

Guo Lin shops with her son in 2004 in Haikou, Hainan, China. China faced a male to female gender ratio that was as high as 141 boys to 100 girls in Haikou. (Photo via MCT Campus)



China's One-Child Policy Changes

China will allow two children per family for the first time in 35 years.

BY KATE NOBLE
REPORTER

China's one-child policy has changed after a four-day meeting in Beijing, allowing two children per family. The original policy was established 35 years ago and has now been changed in attempt to modify several aspects of the Chinese population that were results of the original policy.

According to The Guardian, the change in the one-child policy was made to increase the low fertility rate in the country. Also contributing to the policy change, the working age population has decreased and China's communist economy depends on having an abundance of workers.

"The change in policy is beneficial because China needs more girls for natural increase. The population in China is really off right now," junior **Madi Wieseler** said.

Wieseler was adopted from China, and she believes that being a girl in a country that traditionally praised males over females might have contributed to her arrival at the orphanage in the first place.

"In China, if families have two children and they are only allowed to keep one, they're going to pick the boy every single time," Wieseler said. "The change in policy will probably cause less children to end up in orphanages in China because people won't have to give away the children that

they aren't able to keep."

The modification doesn't mean that the entire Chinese population will jump at the chance to add another member to their families. According to The Guardian, experts believe that in expensive urban areas many families won't have the extra money to support another mouth to feed, and the real population boom will occur in the rural areas of the country.

Junior **Junshan Liu**, an exchange student from Guangzhou, China, also believes that the change in policy won't affect all families, especially those with financial situations unable to support another child.

"I don't believe many people will want to have another baby. The first reason is many are unsure if they'll have enough money to support another baby," Liu said. "The other reason is some of the people are too old to have more children in their families. If they're very young, they'll not want to have a baby yet."

Although the one-child

policy was strictly enforced after it was first issued, the Chinese government has eased up on the enforcement since. As a result, exceptions to the one-child policy do exist, depending on where a family lives.

"I'm a good example of an exception. My mother had three children. I'm not an only child because my father and my mom live in the countryside," Liu said. "Their first child was a girl, so they could have another. But if the first child was a boy, they could not have had other children."

Sophomore **Ann Huff** was adopted from China. Huff believes that although the change in policy was a jump in the right direction, it won't necessarily eliminate orphanages or normalize the gender ratio altogether.

"The policy may have changed, but that doesn't mean the financial lives have changed for everyone," Huff said. "It depends more on whether or not they're financially capable of supporting more than one child rather than if it's legal or not."

Music Ready for Rome

The music program will travel to Rome to sing at various locations throughout the city, including a performance for the Pope.

BY CLARE KIMMIS
REPORTER

The display outside the music room reads 40 days until the fine arts students take off for Rome. This countdown marks a long-awaited trip that includes sightseeing and a performance for the Pope.

The music program is taking 46 people to Rome, Italy on Dec. 26 to Jan. 2. Eighteen girls from the music program, Director of Music **Elizabeth Mulkey**, Librarian **Jenny Campbell** and 26 parents are venturing to Italy. The group will stay in a convent for the duration of the week long trip.

The music program has never taken an international trip like this before. They have always traveled to places within the United States such as Texas, Minnesota and Illinois. This trip is also different than most school trips because parents are allowed to join their kids.

"We get to sing for the Pope which is really cool. We also get to do a lot of sightseeing and

"The [New Year's] Mass is cool because we are singing in so many different languages" - senior Madison Masilionis

eating which is fun," junior **Taylor Ramsey** said. "My mom is going with me because I'm not going out of the country for the first time without my mom."

The week will be packed with activities.

Most of the activities the girls will be doing include singing. They will perform at a prayer for peace, sing at a New Year's Day Mass for the Pope and will sing with a Mass choir from around the world.

"This pope is such a Sionian Pope and he represents our mission beautifully and embraces the mission that we embrace. And it just seemed like the right fit for us to go," Mulkey said.

Many high schools from all over the world will be attending the New Year's Mass for the Pope. They will mostly be performing Spanish and Italian songs, but all the different schools from different places will have a song or two that they sing in their native tongue.

"I think meeting the Pope would be cool even if I weren't Catholic. The Mass is cool because we are singing in so many different languages," senior **Madison Masilionis** said.

The girls will be doing more than just singing. They are going to Piazza Navona, Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. They are also visiting some of the most famous tourist destinations such as Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and the Colosseum.

A trip like this has never occurred for the Fine Arts program, and it's not just that. The girls get to meet the pope and sing all over Rome. They will be seen and appreciated by other countries.

What's the Difference?

