

CIAU E-NEWS



Confucius Institute at Alfred University



January - February 2020



Professor Tao Peng and Professor Zhongbei Wu giving speeches on Lunar New Year Gala



People from Alfred Community signing on the "Be Strong, Wuhan" poster

Alfred University

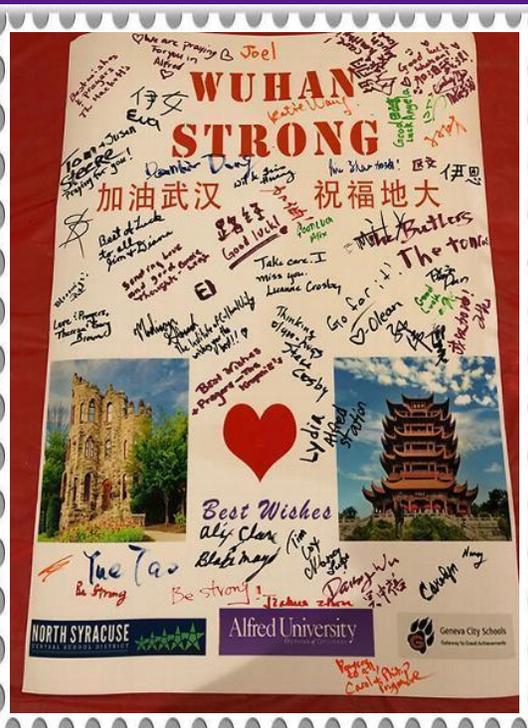
Alfred Tai Chi Group Offers Support to Wuhan

(Jialin Fang) Recently, the Alfred Tai Chi Group launched a donation project to support the beleaguered city of Wuhan in the battle against the recent coronavirus outbreak.

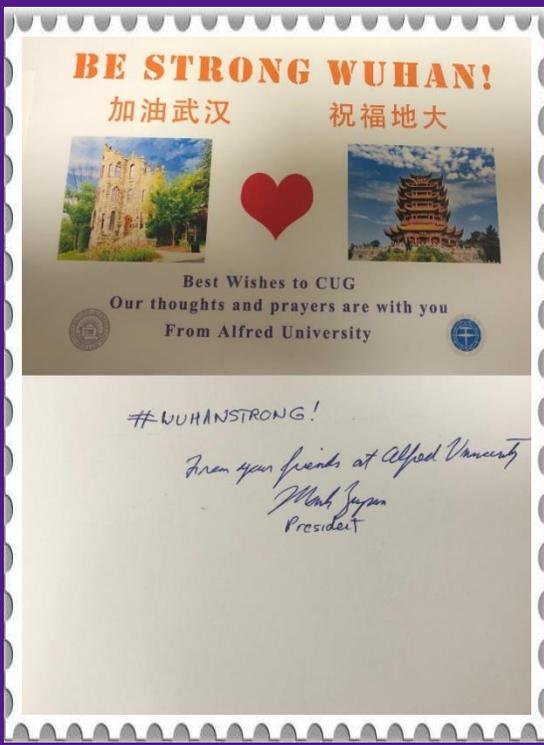
The shipment of aid included 450 medical masks, 20 N95 masks, 25 coverall suits, and 1600 medical gloves donated by the Alfred Tai Chi Group to Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus epidemic.

Since 2010, the Confucius Institute at Alfred University (CIAU) has provided free tai chi classes to Alfred University students, faculty and staff, as well as area community members. Last October, CIAU supported the Alfred Tai Chi Group on its visit to China for the Second International Swimming Dragon Exchange Conference. Many group members feel a strong connection with China.

Group member Lana Meissner, who launched this donation project, said, "When I heard about the coronavirus that started in Wuhan, I felt that I needed to do something to help, so I offered to collect money from our tai chi friends in Alfred so that we could purchase supplies to send to those in need in Wuhan. Theresa Brown collected donations from her Wellsville YMCA group, as well. Everyone was so generous! We feel a special connection with the people in China, especially since many of us had the opportunity to visit this past October. I hope our contributions have helped."



