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Undercover strip club sting involving lap dance



Inside C5

Southern DAILY

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U.S. gunmaker Remington seeks financing to file for bankruptcy

(Reuters) - Remington Outdoor Company Inc, one of the largest U.S. makers of firearms, has reached out to banks and credit investment funds in search of financing that will allow it to file for bankruptcy, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday. The move comes as Remington reached a forbearance agreement with its creditors this week following a missed coupon payment on its debt, the sources said. The company has been working with investment bank Lazard Ltd (LAZ.N) on options to restructure its \$950 million debt pile, Reuters reported last month. Remington is seeking debt-or-in-possession financing that will allow it to fund its operations once it files for bankruptcy, the sources said. The size of the financing and timing of Remington's bankruptcy plans could not be learned. Some potential financing sources,



including credit funds and banks, have balked at coming to Remington's aid because of the reputation risk associated with such a move, according to the sources. Remington, which is controlled by buy-out firm Cerberus Capital Management LP, was abandoned by some of Cerberus' private equity fund investors after one of its Bushmaster rifles was used in the Sandy Hook elementary school shooting in Connecticut in 2012 that killed 20 children and six adults. The sources asked not to be identified because the deliberations are confidential. Remington did not respond to several requests for comment. Cerberus declined to comment. Credit rating agencies have warned that Remington's capital structure is unsustainable given its weak operating performance and significant volatility in the demand for firearms and ammunition. Remington's sales have declined in part because of receding fears that guns will



become more heavily regulated by the U.S. government, according to credit ratings agencies. President Donald Trump has said he will "never, ever infringe on the right of the people to keep and bear arms." The Madison, North Carolina-based gun manufacturer faces a maturity of an approximately \$550 million term

loan in 2019. Remington also has \$250 million of bonds that come due in 2020 and are trading at a significant discount to their face value at around 16 cents on the dollar, according to Thomson Reuters data, indicating investor concerns about repayment. The term loan maturing next year

is also trading at a significant discount to full value, at around 50 cents on the dollar, the sources said. Remington's sales plunged 27 percent in the first nine months of 2017, resulting in a \$28 million operating loss.

BUSINESS NEWS

Bitcoin may not be worth all the hoopla

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Bitcoin and other digital currencies have, so far, not been formidable competition for cash, checks or credit cards as a payment method in the United States and other major economies, according to two economists at New York Federal Reserve. Virtual currencies usually thrive as an alternative form of payment during times of suspicion around traditional forms of payment, they said in a blog post published on Friday. For example, in 2015, as Greece struggled with its debt problem, Greek interest and trading in bitcoin jumped amid worries over capital controls and a possible exit from the euro zone, the New York Fed economists, Michael Lee and Antoine Martin said. "Cryptocurrencies arguably solve the problem of making payments in a trustless environment, but it is not obvious that this is a problem that needs solving, at least in the United States and other advanced economies," the post said. Indeed, bitcoin, ethereum, ripple and other digital currencies, while they have grown in use and popularity, have notable drawbacks, the economists

said. With bitcoin, extreme volatility tends to undermine its function of storing value. This is unlike a traditional currency that is managed by a central bank, they said. Bitcoin transactions also consume a lot of electricity and it takes time to validate transactions, the economists said. Right now, bitcoin transactions are estimated to use 48 terawatt hours of energy a year, an amount which could power 4.4 million of U.S. homes, according to Digiconomist, a blog about cryptocurrencies that Lee and Martin cited in their post. Cash and other traditional payment methods also offer convenience, a formidable advantage relative to cryptocurrencies, the economists said. "Fundamentally, we wonder whether a payment method designed to function where trust in institutions is completely absent can ever be as convenient as one where trust is required, but also already exists," Lee and Martin wrote. Bitcoin BTC=BTSP has seen its value tumble as much as 70 percent from a record peak near \$20,000 in mid-December. On Friday, it was at \$8,414.34 on the Luxembourg-based Bitstamp exchange.



"In a world where all things were priced in bitcoin, this would likely translate into

massive swings in inflation and economic activity," they said.

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Tesla CEO Elon Musk

The idea that Apple should buy Tesla has been floated many times. Apple now has more than enough cash coming back to the US to do the deal.

For openers, Tesla needs to be saved from its delusional idea and maybe unachievable view about the company's future growth — and Apple needs to be saved from the disaster of its car project. So maybe a “chemistry” is developing between the two mega companies.

