

000229 Your Name

Today was my first day of class for the semester. I had four classes, all of varying levels. Two of the classes were for the non-boarding school students. I only see them once every other weeks. The other two classes were with the boarding school students. They pay more to go to school and so not only do they live at the school, they also get better teachers and facilities. All of the classes were of young students; probably 12 or so. I was the first non-Chinese English teacher that they have had at the school. I was told that a fun thing to do with them was to give them English names. I was at first opposed to this idea, but I was assured by other teachers that the kids loved it. So, I needed to come up with a list of names to give to the students. It is not easy to come up with 60 something names in class, so I wanted to be prepared. However, I still could not come up with the required number of names.

However, I got the brilliant idea of using my email distribution list. So, this email is to inform you that everyone on my list now has a Chinese student in one of my classes named after them. I really enjoyed looking for students that reminded me of my friends and family and the kids enjoyed it as I pondered as to what their name should be. However, there were a few kids that I could not figure out for the life of me if they were a boy or a girl. Fortunately, I had been forewarned and I had a list of names like: Pat, Sam, Dana, etc. prepared. My inability to tell the sex of a few of the kids has been shared by all of the volunteers. Lisa used to have the traumatic experience of teachers coming up to her with a student and asking Lisa if the student was a boy or a girl. Talk about scaring the kids!

So, I hope that you are well and I will let you know how your namesake is doing!

Jeff

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