

Morning workout: Students with the Beijing Tibetan Middle School stretch during morning exercise class.



Photos by ZHANG LIANG/China Daily

# Students make capital their own

## Beijing Tibetan Middle School marks 15th anniversary

By YU NAN  
China Daily staff

Dressed in his black and golden Tibetan robe made by his mom, Pengzuo Zhaxi, a 17-year-old Tibetan boy, anxiously waited in the dressing room for his turn to perform, whispering the lyrics of his song.

The 800-square-metre auditorium was stuffed with people in colourful festive attire. Their ovations hovered under the eaves.

It was October 20. The cold wind of Beijing's late autumn moaning outside but the only things the people inside the auditorium could feel were warmth, happiness, excitement and pride.

The great party was held to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Beijing Tibetan Middle School. More than 760 students, about 200 teachers

Pengzuo Zhaxi, who is in the second grade of the senior class, composed a song in Tibetan and prepared for the show for two months.

"The name of the song is 'Bless,'" he said before going on stage. "I made it to show my affection for my school which is also my home in Beijing."

Coming from a herdsman's family in Nagqu, in the northern part of the Tibet Autonomous Region, Pengzuo Zhaxi is the third of five brothers and sisters. He was born with a beautiful voice.

"I have loved singing since childhood. I used to sing facing wide grasslands, blue sky, white clouds and herds of yaks, but now I am used to facing the audience and holding a microphone," he said, smiling.

Pengzuo Zhaxi is one of the best solo singers in the school's troupe. Besides singing, he also likes to play football and basketball after class.

Describing Beijing as his second hometown, Pengzuo Zhaxi said he doesn't miss his home in Tibet very much, although he has gone home only once during his six years of study here.

"The weather is warmer here," was his simple reason.

Pengzuo Zhaxi and the other 759 students in the school are top students from Tibet. Half of them came from herdsmen's or farmers' families, according to the

**Educational base**  
Founded in 1987, the school was built under the guidance and sponsorship of the central government. Setting up Tibetan classes or schools in better-developed cities is a means to help ease the region's shortage of teaching staff and educational resources.

So far, the country has instituted 23 Tibetan classes at the junior and senior school levels, and 50 classes at the technical-school level. These classes, scattered throughout 100 schools in 25 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, are attended by about 14,000 Tibetan students.

The Beijing Tibetan Middle School is one of the best.

The school enrolls 200 students from Tibet each year, 100 for junior classes, and the rest for senior middle classes. The students' daily living and study expenses are all covered by the school, according to Yu.

"The school keeps growing," said Yu at the ceremony. "Next year, we will have 18 classes and 810 students."

### Sweet home Beijing

Although six years have passed, Cidan Wangmu, an 18-year-old Tibetan girl from Shigatse (also known as Xigatse) Prefecture in west Tibet, still remembers her home.

But she will also never forget as she waved goodbye to her parents at the railway station. Facing a totally unfamiliar city so far away from home, Cidan Wangmu, then only 11, was uncertain of her fate.

But when she arrived at the Beijing Tibetan Middle School and saw the Potala-Palace-style school buildings, her homesickness was a little eased.

"The school has offered us a comprehensive Tibetan-style life here, which is very in-tune with our local customs," Cidan Wangmu said.

"We can drink tea with milk, our favourite drink, and eat traditional Tibetan food and celebrate the Tibetan Lunar New Year.

"But what really helped us overcome our homesickness was the care of our teachers," she added. "They treat us like their daughters and sons, and even better."

Besides their teaching job, the 60 teachers in the school are also responsible for the students' daily life. For example, they remind their students to dress properly when the weather turns cold, and they take care of them the whole day and whole night when they are ill in hospital, and they hold birthday parties for each of them.

"The students left their homes so far away when they were only children, and it is not easy for them," said Yan Suyin, 53, who is in charge of student affairs and began working at the school when it was

founded. "We don't have holidays or weekends because we have to stay with the students, who cannot easily go home," she said.

Zhang Mei, 39, who teaches Chinese in senior classes, said students from Tibet have many special and good characteristics.

"They are more unadorned, honest and modest and more diligent in their studies compared with local Beijing students," she said.

### Busy schedules

In addition to basic subjects such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, history, biography, geography, music and physical education, the school also offers English and Tibetan language classes.

"We have eight classes every day and two self-study classes each night," said Cidan Wangmu, who is studying in the third-grade of the senior class and will take the national college entrance exams next June.

"The key advantages of studying in Beijing are that we can get in touch with the deeper aspect of knowledge and we are better informed on major domestic and international affairs, compared to our peers in our hometowns," she said.