Last November, Rolling Stone magazine published a profile of Tesla's CEO Elon Musk, written by Neil Strauss, a neo-gonzo journalist who made his name with a book about pickup culture. And in that interview Musk made a confession.

“I wish we could be private with Tesla,” Musk told Strauss. “It actually makes us less efficient to be a public company.”

Tesla has been public since its 2010 IPO and since then the stock has risen from about \$20 a share to nearly \$400 at one point in 2017. The company's market cap is now close to \$60 billion. Investors who jumped in seven years ago have enjoyed a return of nearly 1,200%.



New Tesla Roadster Planned

Musk might be the only person who wishes Tesla were private. Even short-sellers, recently clobbered by Tesla's surge, have been delighted when the stock has gone through one of its periodic swoons of \$100 in a few months. And ironically, Musk's next ten years of compensation are now completely tied to Tesla's market performance, which the board of directors thinks

**Would Apple Buy Tesla?
Not A Crazy Idea Anymore**

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

can yield a \$650-billion market cap. That's delusional. In many ways, it sets Musk up for both continued inefficiency — a lot of second-guessing about investments in automation, for example, at the expense of hitting production targets — and potentially epic failure. It also represents a radical formulation of shareholder value theory.

Tesla is wildly overvalued, and what it needs now isn't a fatter stock price but rather an ability to satisfy customers. For the Model 3 mass-market vehicle, currently stalled amid production bottlenecks, Tesla has 400,000 mostly unfulfilled pre-orders.

Apple buying Tesla is an idea that always seems to be on the table

In the past, there's been talk about somebody buying Tesla. Usually, Apple is the one that gets everybody's heart racing. This idea has been shot down several times. But with the announcement of Musk's new pay package, Tesla may need to be rescued from itself. And that Musk should get his wish.



Apple CEO Tim Cook

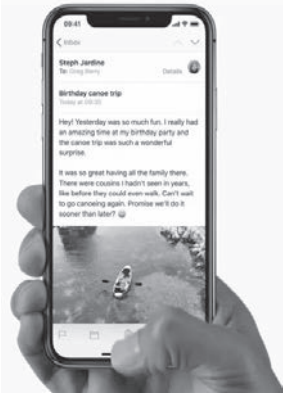
Tesla is worth so much that there aren't very many companies able to buy the automaker. And Tesla going truly private would be too much of a reversal of history as well as a financial improbability, although if the bottom falls out some investors might someday snap up what's left of Tesla on the cheap.

Apple, thanks to the new tax bill, will repatriate over \$250 billion is cash that it has been keeping overseas. Even after

paying taxes on it, at the reduced corporate rate, it will have arguably too much left over. It could easily wind up going into share buybacks or a dividend, or Apple could continue its pattern of making small acquisitions.

Or the company, which is sitting on a mature iPhone business that mints the profits but could be looking at more severe growth headwinds in coming years, could swing for the fences and get a piece of the multi-trillion global transportation industry. If Tim Cook agrees with the Tesla board that the company will be worth \$650 billion in a decade, then buying Tesla now would be a staggering bargain.

The obvious question is, “Who would be Tesla's CEO?” Musk's pay package is designed to ensure that it's him, an extreme evolution of addressing the “great man” risk that companies led by visionary founders face. But Musk is also running SpaceX and he's on the verge of launching a huge rocket that could pave the way for a Mars mission.



Apple's iPhone X

That said, Musk could remain CEO of Tesla as an independent business unit of Apple, while Tim Cook would run the entire show (Musk could also relinquish the CEO title but continue as chairman of the board). In a way, Cook isn't really a CEO in the Musk/Steve Jobs vein anyway. He's more like a mega-COO.

And that's just what Tesla actually needs right now. If it was Jobs who rescued Apple and put it on the path that led to the iPod and the iPhone, it was Cook who turned the company into the profit-making colossus it has become. The guy is a sup-

ply-chain genius. Making stuff is his bag. And at the moment, Tesla is struggling mightily to make stuff, falling well behind its ambitious production targets for the Model 3 mass-market vehicle.

Tesla would also witness its cash-burn challenges — over \$1 billion per quarter — vanish. Apple could fund losses for years.

