



A GLOBAL APPRECIATION OF PADUA

Wang YiMing or Colin came to Padua on the 14 July 2008 for an experience of life in an Australian school. A gifted Art student, Colin won the Gold prize in the Fourth International Cartoon Festival in his province of Jiangshu. A representation of his work accompanies this article. Colin's father, an orthopaedic surgeon, was doing a sabbatical at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. He wanted his son to learn some English and to enjoy the company of Australian boys. This is Colin's reflection.

My father and I came to Australia in July 2008. At first we had a holiday in Cairns. We saw the Great Barrier Reef. There were many colorful fish. Then we went to Brisbane on 12 July and on 14 July I began school at Padua College. I was worried about speaking English and whether people would understand me.

Padua is a boys' school. There were more than 20 boys in my class. They were very friendly towards me and helped me find my classrooms for the different subjects. I liked my Art class best of all. My teacher, Mrs Gault, taught me to draw a different way using charcoal. I showed her the picture I had done in China for the Olympic Games and she thought it was very good.

Sometimes I had trouble in understanding what was going on. One day it was "Two Cans Day". Every student in the school brought two cans for the poor people in the poor areas here. We could wear our own clothes to school. I didn't know about this day being special for the poor people. So I still wore my school uniform and I didn't take any cans to school. I was embarrassed about this but it did not really matter.

On that day some students sold food, coke or sweets, and it was cheaper than in the tuck shop. At lunchtime I listened to a debate between the houses. Our house, Grigg, was the winner. It was cool and I learned some new information.

Padua is very different from my school in China. In my school, the primary school and the middle school are both together. There are more than three thousand students in my school and there are nearly sixty students in my class. We have thirteen classes a day and each class goes for forty to forty-five minutes.

Most of us live at the school and go home every weekend. There are six buildings in my school for students to live in. Each building has five floors. Each floor has 20 rooms and twelve students live in each room. Some rooms are empty. We have our meals at school. We have egg or bread and rice with water for breakfast. There is soup, two kinds of meat, vegetables and rice for lunch and supper.

We get up at a quarter to six in the morning then we have morning exercise. We run around the playground. Grade Seven run for 300 metres; Grade Eight run for 600 metres, and Grade Nine run for 900 metres.

We study from ten to seven to half past eight at night. We have free time after each class. It's very short - only ten minutes. There is homework to do everyday or every weekend. We have an



exam every day after lunch and we have a PE lesson every day. We don't have to change our clothes for it. We learn Maths from a very early age. There are many competitions in China and that's why we study hard. We almost always stay in our class all day. We do not have lockers, just a small cupboard in the classroom and there is no P.C. The students there are friendly.

While we were at Padua the Olympic Games began in China. It was the 8th day of the 8th month 2008 and the games began at 8 o'clock at night in China. We watched the opening ceremony here in Brisbane and I was very excited and proud of my country. It was good to see the athletes from all around the world competing in many sports. At Padua we also had our own Sports Day. My house was Grigg and I took part in running some races - the 100 metres and 200 metres. I was very excited when I got a place.

I made many friends at school and the students are friendly. Padua is really a nice school.

I love Padua. Thank you!

Colin Wang, (Wang YiMing)