"Be Strong, Wuhan" poster with signatures and wishes



Card from Alfred University President Mark Zupan and Provost Beth Ann Dobie



Another group member, Amanda Oglesbee, and her husband have been to Wuhan twice. She said: “My husband, Brian Oglesbee, and I first visited Wuhan in 2015. We then had the wonderful experience of living in Wuhan for two months in 2016 when Brian taught a photography class for graduate students at Wuhan University of Technology. The generosity, beauty and warmth of the people of Wuhan and the rich experiences we had there will never be forgotten. It has been hard to imagine the strain of such a busy and socially rich society having to quarantine itself in fear of the coronavirus. We think of you daily, with hope and trust that things will get better for you soon.”

Theresa Brown, who collected \$282 in donations from her Wellsville YMCA Tai Chi Group, said: “I believe that everything will be getting better soon; it just takes some time. And I’m so happy that I could support Wuhan and support the Chinese people.”

Alfred University supports efforts to assist Wuhan, China, amid coronavirus outbreak

Communities large and small across China celebrated the Lunar New Year on Saturday, Feb. 1. The festive nature of the annual event was tempered due to the coronavirus outbreak, with the city of Wuhan among the Chinese cities most profoundly impacted by the deadly illness.

At Alfred University, the campus community, led by the Confucius Institute, is doing what it can to help the people of Wuhan. Recently, the Confucius Institute at Alfred University (CIAU) launched the “AU Helps Wuhan” project to support Wuhan in its fight against coronavirus.

China University of Geosciences (CUG) in Wuhan is the partner institution with CIAU. When CUG’s hospital released an urgent call for medical supplies for its patients and more than 500 international students on the campus, CIAU responded right away. Although medical protective equipment is almost out of stock in America as well as in China, CIAU staff donated money and managed to collect 40 pounds of surgical masks and gloves from local pharmacies and have sent an initial donation of the medical supplies to the hospital of CUG last week.

At the Lunar New Year Gala held on the Alfred University campus Feb. 1, guests at the celebration signed on the “Be Strong, Wuhan” poster, and contributed \$342 toward a fund to help Wuhan. CIAU has collected more than \$1,000 for medical supplies purchases. A second donation of medical masks and protective coveralls will be sent to CUG and Alfred University alumni in Wuhan this week.

Alfred University President Mark Zupan and Provost Beth Ann Dobie expressed their concerns and sent well wishes to CUG and to our alumni in Wuhan. Via email, Zupan said, “During this time of challenge, especially for the City of Wuhan, I wanted to let you know that we are thinking of you and hoping that the coronavirus outbreak is soon addressed.”

Confucius Institute at Alfred University hosts Lunar New Year gala celebration

The Alfred University Confucius Institute rang in the Lunar New Year by hosting the 2020 Spring Festival Gala and Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Knight Club, Powell Campus Center.



Alfred Tai Chi Group member Gail Richardson giving a presentation of her China trip



Alfred Tai Chi Group giving the wonderful performance of *Swimming Dragon Sword*



Artist Zichen He demonstrating the amusing Monkey King



More than 200 University staff, students and area community members attended the party to celebrate the Year of the Rat according to the Chinese Zodiac. This annual event was the 12th Lunar New Year celebration hosted by the Confucius Institute at Alfred University (CIAU).

The party kicked off with Gail Richardson's presentation of the Alfred Tai Chi Group's China trip. Since 2010, CIAU has provided Tai Chi courses to University students, faculty and staff, and community members. Last October, CIAU supported the Alfred Tai Chi group on its visit to China for the Second International Swimming Dragon Exchange Conference. Alfred Tai Chi won the first prize in the group performance competition. At the Lunar New Year celebration, the Alfred Tai Chi group gave the very smooth, beautiful and energetic performance of *Swimming Dragon sword*.