Tesla could help Apple get into the car business because Apple's Car project isn't going well

Apple has a history of falling into innovations troughs. It's in one now, following the monumental success of the iPhone. The Apple Watch hasn't been a gamechanger, and the company is chasing Amazon on smart speakers. Apple clearly wants to do something in the transportation space, but thus far its efforts have been at best confused and at worst pathetic.

Buying Tesla would change that overnight. The Apple Car, really, is a Tesla car anyway. The whole philosophy behind Tesla's vehicles, and especially the ultra-minimalist Model 3, is Apple-esque. The wait for the Apple Car would be immediately over.



The Apple Car

When the autonomous all-electric 2021 Apple car is launched at Tesla-style Apple boutique stores, will it come in silver, gold, and space gray? Will its 400 miles range be enough?

And that would enable Apple to focus on bringing to Tesla what Apple's engineers and designers are now probably working on: an entirely new vehicle interface — an operating system for the car of the future. Tesla has aspects of such a system in

place, from over-the-air software updates to an increasing focus on single screens for all vehicle operations. Apple would enhance and unify these components and transform them into something unexpected. This is Apple's mojo: take something that works and make it much, much better.

Missing out on a mega-return — but one that isn't likely

Tesla market cap has become epic

For investors, of course, Apple buying Tesla would eliminate any chance of a mega-return. But I think the odds are low that the 1,000%-plus payback of the past seven years will be matched by another 1,000% surge over the next ten years (Tesla is, after all, 14 years old — hardly a startup). If Tesla stays public, stockholders will also have to put up with numerous, diluting capital raises and the ever-present threat that Tesla's lack of cash and debt burden will lead to a bankruptcy.



Is this a logo consumers will see in the future?

If Apple bought Tesla, the carmaker's growth would be piped into Apple shares, and Tesla investors would certainly get a premium for their holdings, as Apple can afford to overpay. And government regulators should not have issues with the merger. Sure, Apple would be buying the dominant electric-car manufacturer. But as of 2018, the EV market makes up only 1% of global sales.

The “foolishness” of an Apple acquisition of Tesla could become a swift reality were it not for the reckless pay package that Tesla has now put together for Musk. And now Tesla is fueling a dangerous idea about the company's real capabilities. Somebody needs to save Tesla from itself. That somebody is Apple. (Courtesy <https://www.todaynova.com/2018>)



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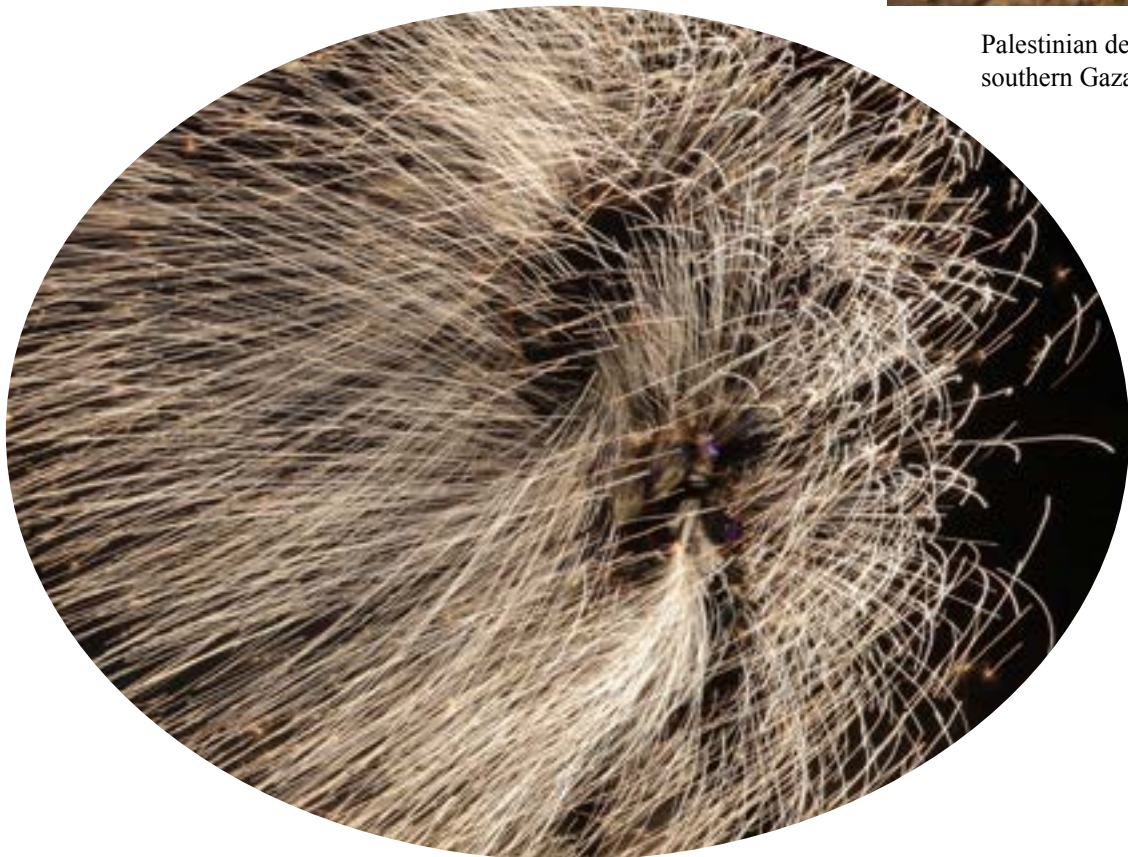
A Snapshot Of The World



Demonstrators are reflected in the glasses of an another demonstrator during an anti-North Korea protest before the opening ceremony for the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang



Palestinian demonstrator reacts during clashes with Israeli troops, near the border with Israel in the southern Gaza StripKim Kyung-Hoon



Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics – Opening ceremony – Pyeongchang Olympic Stadium - Pyeongchang, South Korea – February 9, 2018 - Opening ceremony. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Visitor hangs his wish to a lantern at a lantern fair ahead of the Chinese Lunar New Year, or Spring festival, in Xian



Icicles hang from a gargoyle on the Sacre Coeur basilica at the Butte Montmartre in Paris



Dignitaries attend the Winter Olympics opening ceremony in Pyeongchang



Blood stains a door following a twin bombing inside a mosque in Benghazi



Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics



Show dancers of Friedrichstadt-Palast dressed as Divine, Kim Kardashian, Madonna and Conchita Wurst pose during a press event at a subway train in Berlin

The Chinese New Year, Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, as it's been called since the 20th century, remains the most important social and economic holiday in China, and today is celebrated by Chinese people and people of other cultures and ethnic origins all around the world.

This most happy, joyful and ancient of all holiday for Chinese all started out of fear, according to centuries-old legend. While the origins of the New Year celebration varies from teller to teller, all legends include the story of a terrible mythical monster who preyed all the villagers of the land. The lion-like monster's name was Nian (年) which is also the Chinese word for "year." The stories also all include a wise old man who counsels the villagers to scare off the evil Nian by making loud noises with drums and firecrackers and hanging red paper cutouts and scrolls on their doors because, for some reason, the Nian was very fearful of the color red. As legend has it, the villagers took the old man's advice and the Nian was conquered. So on the anniversary of the date, the Chinese recognize the "passing of the Nian" known in Chinese as guo nian (過年), which is shared with the new year celebrations.



Today, Chinese New Year is celebrated in China and in countries and territories with significant Chinese populations, including Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Mauritius, The Philippines and China Towns all over the world.

Based On The Lunar Calendar

The date of Chinese New Year changes each year because it is based on the lunar calendar. While the western Gregorian calendar is based on the earth's orbit around the sun, China and most Asian countries use the lunar calendar that is based on the moon's orbit around the earth. Chinese New Year always falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice. Other Asian countries such as Korea, Japan and Vietnam also celebrate new year using the lunar calendar.

Originally tied to the lunar-solar Chinese calendar, the holiday was a time to honor household and heavenly deities as well as ancestors. It was also a time to bring family together for feasting. With the popular adoption in China of the Western calendar in 1912, the Chinese joined in celebrating January 1 as New Year's Day.

Ancient History Of Asian Culture Will Come Alive At The 22nd Annual Texas International Lunar Festival

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

新年快樂
Happy Chinese New Year

China, however, continues to celebrate the traditional Chinese New Year, although in a shorter version with a new name—the Spring Festival. Significantly, younger generations of Chinese now observe the holiday in a very different manner from their ancestors. For some young people, the holiday has evolved from an opportunity to renew family ties to a chance for relaxation from work.



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner (center) joined Southern News Chairman Wea H. Lee and participants in the 21st Annual Texas International Lunar Festival in 2017.