Cidan Wangmu said she will miss her warm dormitory and the library where she often immerses herself in all kinds of Chinese and foreign novels when she leaves here half a year from now.

### Service for Tibetans

So far, the school has graduated 1,072 students from junior classes and 1,125 from senior classes, according to the school secretary Qi Yuekuan.

"Among them, more than 600 are back in Tibet working after having finished their college study," he said. "They are working in different fields where they are becoming the pillars of the community."

Dawa Ciren, who graduated from the Beijing Tibetan Middle School in 1993 and later studied at the Beijing Medical University (now the Peking University Health Science Centre), is a doctor in the Tibetan People's Hospital in Lhasa.

All of his classmates, whose jobs range from archaeologist to film director, work in Tibet now.

"Beijing Tibetan Middle School is where our dreams start, and in Tibet the dream is fulfilled," he said.



Studying hard: Cangda, 17, reads a magazine about Tibet in the library of the Beijing Tibet Middle School, where he is now in the second grade of the senior class.

## TODAY'S TELEVISION

<b>CCTV-1 Channel 2</b>	10:23 World of Arts	21:46 Jiayi Drama
	11:20 Half of the Sky	22:41 Late-night Theatre
	17:30 Animation World	23:36 Original Cinema: Canadian movie
	18:09 Children's programme: Dafengche	
	19:00 News; weather	<b>CCTV-9</b>
	23:28 Discovery Journey	18:00 Financial Report
<b>CCTV-2 Channel 8</b>	10:30 Road to Health	19:30 Around China
	15:30 TV Shopping	20:15 Travel Guide
	17:05 China Market Update	21:00 World Wide Watch
	19:00 Job Hunting	22:00 CCTV News
	19:30 China Business News	<b>BTV-1 Channel 6</b>
	21:34 Economy 30 Minutes	12:30 Capital Economy News
	22:10 Quiz Show	16:10 Beijing Time
		18:30 News; weather
<b>CCTV-4 Channel 32</b>	10:05 Across the Straits	19:53 Serial: Story of 2001 (3)
	16:10 Oriental Horizon	20:49 Variety show
	19:50 About Taiwan	<b>BTV-2 Channel 21</b>
	20:05 China Showbiz	13:08 Live Now
	20:30 Around China	14:28 Let's Talk About the Past
	21:30 China Report	15:46 Beijing Opera House
<b>CCTV-6 Channel 18</b>	12:09 Movie Stars	18:20 Top Chinese Music
	14:25 US movie	Serial: Flowing to the Ocean (9, 10)
	18:12 Documentary: Movies Today	22:46 Arts & Culture
	19:06 Documentary: Opening-up & Co-operation (2)	<b>BTV-3 Channel 27</b>
	21:23 Watching and Talking	12:00 Legal Times
	22:02 French comedy	15:55 Knowledge Is Power
<b>CCTV-8 Channel 29</b>	12:00 Movie songs	17:35 Serial: Women & the City (16)
	17:35 Studio Express	18:54 Discovery Channel
	18:10 Children's Theatre	19:30 Science and Technology
	19:00 Animal World	20-part serial: Hero of Justice (15, 16)
	20:00 Prime-time Theatre: The Pride (3, 4)	<b>BTV-4 Channel 17</b>
		12:00 Serial: Forty-something Men (49)
		13:04 Star Profiles
		18:35 Entertainment News
		19:10 Entertainment Live
		19:45 Serial: Shanghai Story (27, 28)

## WHAT'S ON

**Acrobatic Show**  
Chaoyang Theatre is a theatre which specializes in acrobatics all the year round. Many top acrobatic artists from all over the country are invited to perform for the Chinese and foreign tourists.  
Venue: Chaoyang Theatre, 36 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District, Beijing  
Time: 7:15 pm, nightly Telephone: 6507-2421, 6507-1818

**Kung Fu Show**  
The 90-minute performance displays dazzling skills of mysterious Chinese kung fu in a hero-plus-beauty story. Fifty kung fu masters amaze the audience with bare-handed practice, one-to-one competing and weapons practice.  
Time/Dates: 19:30, nightly  
Venue: Xin Rong Theatre (16 Baizhifang Road, Xuanwu District)  
Presented by Beijing Detian Shunyi Culture Development Co., Ltd.  
Tel: 8354-0774, 8354-0775

**China National Acrobatic Circus** was the first State-level acrobatic troupe of New China and has won lots of gold medals in various well-known international acrobatic contests in places such as Monaco, France, Hungary, Russia and Italy. Now the star-studded cast are exhibiting the charm and elegance of the most professional comprehensive acrobatic art every night. Integrating superlative juggling, unicycling, balancing and jumping through hoops with the finest ancient Chinese dancing, the award-winning variety show will amaze you at every turn.  
Time/Dates: 19:15 - 20:30, every evening  
Location: Universe Theatre, 10 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng District (100 metres north of Piny Plaza)  
Tel: 6502-3984, 6502-2649, 6416-9893 Fax: 6500-2743

