

HONG KONG: Students experience Scott County

From Page 1A

Frankfort was planned for Wednesday.

On Tuesday morning, after a spirited dodge ball battle in gym class, the students got a visit from U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler, D-Versailles.

The fifth-graders were prepared for the congressman, who told them about his job and his many trips overseas, including to China.

"The United States is very influential and a lot of the decisions we make affect the rest of the world," Chandler told the class. "That's why it's very important for us to know as much as we can about other nations and talk with them, like China. Did you know our president met with the president of China not very long ago? It was a very important meeting. Does anyone know the president of China's name?"

A silence fell over the room as the students looked around at one another, some whispering. Chandler then asked the Hong Kong students specifically who the president was, and they smiled but were as silent as ever, their

faces flushed. But then one brave Chinese student slowly rose his hand.

"Hu Jintao," **Benbo She**, 12, said, smiling when Chandler nodded approval.

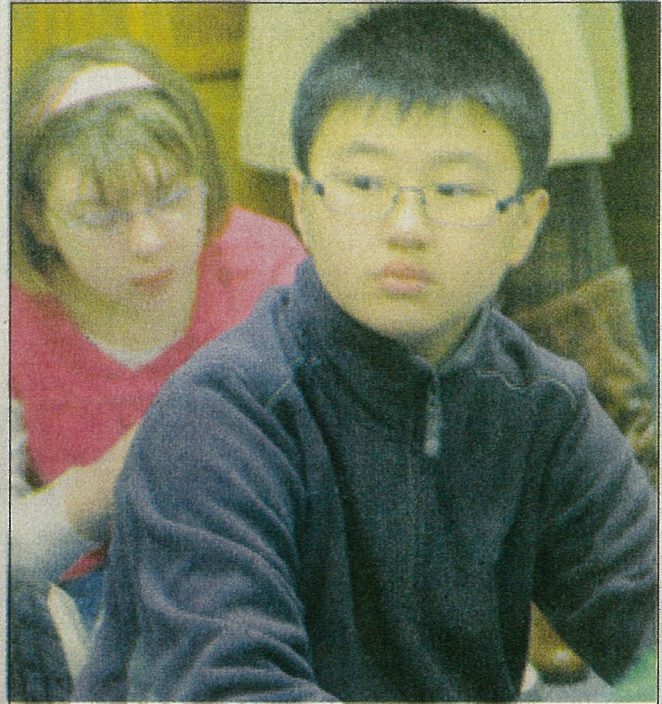
The students asked Chandler about the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and even terrorism and 9/11.

"I was quite impressed by how conscientious and curious the students are of these events," said Renee Holmes, community relations coordinator for Scott County Schools. "It's a good thing."

Sam Stanton has been playing host to 10-year-old Anson Lau. "I really like having the Hong Kong students here," Sam, 11, said. "He's been a lot of fun, we play a lot and run around with the animals, and he's even taught me how to write my name in Chinese."

Lau said he has been enjoying gym class and making friends such as Stanton.

"He has horses and dogs and cats," Lau said. "I don't have any pets at home, so it's been really great to pet them. And, I'm having a lot of fun just playing. He taught me how to play chess and I taught him Chinese checkers."



BENJAMIN S. ROSSI • NEWS-GRAPHIC

Visiting Hong Kong student **Benbo She**, 12, was one of the bravest of his 12 classmates, answering a question posed by U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler.