

Wuhan Search and Rescue Dog Squadron

By Xie Binglin



Trainers with dogs Photos by Xiao Xi

In the Year of the Dog, our reporters paid a visit to the Search and Rescue Dog Squadron.

One of the training programs is box searching, in which the dog is trained to locate a person hidden in one of over 20 identical boxes. The training enables the dog to rescue victims in places that humans cannot reach in case of natural disasters or a collapsed building.

In 2012 Wuhan established the only search and rescue dog

squadron in the Hubei fire fighting system. Now they have 19 working dogs and 13 in training, including a variety of breeds like Belgian malinois, English springer spaniels, Belgian shepherds, and golden retrievers. The dogs have participated in more than 10 search-and-rescue events, accurately identifying locations of 16 people. The rigorous training starts when they are only one month old and generally takes approximately eight to 14 months until they're qualified. Various kinds of

challenges are performed on the training field, including the vertical ladder, the springboard barrier, tires, and a flaming ring, which are used for a dozen different programs, according to instructor Li Shenjun. The programs consist of obedience training, box searching, overcoming barriers, bloodstain tracing, searching ruins, tracking, field search and rescue, explosive detection and others. These activities are designed to help the sniffer dogs cope with complicated and unstable factors in real situations.

Registration open for Vertical Marathon

By Chen Yongquan

The second Wuhan Vertical Marathon 2018 (VM) will kick off at the Wuhan Millennium Tower on March 18. The venue is located in the office building overlooking both the Yangtze and the Han Rivers next to Jiangnan Customs House on Yanjiang Avenue. The finishing point of the race is at the rooftop of the 42-floor skyscraper. After climbing all the approximately 1,400 steps to the top, participants can take a picture, with the Yangtze River as a background, on a stage specially prepared by the organizer of the event. The VM 2018 is now open to sports enthusiasts aged 18 to 60. Group participation from enterprises and institutions is also welcome to register. The total number of participants is 500 with the registration deadline on March 15.

Barrier-free lavatory made for a special boy

By Liu Jia

Xiaoda, a boy in Grade 6 at Ximalu Primary School, entered his "exclusive lavatory" with the help of classmates on the morning of February 26.

The 13-year-old, suffering from cerebral palsy, struggles with body coordination and has difficulty walking. Three times a week he goes to the hospital for treatment. In the past, the public lavatories in the school were equipped only with squat toilets, which proved quite inconvenient for him. Xiaoda's family always worried that he might fall down while using the lavatory.

This all changed last year when the school began to renovate public lavatories and installed an extra sitting toilet in both the men's and ladies' rooms and a ramp to provide barrier-free passage to the toilets. The renovated restrooms are open to students this semester. In addition, Feng Ying, the head teacher of Xiaoda's class, divided the students into six groups, each taking turns to help Xiaoda to acquire meals, get exercise notebooks, and walk up and down the stairs.

Community policeman aids ethnic minority students for 17 years

By Liu Zhiyu & Wei Na

Nearly 60 percent of the 28,000 students attending South-Central University for Nationalities (SCUN) are from ethnic minority background.

Policeman Xia Qingliang, of the SCUN community, spent his Spring Festival quiet and busy as usual. On Spring Festival Eve, he sent holiday purchases to the Tibetan students who stayed at school.

On the first day of the Lunar New Year, he held a gathering of students from seven different ethnicities.

On the second day, he gave "lucky money" to impoverished students of the Zhuang minority



A gathering of ethnic students

group.

On the fourth day, he looked for a student of Miao origins who he had temporarily lost contact with after graduation.

And, on the sixth day, a

Tibetan father and his daughter came to Wuhan to pay him a New Year's visit with highland barley wine.

Ever since 2001, when he became a SCUN campus policeman, Xia has been giving financial assistance to more than 20 underprivileged students of ethnic origin, not counting those who have received his physical and emotional care and help. Xia's mobile phone continuously rings with phone calls and texts of good wishes from students of ethnic groups from every part of the country. Not wanting to disappoint them, Xia responds to each one warmly.