Chinese History Comes Alive
Today, the spirit of the traditional Chinese New Year lives on in the 22nd Annual Texas International Lunar Festival (www.texaslunarfest.net), the largest celebration of Asian culture in the south central part of the United States, being



Lunar Festival Dragon Dance in the 1920's in the U.S.

held this year on Saturday, February 24, 2018, in front of the Southern News Group Building in Southwest Houston, located at 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, Texas 77072.

This year's Festival will have an international theme highlighting the many countries and cultures of the world and will include cultural displays, international food and vendor booths, international entertainment, acrobats, lion dances, martial arts demonstrations, music and dancing by international performers, carnival rides, games and door prizes for every age group. The festival's activities are carefully selected to complement this great and exciting celebration with lively international entertainment that reflects the many diverse groups living here in the Houston community.



You will even find zesty traditional German dancing at the 22nd Annual Texas International Lunar Festival!

We not only celebrate an important part of Asia but also include International performances. In the Chinese lunar calendar a different animal or mythological beast represents every year in a twelve year cycle. The year of 2018 is the year of the Dog.

At the annual Texas Lunar Festival, we celebrate the impressive qualities of every culture while celebrating the Asian Lunar New Year. For the past 21 years, community leaders and volunteers have worked hard to promote the remarkable diversity and impressive leadership of the greater Asian community while fostering friendship among nearly every culture.

Thanks to the remarkable success of previous festivals, we have expanded this year's festival! Our commitment to cultural diversity and the promise of a stronger tomorrow starts at our festival. The success of previous festivals has proven our dedication and enthusiasm to expand above and beyond our former festivals.



Thousands of citizens across the great State of Texas visit our festival every year. From the exciting entertainment to the remarkable cuisine, the Texas Lunar Festival not only celebrates Houston...but every culture across our beautiful planet.

Since 1979, Southern News Group has not only built the largest Asian media complex in the southwestern United States, but has also reached out to the broader community of southwest Houston with programs that respond to the growing ethnic diversity of this unique section of one of America's fastest growing cities.

We have initiated and been the driving force behind many community projects, programs and events that include the Texas Lunar New Year Festival, the McDonald's Education Workshops, the Texas African Summit, the ITC Education Institute and have aired many more educational, cultural and business-related television programs on our digital television station, STV 15.3, as well as having hosted over 200 international business related meetings and events at our International Trade Center.



The 22nd Annual Texas International Lunar Festival is being hosted by Southern News Group, Chinese New Year Festival Inc., International Trade Center, International Management District, and STV 15.3.

For more information please contact Jennifer Lopez at 281-983-8152 or jenniferitc@gmail.com

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Undercover strip club sting involving lap dance from underage dancer questioned by club's attorney

By Fernando Alfonso III

An attorney now suing the city on behalf of a Houston strip club called Fantasy Plaza has questioned the propriety of tactics used by undercover vice officers in arguing unfair treatment of the club by city officials.

The club, off of North Freeway, was ordered to close temporarily on Monday by Judge Frederica Phillips, who ruled in favor of a petition filed by assistant county attorney Rosemarie Donnelly in December. The petition cited more than 30 arrests made at the club since 2014, according to court documents.

In 2017 alone, more than four dancers were arrested for prostitution, with one offering to have sex with an undercover officer in exchange for \$500, according to court documents. There have also been numerous shootings at or near the club, including one on March 14 in a parking lot behind it that resulted in one death, court documents state.

Days before Judge Phillips' order shuttering the club, Fantasy Plaza's attorney, Albert Van Huff, filed a federal lawsuit Feb. 1 alleging that the club has been treated unfairly because it is not part of a 2013 settlement that allows 16 other clubs to operate outside a strict city code regulating sexually oriented businesses in exchange for payments into the city's human-trafficking abatement fund.

The vice tactics questioned by Van Huff involve an incident in June 2017, when three Houston vice officers went to the club after receiving information about a missing juvenile working there as a dancer. The officers had been given three photos of the girl provided by her mother, according to a police report on the incident. The photographs showed a mole under her collar-

bone.

One of the officers saw a girl "consistent with the photographs" but wrote in the incident report that he remained "unsure" if she was the runaway. He then paid her \$40 for a lap dance, during which she pressed her bare breasts against his face and straddled the officer, simulating sexual intercourse, according to the report.