**STAGE**  
**Musical:** The China Children's Art Theatre stages the musical "Shangri-La" in Beijing.  
The production tells the legendary story of a golden peacock who turns into a pretty girl and falls in love with the scenic place around her and a young man living there.  
Time: 7:30 pm until November 2  
Place: 64 Dong'anmen Dajie  
Tel: 6466-8888, 6466-9999

**A cut above:** The Toy Drama Fertilizer Factory troupe from Singapore is to stage "Shaving Razor" in Beijing.  
The troupe was founded in 1990 and specializes in Chinese and English dramas.  
Performers change costumes on stage instead of behind the theatre curtain.  
Time: 7:30 pm, October 29  
Place: Beijing Theatre  
Tel: 6491-1226

**All quiet:** Founded one year ago, the National Drama Theatre of China once again performs "The Dusk is Quiet Here," depicting the life of soldiers of the former USSR.  
With a strong cast including film star Zhang Fengyi and actress Zhang Kaiji, the drama has moved many Chinese audiences to tears, helping them recall the revolutionary years when the art and culture of the former USSR played a major role in their lives.  
Time: 7:15 pm until November 1  
Place: Capital Theatre, 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Tel: 6524-9847, 6525-0996

**Monkey King:** Two Peking Opera excerpts, one focusing on the Monkey King, are being performed every evening at the Zhengyi Theatre.  
"The Broken Bridge" and "Eighteen Arhats Fight the Monkey King" are featured on Fridays.  
On Saturdays, there is "Picking up the Jade Bracelet" and "Havoc in the Dragon's Palace."  
On Sundays, "Farewell My Concubine" and "Monkey King's Havoc in Heaven" are the featured pieces.  
Time: 7:30 pm, daily  
Place: Zhengyi Theatre  
Tel: 1362-119-5714

**Mothers' battle:** The Musical Group from the Filipino High School of Arts is to stage a musical based on a play by

Bertolt Brecht. The story is based on the fight by two women to adopt a son in Filipino history — one mother gave birth to him, another fed him but each have their own agendas. The play reveals a fight of good versus evil.  
Time: 7:30 pm, October 26  
Place: Beijing Theatre  
Tel: 6491-1226

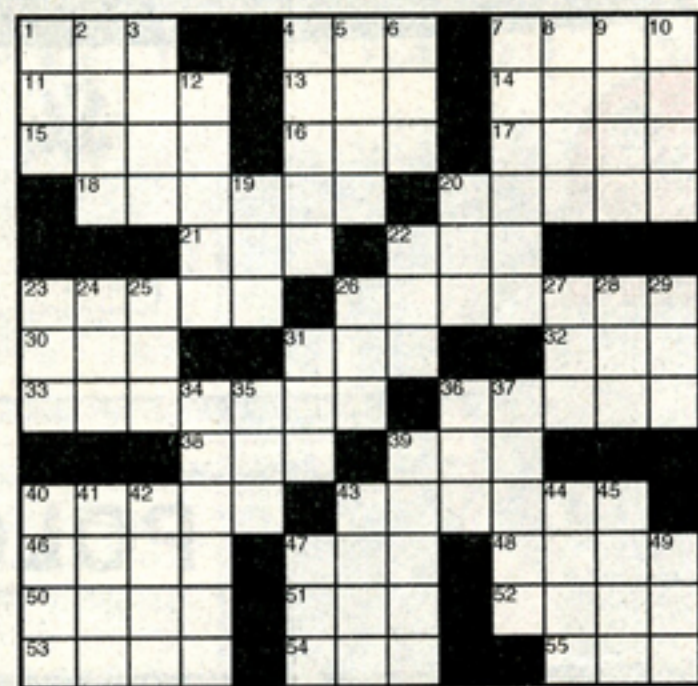
**CONCERT**  
**Stars on stage:** China Philharmonic Orchestra will hold a concert with pianist Leon Fleisher and violin virtuoso Joseph Silverstein.  
Programme: "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun" by Debussy, "Piano Concerto in D major for the left hand" by Ravel, "Violin Concerto No 5 in A major" by Mozart, and "Variations on a theme of Haydn" by Brahms.  
Time: 7:30 pm, October 26  
Place: Poly Theatre  
Tel: 6500-1188