The Chinese class of 102 students and children in our community sang a Chinese song, "Happy New Year" and two wind instrument performers played traditional Chinese Bamboo flute music. An artist from the Beijing Opera wrapped up the gala by demonstrating the amusing Monkey King, a traditional Chinese superhero.

After the show, more than 200 guests enjoyed a delicious Chinese dinner prepared by AU Fresh, Alfred University's food service provider.

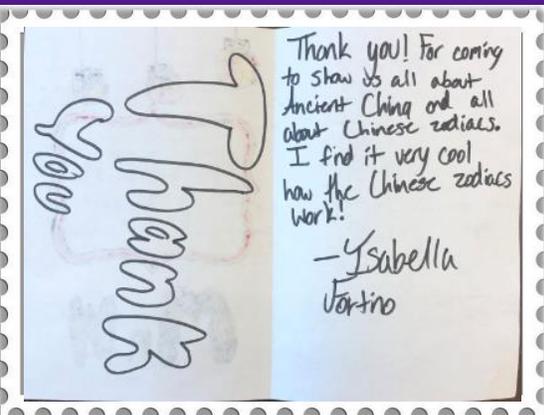


North Syracuse Central School District

Social Studies Classes Focus on China

On Jan. 24, 2020, Gillette Road Middle School 6th grade students had the chance to learn about Chinese civilization in their Social Studies classes from Chinese teachers Yi (Joy) Zhang, Ping (Kevin) Wang, Yanping (Lena) Chen and Chuyue (Avril) Zhang of North Syracuse Central School District (NSCSD).

First, the students learned the origin of Chinese Civilization. Two great rivers - the Yellow River and the Yangtze River - played important roles in the development of Chinese civilization. Next came the Dynasties, which were divided into four groups: Xia, Shang & Zhou; Qin & Han; Tang & Song; and Yuan & Ming. The students were amazed at the messages written on animal bones and tortoise shells which showed that the Chinese language originated from pictograms. They were so interested that they asked more questions about the oracle bones after class.



The Thank-you card from students



The Thank-you card from Nancy



The show window with New Year decorations in the hallway

They also learned that ancient Chinese people already used advanced bronze-working technology, such as bronze bells, to meet their needs and enrich their life. Finally, Confucius was introduced as the first great thinker and teacher in ancient China, whose beliefs still influence China today.

To the four Chinese teachers' surprise, the students sent a thank-you card to show their gratitude and express their strong interest in Chinese culture.

Chinese Teachers in North Syracuse Receive Warmth from a Homeroom Teacher

On Feb. 13 at Roxboro Road Middle School, Yanping (Lena) Chen and Chuyue (Avril) Zhang were preparing their Chinese language lesson and waiting for their students as usual. When the bell rang, the students came in one by one, and one of the students named Khenzington gave the Chinese teachers a gift box with a beautiful pink ribbon on it, explaining that it was from their homeroom teacher, Nancy.

In that box were chocolate, a fancy card, and a little English book about Chinese New Year. The card said, "Lena and Avril, Thank you for the wonderful Chinese lessons that you are providing for our students! With appreciation, Nancy!" Not only was the New Year gift so sweet that it warmed their hearts in this cold winter, but it also showed recognition and gratitude for their teaching. After school, they hurried into her classroom and thanked her in person. After chatting with her, they learned that she has a lovely girl who was adopted from Guangzhou, China, 26 years ago. And she takes pride in her daughter and promised to introduce her to them some day. Meeting this kind and elegant lady was such a wonderful thing for them.

The Chinese teachers feel so lucky and happy to teach Chinese at Roxboro Road Middle School, because the atmosphere in this school is relaxed, energetic and joyful. The principal and teachers are so friendly and welcoming. They often greet each other warmly and actively offer help. For example, when the teachers meet the principle at any time, he always says, "Is everything OK? Please let me know if you need help." When they prepared decorations for the Chinese New Year, other teachers often offered timely help. Thanks to this help, the activities could proceed smoothly.