As she leaned back, the officer wrote, he was "able to observe a small mole on her upper middle chest area below her collar bone which was consistent with the photographs officers had been provided." The girl was then detained by police and taken to the Juvenile Division. In the days following the apprehension of the runaway girl, an HPD officer returned to the strip club, questioned the manager, and later arrested him and two other strip club employees for sexually-oriented business ordinance violations and harmful employment of a minor. According to the HPD report, managers told police the girl had used a fake ID to get hired at the club.

Of the three men arrested at Fantasy Plaza in June, two have had their cases dismissed, according to court documents.

Van Huff expressed outrage in an interview that the officer paid for a lap dance before the runaway 16-year-old was taken into custody. The dance was unnecessary in making the identification, he said.

Donnelly, the assistant county attorney, said any suggestion that the officer's conduct was unwarranted is incorrect, given the nature of the operation.

"I think HPD officers we work with in the past have the highest integrity and ethics. The implication that they did something wrong is some-



thing I strongly disagree with," said Donnelly. Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo said he unequivocally backed the conduct of his officers in identifying the runaway and taking her into custody. "They didn't do anything inappropriate," Acevedo said. "I'm just happy we were able to get her and get her the hell out of there." Alan Bernstein, director of communications for Mayor Sylvester Turner, declined to comment on the June undercover operation. Michael Shively, a senior associate at Abt Associates, a Boston-based public policy research firm that deals in part with issues of criminal justice, said he has never heard of a police officer receiving a lap dance from a minor in order to identify a missing runaway. Shively added that it "seems unnecessary simply to make an ID on that person." "I would guess the face in the photos would make her recognizable in person, so I am

not sure why the mole is so critical to observe in order to make an ID," Shively said in an email. "One would hope the officer could have arranged the private dance, then made a sufficient ID from her face and height, weight, skin tone, etc obtained from the mother and photos. Once alone and if she seemed a likely match, the officer could have simply asked to see her for her identification, and if refused taken her into custody and sorted it out at the station," Shively said. Lawrence Karson, an assistant professor of criminal justice at the University of Houston-Downtown and former supervisor of federal law enforcement officers, shared similar sentiments. Karson called the officer's behavior in June "morally repugnant."

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KATY周六中文學校特設2歲-4歲幼兒班和5歲-12年級實力班 採用馬立平漢拼簡體字課本教學，珠心算數學、繪畫、GT英數、老外學中文、鋼琴、舞蹈、籃球、乒乓球、西洋棋。 珠心算實力班及數學高分保證班 (5歲-G8) 梁楚宜校長親授珠心算(加、減、乘、除)技巧，啟發智慧，增強記憶力，配合應用數學分析演算，訓練思考邏輯及計算能力的快又準，使學習過程不在害怕，而是充滿自信，質量控管限定70位。 糖城、凱蒂唯一蒙特梭利雙語學校 (1歲半-5歲) 由Montessori專業執照經驗教師分級小班教學，獨特教材及教具訓練手部肌肉，使幼兒反應靈活強化自信心及群體生活能力，提升日後認真學習、閱讀書寫能力及情緒穩定。天天密集中文教學建立識字背誦好根基。供午餐及早晚點心。 課後輔導班 After School (PreK-9年級) 校車接送，完成作業，每日密集分級中文(漢拼簡體)教學、英數加強、考題訓練、提供點心，定期和家長聯繫。 暑期國外來美遊學營 (5歲-14歲) 安排知(感)性參觀從活動中潛移默化的認識美國生活文化、遠程旅遊。	國際熱愛大自然促進會 教導學生大自然快樂操、歡喜歌以達和諧的身心教育。 暑期游泳訓練密集班 (瀚威校內標準游泳池) 專業教練教授呼吸划水、滾翻轉身、蹬腿出發、自由泳、仰泳、蛙泳、蝶泳。 繪畫基礎、中級、高級班 (5歲以上) 由三位專業老師教授各種繪畫技巧、物像遠近大小比率、色彩調配、及不同筆具和材料之使用。含素描、彩色鉛筆、馬克筆、炭、墨汁、水彩、油彩、粉彩、膠彩并定期畫展。 籃球&乒乓球 1 on 1 或 5-12歲 控球/運球/投籃/傳球/接傳/防守/進攻/團隊戰略/體能彈跳。 孔子學院國家漢語考試中心(HSK)漢語水平考試、(YCT)中小學生漢語考試、請上網查詢報名：www.chinesetest.cn
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