



Don't Forget

Don't Forget - the Yinghua Academy Chinese New Year celebration on Friday, February 12th. This is a great opportunity to see our kids in action as they ring in the Year of the Tiger. See the Yinghua News for all the details around the Yinghua celebration.



Happy New Year! It's 2010, the Year of the Tiger

The Color Red, Firecrackers, Dragons and Sticky Cakes: Some Thoughts about the New Year || Chinese New Year is our biggest celebration at Yinghua and is the most important festival of the Chinese calendar. Chinese New Year is a time when families come together with the hope of bringing good luck for the new year. Here is some information about Chinese New Year traditions. Enjoy!



yaca calendar & events

NO SCHOOL - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Monday, January 18

 **First Friday Coffee**
Friday, February 5
Urban Harvest

 **Chinese New Year Performances**
Friday, February 12

NO SCHOOL
Monday, February 15

 **YACA General Membership Meeting**
Saturday, February 27, 10am
Yinghua Academy

Yinghua Academy does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, age, family care leave status or veteran status.

父母

Supporting the mission of Yinghua Academy, its students, teachers and staff by providing volunteers, fundraising and assistance in cooperation with the Director and the School Board.

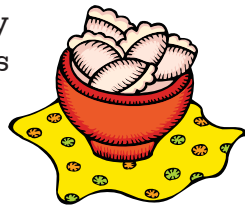
New Year Preparations || Preparation for celebrating the New Year can begin a month before the actual holiday. The preparation includes thoroughly cleaning and decorating the house, buying new clothes, buying fireworks, and preparing enough food for at least two weeks. The decorations are highly symbolic with a lot of luck words, printed paintings and red colors everywhere. Everyone gets a haircut before the new year.

So everything and everyone looks new and fresh on the new year.



New Year's Eve || New Year's Eve is a time for families. The New Year's Eve dinner is the biggest dinner of the year, much like Thanksgiving dinner.

The dinner is full of symbolic meaning, such as Chinese dumplings implying wealth since they have the shape of ancient Chinese gold or silver ingots. Everyone, even kids, drinks a little Jiu (usually hard liquor), which symbolizes longevity since Jiu has the same pronunciation as longevity in Chinese. Then the family spends time together – perhaps watching national TV shows or listening to radio – until the coming of the new year.



Red and Good Luck || The color red signifies good luck. To celebrate the new year and bring good luck, people wear a lot of red and decorate their houses with the color red.

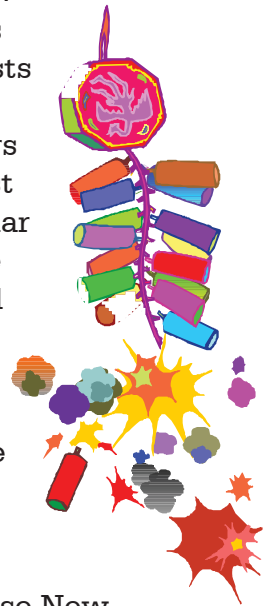


Red Envelopes || A red packet – red envelope – is simply a red envelope with money in it, usually new dollar bills. The envelope is often decorated with lucky symbols to bring good luck, wealth and good fortune. The red packet, or envelope, is called Hongbao in Chinese.

Traditionally, red packets are handed out to younger generations by their parents, grandparents, relatives, and even close neighbors and friends during Chinese New Year. They are also popular gifts for weddings and birthdays. Nowadays, giving red packets as a bonus at the year-end by employers has also become popular.

Firecrackers || Firecrackers are set off as soon as the new year arrives.

You can hear or see firecrackers everywhere and this usually lasts for a few hours. Some people will continue to play firecrackers occasionally throughout the first half of the first month of the lunar year. Traditionally fireworks are the sign of getting rid of the old and welcoming the new. Some cities banned fireworks to reduce injuries, fires and noise complaints. But, since the Beijing Olympics, some bans have been lifted.



New Year Greetings || Chinese New Year is also the time for socializing. People usually wear new clothes and go out to visit and greet their relatives and friends, so the streets are filled with a lot of cheerful people. The greetings and visiting can go on for a few days.

Dragon Dancing || Dragon dances are performed at the new year to scare away evil spirits. Dragons are important to Chinese people who view them as helpful, friendly creatures. They are linked to good luck, long life and wisdom. Lion dancing is another tradition of Chinese New Year.