Not only fellow teachers, but the students are so smart and energetic and impress everyone very much. For example, once after class, Lena accompanied one of her students for a physical check in the health center. Another one of her students who was passing through the hallway saw Lena through the glass door by chance. She came in and looked worried, asking, "Lena, are you OK? What's wrong with you?" These caring words made her feel warm and moved at that moment. It is this care and love that sweep away their anxiety and worries in these totally strange surroundings.

During the period of Chinese New Year, the principle asked some teachers to decorate the show window in the hallway with many unique Chinese New Year objects, such as an introduction to Chinese Lunar New Year, Chinese knots, Chinese Dragon, Red Envelopes, and so on. This recognition and acceptance of Chinese culture is the best gift for the Chinese teachers. Every time they go by this show window and see those familiar Chinese decorations displayed with pride and warmth, they are greatly touched by the help they received.



Lakeshore Road Elementary tweeted the Assembly officially



Chinese teacher Kevin Wang showing how to play shuttlecock



Chinese teacher Avril Zhang talking about the Chinese Zodiac

Lakeshore Road Elementary School Held a Two-day Chinese New Year Celebration

On Jan. 21 and 22, third and fourth grade students at Lakeshore Road Elementary School enjoyed two days of Chinese New Year Assemblies. Chinese teachers Yi (Joy) Zhang, Ping (Kevin) Wang, Yanping (Lena) Chen and Chuyue (Avril) Zhang made presentations about the Chinese Lunar New Year and showed students more aspects of Chinese culture.

First, Joy briefly introduced China and taught the greeting “Nihao (你好)” to the children. Then Lena shared Chinese New Year celebration traditions such as red lanterns and fireworks. She also played bamboo flute pieces, Oh, Suzanna and Happy New Year. (The instrument is called Hulusi (葫芦丝) in Chinese.) Avril presented students with the Chinese Zodiac and the characteristics that go with each animal. Kevin taught and played shuttlecock with them, which they happily enjoyed. Over 200 students enjoyed this Chinese New Year celebration. During the assembly, when children answered questions correctly, they were given a bright red envelope with a bookmark inside wishing them a Happy New Year.

The four Chinese teachers are from the Confucius Institute at Alfred University, which has had a partnership program with North Syracuse Central School District (NSCSD) for several years. Lisa Goldberg, Director for Diverse Learning and Instruction at NSCSD, and Dr. Morton, coordinator of Chinese language program, attended this assembly, spoke highly of this cultural activity, and showed gratitude to the team.



The group photo of Chinese teachers with students and teachers in Lakeshore

Students at Roxboro Road Elementary School Learn About Chinese New Year in Social Studies Classes

On Jan. 24 and Jan. 31, second and third grade students at Roxboro Road Elementary School had special social studies classes about Chinese New Year. Joy Zhang and Lena Chen were invited to discuss Chinese New Year traditions such as red lanterns and fireworks. The students who answered questions correctly were given a red envelope with a bookmark wishing them a Happy New Year.



From left to right: Ping Wang, Yanping Chen, Dr. Lisa Goldberg, Dr. David Morton, Yi Zhang and Chuyue Zhang

Lena Chen played pieces *You are My Sunshine*, *Bingo*, and *Happy New Year* on the Chinese flute, known as “hulusi”. Finally, Joy Zhang taught the children how to make Chinese lanterns.

This activity not only was fun for the children, but also offered them a chance to understand more about Chinese Lunar New Year and Chinese culture. One boy drew and sent a beautiful lantern as a gift to show his gratitude.



Students answering questions actively



The gift of a beautiful lantern from a child



Roxboro Road Elementary School tweeted the Chinese New Year in Social Studies classes

Roxboro Road Middle School Celebrated Chinese New Year by Enjoying Beijing Opera

On Jan. 29, in Roxboro Road Middle School (RRMS) Auditorium over 100 students from seventh grade celebrated Chinese New Year and enjoyed a fantastic Beijing Opera demonstration presented by professional performers.

