

Peter may be
regular face
on TV

*School
Star*

Xiangsheng Superstar

Name: Peter Vanderslice

School: Beijing New Talent Academy

Peter Vanderslice is fluent in three languages—Chinese, French and English—and has graced Chinese national television on multiple occasions. It's no small feat for a boy who has just turned 13.

More impressive, however, is his desire to pursue his Chinese education on his own. "Such an interest isn't something that you can force on a child," Peter's mother, Elizabeth, tells us. "The child has to want it himself."

Peter was first exposed to Chinese as a student at the Lycee Francais de New York. Though born and raised in the United States, he attended the international school out of his parents' mutual desire for him to be a global citizen. A third grader at the time, Peter was immediately enthralled by the language and soon decided his dream destination was China.

Peter's first visit to Beijing was in 2009 for a five-week-long summer camp. This sparked a second trip, and the second sparked

a third. "I realized that the only way to learn a new language is to be entirely immersed in it," Peter explains. "At Beijing New Talent, I stay in dorms with other Chinese students. When I'm not there, I'm with my guardian, Wang Laoshi."

The results of Peter's dedication are apparent. Topping the many milestones he has achieved in the past year is his *xiangsheng* performance for his Chinese classmates and teachers at Beijing New Talent. "I was happy to see that they all laughed when they were supposed to," Peter recalls. "If you had told me two years ago that I would have done what I did, I would have said 'no way!' I felt like some racial and cultural barriers were broken that day."

Following our entertaining interview with the young talent, Peter treated us to a private *xiangsheng* performance. Needless to say, we laughed when we were supposed to. ●

Heather Budimulia

CITY Parents & Kids

Beijing

WEEKEND

城市周报

Sep. 9-Nov. 10

Book It

The Best Places in
Beijing for Your Little
Bookworms G18



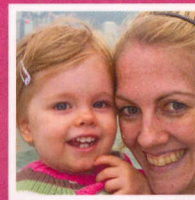
Family Travel
Horse riding
in Italy

➔14



Cooking Together
Capital M's
Pavlova

➔33



Family
Expatriate
Adoption

➔36