**EXHIBITIONS**  
**Art show:** The Wanfung Art Gallery is holding in its western hall a joint art exhibition of Chinese landscape paintings. On show are 30 works created by five veteran Chinese painters — Du Yingqiang, Feng Linzhang, Feng Yiming, Song Di and Zhao Wuchao.  
The artists combine traditional ink-painting techniques and concepts with those from Chinese folk art and Western paintings.  
Time: 9 am-5 pm until October 30  
Place: 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District, Beijing  
Tel: 6523-3320

**Dinosaurs alive:** "Jurassic Kingdom," a dinosaur exhibition held in Beijing's Zizhuyuan Park, will run through October 27.  
The exhibits — 150 life-sized dinosaurs — are made from realistic-looking materials and fitted with special audio equipment which provide true-to-life sound effects. Many of them have motors that enable them to move.  
This week's ticket income will be donated to the China Children and Teenager's Fund (CCTF), to help children in poverty get back to school in China's western provinces, according to Cheng Shuqin, general secretary of CCTF.  
Time: 9 am - 5:30 pm through October 27  
Place: Zizhuyuan Park, 45 Baishiqiao Lu  
Tel: 6842-0055

## CROSSWORD (No 6726)

<b>ACROSS</b>	humor	39 Unpaid
1 S&L offerings	22 Rainbow	40 Crow
4 Utmost degree	band	over
7 Warrior Princess	23 Free to	43 Rode the
11 Makes after taxes	26 Birders'	46 Chess
13 Astonish	society	piece
14 Matty or Felipe	30 Dwarf	47 Beige
15 Half-moon tide	31 Computer	48 Author Zane -
16 Put the kibosh on	key	50 Dull pain
17 Snug retreat	32 Blvd.	51 Aardvark snack
18 Recoloring (2 wds.)	33 Disembarks	52 Stare
20 Tortilla snack	36 Kelp	53 Tree growth
21 Like some	38 Crackpot	55 Roost



23 Lower limb	39 "Inferno" author
24 Pamplona cheer	40 Chemist's weight
25 Frequently	41 Wacky
26 Politico - Landon	42 - and aahs
27 Tea holder	43 Standing
28 Roe	44 Units of work
29 Social Register word	45 NYC eatery
31 Rear, to Popeye	47 Frat letter
34 Vipers	49 Up till now
35 Baseball event	
36 - Wiedersehen	
37 Dismiss (2 wds.)	

### Solution to No 6725

P	S	I	M	O	N	L	O	B	O
D	U	E	L	T	R	A	B	E	T
O	P	A	L	T	A	D	N	E	A
M	A	R	S	H	T	E	D	D	Y
E	S	S	A	D	O	R	E	I	M
A	V	E	R	E	N	O	S		
S	T	O	L	E	S	F	O	R	G
O	R	C	A	B	A	N	E		
L	Y	E	W	A	I	S	T	A	D
L	E	A	R	N	O	R	B	I	T
D	O	O	M	M	A	D	I	N	C
A	N	T	I	O	R	O	N	E	E
M	O	S	T	R	Y	E	D	R	Y

## BRIDGE (By Phillip Alder)

Frenchman Malcolm de Chazal penned, "The idealist walks on tiptoe, the materialist, on his heels."  
Some contracts are easy to play, allowing you to smell the tulips while you tiptoe through the tricks. Others, though, require very careful stepping through a minefield. This deal falls into the latter category. How would you try to make four spades after West leads the heart five?  
Sitting South was Pierre Ghestem, who died in 2000 and was twice a world champion for France. Here, he was competing in the 1962 World Open Pairs Championship, the inaugural holding of that event. His four-spade bid was ambitious, but he bought a good dummy.  
A club lead would have been lethal, but West understandably selected his partner's suit. The first mine was avoided when Ghestem allowed East to win the trick with his heart king. Back came a heart to the declarer's ace.  
The spade 10 was run around to the ace. East defended well by leading a third heart, but Ghestem continued step-perfectly by ruffing in hand and discarding a club on the dummy. (If South had thrown away the club three from hand and ruffed in the dummy, he would have lost four tricks: three

spades and one heart.) The declarer cashed the diamond ace before leading another trump. West going in with his king and shifting to a club. Again the declarer paced correctly, winning with the dummy's ace. The diamond jack took the next trick. Nearly home, Ghestem played a diamond to his king, crossed over to dummy's spade queen, and cashed the diamond 10, discarding his club queen.

**North**  
♠ Q 6 3  
♥ 9 2  
♦ J 10 6 5  
♣ A 9 7 4

**South**  
♠ 10 9 8 7 5 4  
♥ A 7  
♦ A K 7  
♣ Q 3

**Dealer:** North  
**Vulnerable:** Neither

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♠	2 ♠	3 ♥
4 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♠	3 ♠

Opening lead: ♥ 5