The Chinese language program in 2018 is shaped to establish a model for building students’ intercultural communicative capabilities and to embrace cultural diversities in the Two Rock community.

Academically, the Chinese program in 2018 will focus on implementing a new Chinese language curriculum published by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCSA). While only the year 3 Chinese language curriculum is mandated, the Chinese language program at Two Rocks Primary School is prepared to deliver SCSA’s new Chinese language curriculum from pre-primary to year 4. Year 5 and 6 will be on an extended version of the current year 4 curriculum and is aimed at building on their existing language skills and knowledge.

2018 will see the Chinese language program actively seeking opportunities for students to connect and communicate with students from Chinese speaking countries as well as students who are learning Chinese in Western Australia. The modes of communication will include written, synchronous online meetings and asynchronous video exchanges.

Students from year 2 to 6 will participate in the inaugural TRPS Chinese writing and speaking competitions. Winners will be presented with trophies and ribbons. Six written compositions from year 3 to 6, respectively, will be selected to enter into the WA State Chinese Writing Competition held by the Chinese Language Teachers’ Association Western Australia (CLTAWA). Two candidates from year 5 and 6 respectively will be sought to participate in the WA State Chinese Speaking competition also held by CLTAWA in early September.
Culturally, students from pre-primary to year 6 and their parents will be treated to a double lion dance performance as part of the Chinese New Year celebrations at the beginning of the 2018 school year. By including parents in cultural celebrations, we hope to start building meaningful connections and to nourish the cultural diversity in the Two Rocks community. There will also be two Chinese cooking sessions in 2018 and students will be introduced to making two different kinds of stir fry noodles where the main ingredients will be supplied by our very own Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden (SAKG).

To empower students in their own language learning, a copy of Assessment Pointers for each year level from pre-primary to year 6 have been made available online from the Two Rocks Primary School’s website. A list of online Chinese language tools, apps and resources are also made available at the end of the Assessment Pointers. These resources are not only useful for students to use and practise at home, they are particularly helpful to assist families and students who are new to the Chinese language program in bridging the gaps in their language skills and knowledge.

I look forward to a fruitful year of teaching and learning whilst breaking new ground both in making meaningful connections with the Two Rocks community and in students’ growing ability to communicate with students from near and far. Should you have any queries: Please contact me via email to shu-chuan.croker@education.wa.edu.au.