Dr. Morton, coordinator of the Chinese language program, started by introducing the Confucius Institute at Alfred University (CIAU) and the two Chinese teachers at RRMS, Lena Chen and Avril Zhang.

Then, a young and talented musician, Yuxiao Chen, who taught bamboo flute at Binghamton University between 2017-2019, performed traditional Chinese music on several types of flute-like instruments, including hulusi, xiao, and xun, and won enthusiastic applause.



Ms. Chen performing traditional Chinese music





**Mr. He performing the Beijing Opera
Monkey King**



**The Beijing Opera artist, Mr. He,
performing horseback riding by
using a whip**



Ms. Chen playing bamboo flute



**Children were participated in cultural
activities**

The highlight was the Beijing Opera Monkey King, performed by Beijing Opera artist Mr. Zichen He, who had taught Beijing Opera facial makeup and martial arts at the State University of New York from 2017 to 2019. His Golden Cudgel performance won applause and cheers from students. Students were also eager to interact with him to personally experience the charm of Beijing Opera, such as wearing the costumes, stage steps, and so on.



Performer interacting with a student



A photo of teachers and performers

Gillette Road Middle School Held a Chinese New Year Family Night Celebration

On Wednesday evening, Jan. 29, over 100 students from fifth and sixth grades at Gillette Road Middle School (GRMS) and their families were treated to a free Chinese New Year Family Night Celebration at a Chinese Buffet.

After introduction of guests, a traditional Chinese bamboo flute performance and fantastic Beijing Opera were presented by professional performers from the Confucius Institute at Alfred University (CIAU).



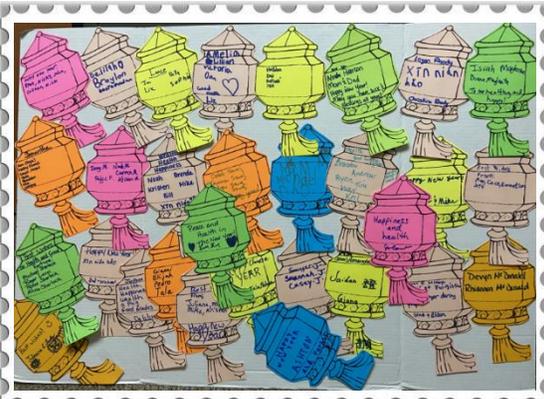
The NSCSD website officially reported this event

After enjoying the Chinese food, the children participated in some interesting cultural activities, such as paper cutting, calligraphy, handcrafting of lanterns, Beijing Opera mask painting, and playing Red Handkerchief.

All the children and their families participating in the celebration expressed their thanks for this opportunity to experience China and Chinese culture.



Students and their families showing their calligraphy works



Students and their families expressing their New Year wishes on lanterns



Chinese teacher Yanping (Lena) Chen telling the story of Nian



Those attending and celebrating Chinese New Year included not only students and teachers, but also NSCSD Superintendent Mr. Bowles, CIAU Director Tao Peng, GRMS Principal Mr. Cordone, and Director for Diverse Learning and Instruction in NSCSD, Mrs. Goldberg. The strong support and joint efforts from CIAU, NSCSD, and GRMS made it possible to have this wonderful Chinese New Year Family Night.

Students at Roxboro Road and Gillette Road Middle Schools Sent Best Wishes to China

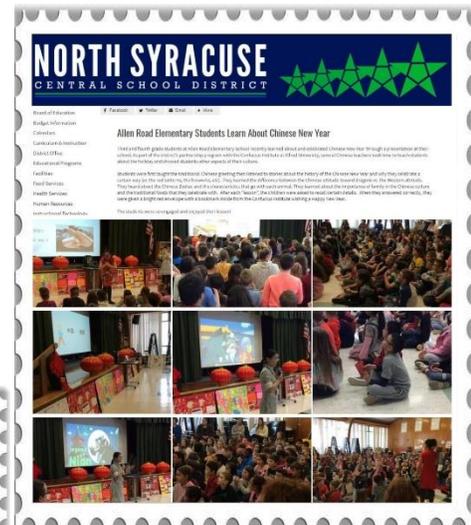
The beginning of 2020 was supposed to be the happy time of Lunar New Year in China, but the coronavirus outbreak made happy family reunions impossible for many. The Chinese teachers working in the North Syracuse Central School District were concerned about their loved ones back home in China.