Lantern Festival || Lantern Festival or Yuanxiao Festival is on the 15th of the first month of the Chinese New Year, which marks the end of the New Year celebrations. Chinese people celebrate the first full moon of the year on this day. It is the time for family reunions again. Yuanxiao is also a kind of cake, which



looks like a table tennis ball (a little smaller though) made of sticky rice with sweet stuffing inside. Everyone eats a few Yuanxiao on Lantern Festival, which symbolizes that the family will stick together.

Sources: www.about.com, www.Wikipedia.com, www.Topmarks.com, and *Dragon Parade* by Steven A. Chin.

Please Join Us!

For First Friday coffee on Friday, **February 5th** at **Urban Harvest**.



Save the Date

Please save the date of **Saturday, February 27th** from **10am-noon** for a YACA parent education presentation and general membership meeting. In addition to hearing about the “state of the school” and celebrating the end of the Red Envelope Campaign, our guest speaker will be **Carl Schlueter**, Yinghua's new Director of Students, Families and Community Relationships. Carl will be talking about “Yinghua's Behavioral Education Process:



Being Happy and Heartsafe” in which he will be outlining the behavioral philosophy and practice Yinghua has been reviewing and developing with an intent to make it clearer and more comprehensive as well as more developmental, differentiated and systematic.

Please come join YACA as we learn more about Yinghua's behavioral education process from Carl who brings twelve years of educational experience in various roles as a teacher, curriculum coordinator and administrator both in the United States and Japan. Carl is a noted leader in behavioral education, having presented on the topic of behavioral education at local, regional and national conferences.

Volunteering

Want to volunteer? Need flexibility in your schedule? Contact **Alison Parks** at volunteer@yinghuaacademy.org for details. To those who have volunteered ... thank you!

Children's Theater Company

CTC Performances: Dear parents of Yinghua. Thanks to all your support through YACA and the Red Envelope Campaign, our children will be attending two performances at the Children's Theater. Grades 3th through 6th will be at the **Iron Ring** performance on March 18th. Grades Kindergarten through 2nd will attend the **Mulan** performance on May 12th. Performances will start at 10:30am both days. Chaperones will be needed for these performances. Soon



your Classroom Coordinator will be sending a request for volunteers and all the information pertaining this field trip.

The Children's Theater is located at 2400 3rd Ave So, Minneapolis. If you would like more information on these performances, you may visit their web site at <http://www.childrenstheatre.org/onstage.html>

Mini-Bridges Program: Thanks to funding support through the Red Envelope Campaign, the sixth grade class has had the opportunity to participate in the Children's Theatre Company's Mini-Bridges Program this year. The weekly program started in November and will run through the middle of February. Katie Leo comes to our classroom every Tuesday morning.

Each week the students do a writing assignment, listen to a Chinese folktale and a folktale from another country, and then work in small groups to reenact the stories they have heard. Throughout each session students practice public speaking skills, hone their writing skills, and develop their acting abilities as they participate in activities that are centered on a different theme each week. This Mini-Bridges program will culminate in the sixth graders demonstrating their learning by writing and performing a play for Yinghua Academy's Chinese New Year's performance on February 12th.

annual Red Envelope Campaign next week on Friday, January 22nd. The Red Envelope Campaign is based on the Chinese tradition called Hongbao, where red envelopes with money in them, usually new dollar bills, are handed out to younger generations by their parents, grandparents, relatives and even close neighbors and friends during Chinese New Year. In the tradition, this money in red envelopes is given to younger generations to symbolize good luck and wealth, we ask for your support for Yinghua's student and classroom enrichment experiences through the Red Envelope Campaign.

Gifts to the Red Envelope Campaign help bring art, music, science and other community resources into Yinghua classrooms to complement the academic rigor and educational excellence at the heart of Yinghua Academy. These programs and opportunities are integrated into our children's classrooms and are designed to dovetail with each grade level's curriculum. To bring these exceptional opportunities to our kids, YACA collaborates with the premier arts and science organizations throughout the Twin Cities. Each of these partnerships is selected and in many cases, custom-designed in close collaboration with Yinghua staff to complement the Core Knowledge curriculum. At a time when many public schools have made cuts to music, the arts and even science, these opportunities are even more important and exceptional than ever.

Red Envelope Campaign

The Red Envelope Campaign at Yinghua supports music, art, science and other enrichment experiences for every child in every classroom at Yinghua.

The Yinghua Academy Community Association will officially kick off the fourth

More information about how your gifts make a difference and what your financial support funds for our kids and the school will be detailed in the Red Envelope Campaign materials provided next week. When you see the Red Envelope in your child's backpack next week, please take a moment to read about how your child directly benefits from the funds raised through the Red Envelope Campaign and how you can participate in this important annual fundraiser.

