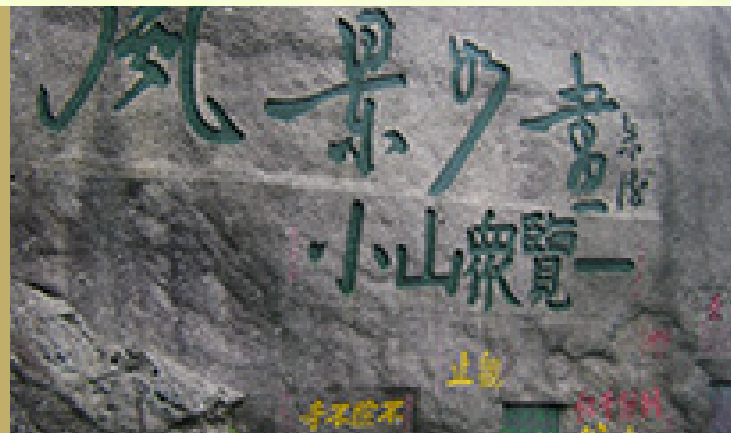
Then the laughter started, and I knew that it was not going to be good when I found out what it was. I showed them that I had eaten it all, and they just kept on laughing. Then finally my Chinese English teacher yelled out, "You just ate pig penis!" So I was wrong, I've never eaten anything like that before. I just started laughing and said, "I will have to put that in my journal!"

--- Haiden Siepert

For questions and comments or to receive more information about China Horizons
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