To help their friends and families to be stronger, under the leadership and support of CIAU, the four Chinese teachers from NSCSD made donations and sent medical masks and protective coveralls to the city of Wuhan, China.

Meanwhile, CIAU made a poster encouraging Wuhan for students and others to sign. On Feb. 10 and 11, after getting the support and approval of NSCSD and the two Middle Schools, the Chinese teachers organized their students who are learning Chinese and who care about China to sign their English and Chinese names on the poster to stand by the people of Wuhan.

The teachers shared with their students the situation in Wuhan, which was the city suffering the most, and explained how the Chinese united to fight the coronavirus. Then students voluntarily came forward to sign their names, one by one. Some even drew hearts to extend their sincere wishes for Wuhan.

Long distance separates no bosom friends. The wishes they made and the care they sent became the strength of love to inspire the Chinese people to get through this tough time. After all, if winter comes, can spring be far behind?



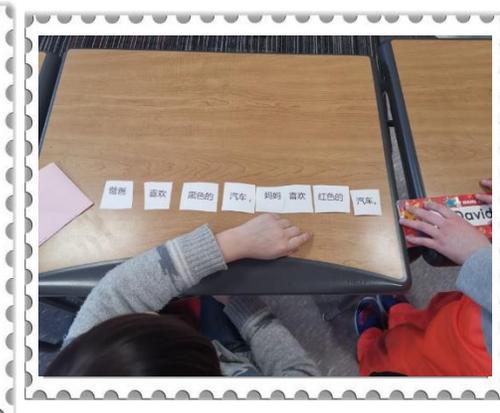
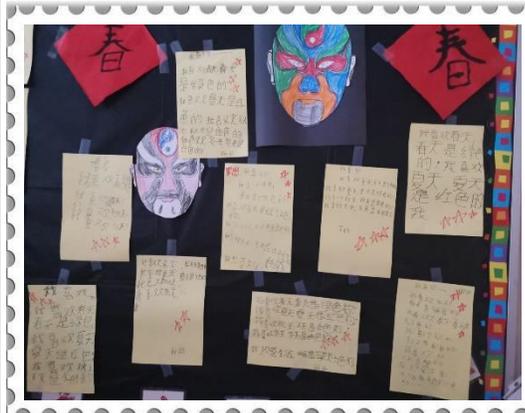
Geneva School Districts

Chinese New Year fell on Jan. 25, 2020. Geneva School District's Chinese New Year celebration took place on Jan. 30th.

As the team leader, Na Wang, working with the North Street School Assistant Principal, Joelle Nicholson, made preparation for everything to happen smoothly.

In February, Ms. Wang designed some classes for students to make up sentences with words and phrases they have learned.

Ms. Wang also wrote a poem using words for seasons and colors which her students had learned. Students loved the poem very much and were able to recite it from memory very quickly. They also practiced writing by copying the poem.



The first graders in Miss Mengqi Gu's class celebrated Chinese New Year in their classroom.

They learned some traditions of the holiday and listened to the story of the monster Nian, which is a folktale about the origin of this festival. They made red posters to hang up on the wall with the Chinese character for spring on them to scare away Nian, since Nian is said to be afraid of the color red. Since this is the Year of the Rat, they also made a craftwork of rats. They used blue paper cups for the body and added blue and pink paper ears. Then they cut out white and black paper for eyes, mouths, teeth, and whiskers. They like their rats so much! The most exciting part for the young students was to get lucky money from Miss Gu. A red envelope with money inside means good luck. Students were so happy and excited to receive red envelopes, and they said they would keep the lucky money all the time to bring them good luck.





