

TEACHER PROFILE: Sha Kaiyuan, Principal



Sha Kaiyuan, principal and teacher at Yangjuan Primary School since 2000.

Sha Kaiyuan (Nuosu: Shama Vahxie) has been the principal of Yangjuan Primary School for nearly 10 years. Principal Sha was born in 1976 to a former serf family in Mianya, Yanyuan County. He graduated from Xichang Normal School in 1995, and taught at Baiwu Primary School for two years. He received his associate's degree from Liangshan Normal College in 2000, and came to Yangjuan Primary School as its first principal in September 2000, when he was only 24 years old.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Principal Sha teaches part-time, specializing in advanced elementary mathematics and Mandarin Chinese. He is known as a gifted teacher, and along with other dedicated

teachers, he has consistently led Yangjuan students in the 5th and 6th grades to the highest marks in the school district, and the highest rates of admission to the best middle schools in the county.

Principal Sha is also a talented musician and artist. He has composed many popular Nuosu-language songs. His artwork has appeared along with that of students in various Yangjuan Primary School exhibitions. He is recently married and is the proud father of a 4-month old son.



Sha Kaiyuan helps explain the procedure for families to accept scholarship money on behalf of their students, while CMEF President Steve Harrell and other Yangjuan Primary School teachers look on.

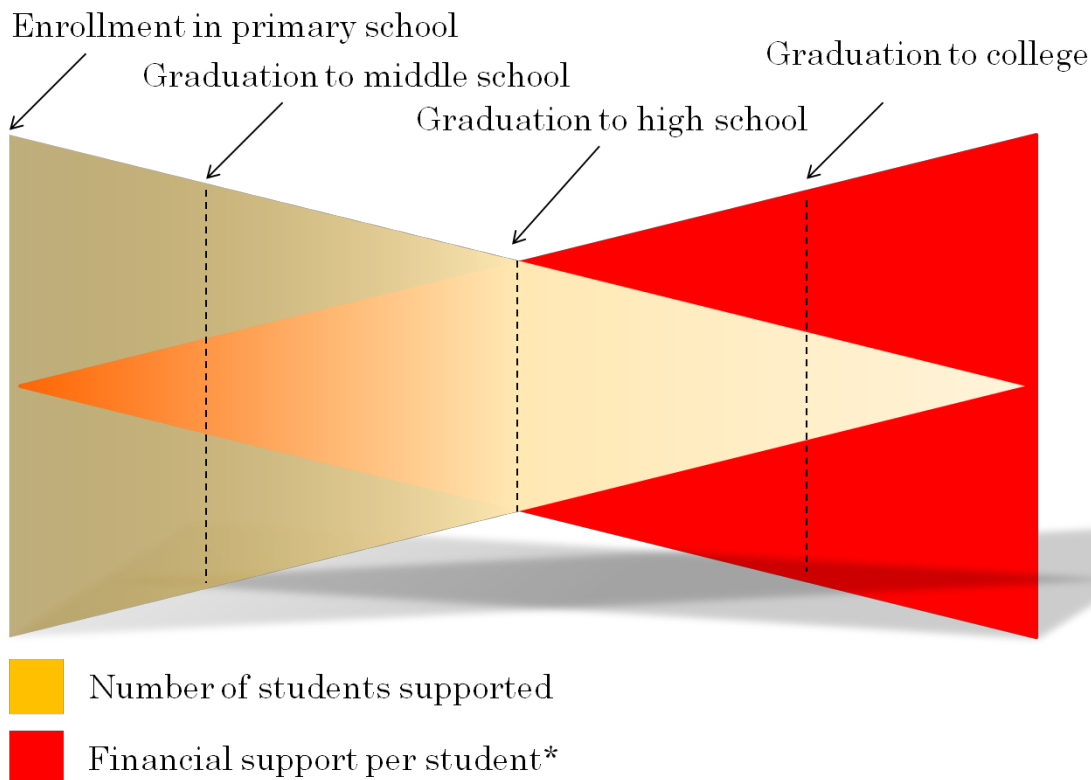
We thank Principal Sha for his many years of dedicated service, which has been a tremendous contribution to the success of Yangjuan Primary School and its graduates.

EDUCATION FINANCE REFORM in CHINA and REVISIONS to the CMEF GIVING PLAN

Since the 1990s, the national Chinese education system has officially required nine years of free education; however, until a few years ago, poorer areas of the country like Liangshan had an unfunded educational mandate. This meant that families still paid the entire cost of sending their children to middle school. *The Cool Mountain Education Fund helped families to bridge that gap, with middle school scholarships starting in 2005.* Gradually, the cost of middle school tuition has decreased as promised subsidies have been provided. Many families can now afford the cost of middle school for their children.