Children showing their red envelopes



A child with a rat made of a paper cup



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First graders wearing Mickey Mouse

Geneva city schools held a big Chinese New Year celebration at North Street School on Jan. 30.

The first graders from Miss Gu's class took part in this celebration and gave a performance with the second and third graders. They practiced singing a Chinese song for a long time for this big festival. Eleven of the sixteen children in class came to the stage. They wore red clothes, because red is the lucky color in China. They also wore Mickey Mouse head bands. They were adorable with those headbands, and they did a great job during their performance. They were so brave, and they really enjoyed singing Chinese songs. After the performance, they tried some Chinese food and a variety of cultural activities. They had a lot of fun.

A long time ago, people in China used brushes and ink to write. Chinese characters are very different from English letters, and it is not easy to learn to write them, but writing is an important part of language learning. In order to encourage students to write more and to feel the joy of writing, Miss Gu introduced Chinese ink brushes to her students. The children were very curious and wondered how people could write with such a soft brush. They couldn't help trying it. When they were writing with the brush, they felt it was so different from using a pen or pencil. They were really proud of themselves when they could write characters with a brush. They thoroughly enjoyed it.



Children making paper-cutting



Children making Happy New Year Fish



Children eating dumplings



The Year of the Rat

On January 14, Liping Ding introduced “The Legend of Chinese New Year” to the Chinese Immersion 2nd graders at Geneva North Street School. Her students found out what the 12 Chinese Zodiac animals are and learned to sing the Song of 12 Zodiac Signs. Then, they learned that the year 2020 is The Year of the Rat. Every student had a chance to make a rat. Meanwhile, they also wrote down their best wishes in Chinese, such as, “Happy New Year”, “Good Luck”, “May You Be Happy and Prosperous”. Ms. Ding was very proud that her students can write the Chinese characters nicely and neatly.

As Chinese New Year was approaching, the students also learned many of the traditions of how it is celebrated in China, such as by hanging red lanterns, making paper-cuttings, writing couplets, and so on. They really enjoyed those Chinese traditions and activities.

On Chinese New Year’s Day, Liping Ding and her students celebrated the holiday in her class. First, they watched the live “Spring Festival Gala” and counted down together with Chinese people to welcome the New Year. Then, they enjoyed the traditional Chinese New Year food, dumplings. The students were so excited to eat dumplings. At the same time, Ms. Ding gave every student a red envelope with Chinese money in it. The children were very happy to learn that those who got a red envelope would be lucky for the whole new year. They showed great interest in Chinese New Year. One of students said, “We have a real Chinese New Year!”

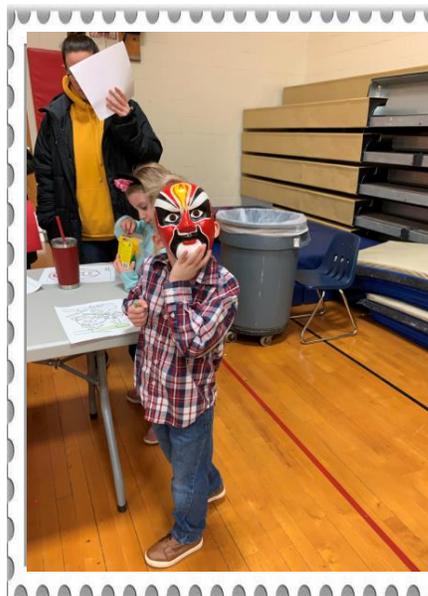
The Lantern Festival was celebrated on the 15th day of the first Chinese lunar month. Ms. Ding introduced the origin of the Lantern Festival to her 2nd grade students. The students learned how Chinese people celebrate it, such as by lighting and watching lanterns, guessing lantern riddles, performing a lion dance, and eating yuanxiao (sweet dumplings). They were good at guessing lantern riddles. Then each child made a lantern and also wrote a riddle. The students said that they will guess lantern riddles with their family and friends.