Since 2005, we have seen larger and larger numbers of Yangjuan Primary School graduates proceed to high school. A high school education is still not compulsory, and families still pay the full cost of tuition, room and board, which is much higher than ever were the costs to attend middle school *The Cool Mountain Education Fund's mandate now is to help those children to stay in high school.*

We are therefore shifting the focus of our scholarship program to high school students. We will maintain our support of Yangjuan Primary School operations and teachers, and continue to offer modest scholarships to students who successfully test into middle school. Cool Mountain Education Fund is increasing funding for high school-bound students to form the majority of our gift to the Yangjuan community. We anticipate their successful graduation from high school and pursuit of further education in the future.



* Financial support increases as students transition from primary to secondary to higher education.

STUDENT PROFILE: Ma Yifei

Ma Yifei is among the original students of Yangjuan Primary School, and a member of the first graduating class in 2005. His grandfather, Mgebbu Viezur, was a famous herbal doctor in the village, who died in 2007 at the age of 85. With help from a Cool Mountain scholarship, he went on to Nationalities Middle School in the Yanyuan about an hour by bus from Yangjuan, where he is now a high school junior. Ma Yifei's parents were both farmers. Since both of their children are now studying away from home, Ma Yifei's parents turned their farmland over to their relatives, and are now short-term migrant laborers. Ma Yifei is known for his good study habits and love of learning. After he finishes high school, Ma YiFei could be eligible for a college scholarship from Cool Mountain Education Fund.



Ma Yifei, a high school junior and Yangjuan Primary School alumnus.

CALL for INTEREST in 10-YEAR CELEBRATION of YANGJUAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

As many of you know, Yangjuan Primary School will observe 10 years of instruction in Summer 2010. The Cool Mountain Education Fund will also observe its 5 year anniversary this summer. To celebrate, this year's scholarship awards ceremony will be very special. Teachers, parents, students, alumni and friends of the school will gather in Yangjuan village to celebrate and re-visit our accomplishments in late August 2010. **Would you like to join us?**

The CMEF Board calls for your interest in attending as a special guest. Special guests would be escorted to and from the village festivities, given hiking tours of the area, meet village residents and students and taste the local cuisine. Special guests would attend the major award ceremony to celebrate the re-introduction of kindergarten to Yangjuan's curricular offerings, review progress on a water systems improvement project, as well as to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates. You could be a special guest with a generous gift, in addition to airfare, transportation and other travel costs. If you would like to learn more about how to become a special guest, please contact Steve Harrell (steverhar@uw.edu), Lauren Brown, (lebrown@u.washington.edu), or Tami Blumenfield (tamiblu@uw.edu) to discuss additional details. We hope you'll consider participating in this inspiring event.



CMEF in the NEWS

If you visited the University of Washington website in December, you may have seen two mentions of the Cool Mountain Education Fund. CMEF was featured alongside other NGOs founded by UW alumni, and in an article on our history in the UW College of Arts and Sciences newsletter. We're excited to see our efforts and our supporters' generosity recognized by the university community.



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HOW to MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

With your support, the Cool Mountain Education Fund can continue its mission of improving education in southwest China. Here's how you can make a tax-deductible donation:

- **Buy a calendar.** The 2010 Yangjuan Primary School calendar features UW and SU student photography. Purchase one or more calendars on coolmountainfund.com.
- **Buy local handicrafts from the Nuosu Marketplace.** Among the beautiful items for sale are laquerware pieces painted in vivid designs of red, black and yellow, hand-embroidered cloth, clothing and jewelry. Purchase these beautiful items on coolmountainfund.com/NuosuMarketplace. Payment and shipping are easy using PayPal.
- **Make an in-kind donation.** We appreciate donations of the following items: digital cameras, digital voice recorders, memory cards, external hard drives, laptop computers, and donated brochure printing.
- **Make an unrestricted contribution.** A one-time gift in any amount will be very useful to this year's graduates at coolmountainfund.com/contribute.html
- **Endow a three-year scholarship.** With this gift, a graduate of Yangjuan Primary School can attend the Prefectural Middle School in Xichang, or two graduates can attend good middle schools in Yanyuan County. Pledge \$150 per year for the next three years, and receive a beautiful landscape or nature painting by artist Li JinYuan.

To discuss potential in-kind donations or contributions, please contact us at coolmountain@coolmountainfund.com

**All orders and contributions should be sent to
Cool Mountain Education Fund, 5038 16th Avenue N.E., Seattle, WA 98105**

Dedicated to the education of the Nuosu people and their neighbors;
working for the preservation and improvement of Liangshan's environment.