January is a time for celebration! Ms. Song decorated a Chinese wall at the West Street School in Geneva. The theme was the Year of the Rat, and the display included dumplings, the Chinese zodiac, paintings, red fireworks, red Chinese knots, and more. The Chinese New Year Celebration was held on January 30. Ms. Song was in charge of the station for shuttlecock kicking, coloring, and table tennis. The children loved the festival very much.



Ms. Song's classes learned how to name body parts in Mandarin, such as 头 head, 肩膀 shoulder, 膝盖 knee, 眼睛 eye, 耳朵 ear, 鼻子 nose, and 嘴巴 mouth. The children loved singing and dancing along with a song about body parts. Unconsciously, they can recall all these Mandarin words when they are playing. They tried again and again to touch and sing the Mandarin words in order to say those words correctly. How smart and lovely they are!



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Bishop Kearney High School

To mark the end of the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year, students in Grades 6 and 7 were awarded Certificates of Excellence signed by the principal for being "Talk King" of classroom speech and for writing Chinese characters neatly.

On January 27, Chinese New Year was celebrated in the Chinese language classroom. Teachers and students were invited to participate in four activities for this Year of the Rat: writing Chinese calligraphy, making Chinese zodiac rat paper-cuts, learning how to use chopsticks, and competing in Chinese culture trivia. Teachers and students in all grades took part in different activities in turn. Each booth was organized by Chinese language class students.

On January 28, Professor Tao Peng, senior visiting scholar at CIAU, Mr. Zichen He of Beijing Opera, Ms. Yuxiao Chen, a bamboo flutist, and CIAU volunteer Jialin Fang brought a New Year's Monkey King performance to the high school.





They gave a workshop about the history and movements of Beijing Opera and about bamboo flutes. More than 60 teachers and students watched the performance and explored these traditional Chinese performing arts.



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Northstar Christian Academy

Chinese New Year

In order to encourage cultural exchange between China and the United States and to help their students experience the flavor of a traditional Chinese New Year celebration, Ms. Wenfang Gao and Ms. Dandan Yang carried out "Happy Rat Year" as the theme of the Spring Festival at Northstar Christian Academy in Rochester.

The 32 participants from kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grades held a parade in Chinese dragon masks as their Spring Festival artwork was displayed in the elementary school hallway on Jan. 24, 2020, which was Chinese New Year's Eve.

A Chinese New Year concert was held in the gym on Jan. 27, the third day of this year's lunar calendar. Beijing Opera performers Mr. Zichen He and Ms. Yuxiao Chen gave a performance and presentation for students to experience the impressive traditions and costumes of Beijing Opera.





Mr. Boudrias helping to hang lanterns



Ms. Yang explaining the steps of making
"Chinese Luck fan"



1st grader, Giovanni, drawing his lucky fan.



Waiting for a Rabbit

After learning a Chinese idiom, "waiting for a rabbit," 5th and 6th graders did a role play of the folktale behind the saying. In the story, a peasant sees a rabbit accidentally run into a tree stump and die. The lazy peasant foolishly assumes other rabbits will make the same mistake, so he waits, idly watching the stump rather than working to improve his lot. Alisha, a 5th grader, said that everyone needs to work hard instead of being lazy. Lola said that, as a rabbit, you must watch out every step and not run into tree stumps.





Chinese Dragon Coloring

Ms. Yang organized the 2nd and 4th graders to do "Chinese Dragon" coloring on January 29th, the fifth day of the lunar calendar.



Valentine's Day crafts

Before Valentine's Day, Ms. Yang organized activities for children in grades K - 4 to learn how to express love to their families in Chinese. The kindergarteners and 1st graders made loving owls; 2nd graders made loving bracelets and rings; 3rd and 4th graders made origami and wrote, "I love my family," on it.

