



孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016

Gates Chili School District

On Dec. 8th, CIAU faculty Juan (Rita) Xu started a Mandarin Club at the Florence Brasser Elementary School. The club meets every Thursday after school, and nineteen third grade students have joined. They learned Chinese culture and did some crafts such as paper cutting. They showed strong interest in this club. One said, "I wish every day was Thursday!" and another replied, "Me, too!"



Students showing their paper-cutting work

On Dec. 13th, Rita Xu started a weekly Chinese culture class with the third grade students at Paul Road Elementary School. The students are very curious about historical sites in China, such as the Great Wall, the Terra Cotta Army in the tomb of the first emperor of the Qin dynasty, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, and the Temple of Heaven. They have learned some of the geography of China, such as the highest mountain, the longest river, and the biggest city.



Instructor Xu teaching class

In November and December, Rita Xu continued teaching 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at Gates Chili Middle school, and 3rd grade students at Walt Disney and Florence Brasser Elementary Schools greetings, country names, numbers, family, body parts, etc. The children learned the Chinese gestures of 1 to 10 and learned how to count from 1 to 99, tried using chopsticks to pick up small things, and experienced Chinese Dough Modeling. The 3rd graders are fascinated with Chinese culture.



Brasser Elementary
@Brasserway

关注

3rd Grades learning about the Mandarin culture from the Confucius Institute representatives. Learning Together with our Community....



Chenchen Lin played erhu at Gates Chili

Geneva West Street School District

The fall semester has been going on for four months. On November 4th to 6th, three Mandarin teachers from West Street School went to Boston to participate in a Professional

Development Program. They found the training to be very beneficial.

On the 15th of November, the Chinese director of the Confucius Institute of Alfred University (CIAU), Dr. Jijun (Andy) Yu, came to Geneva to observe the Mandarin classes and gave the Mandarin teachers great support. The Chinese teachers also exchanged ideas and suggestions about their work.

For Thanksgiving, Ms. Zhu taught her students how to express love and gratitude to their families in Chinese, and organized a classroom activity: a thank-you card, on which students wrote the Chinese character “love” and painted pictures of their family members. Everyone designed their own cards. The students liked this activity and brought their thank-you cards back home to share with their families.

In December, prekindergarten Mandarin classes began with a total of two classes for forty students which met twice per week. These young students are very talented to learn Chinese. They learn new knowledge quickly and remember new words well after review. The director of PK is very interested in the Chinese program, so she attended the first class.



Students showing their paintings



In December, Ms. Zhu applied to the principal of West Street School to make a special display in the school hallway. The principal was very supportive. This prominent "Chinese Wall" will showcase Chinese culture and students' homework. Now the theme is "Chinese Dragon". The scales of the dragon are made of name cards from all the immersion class students. It represents the Chinese family, while the rest of the

display shows the students' recent homework and hand work. All the Mandarin teachers worked together to finish the Chinese Wall.



Ms. Zhu decorating the Chinese Wall



CIAU faculty with the principal of West Street School

Before Christmas, the Chinese teachers taught their students some Mandarin words about Christmas and did some paper-folding. They also participated in the school's holiday celebration. On December 20th, students from the Mandarin immersion program sang Chinese songs at the afterschool enrichment

program for families, known as PAWS Night, and were received with warm applause. They received their first Christmas gifts here; some students' parents had prepared lovely gifts for the teachers.

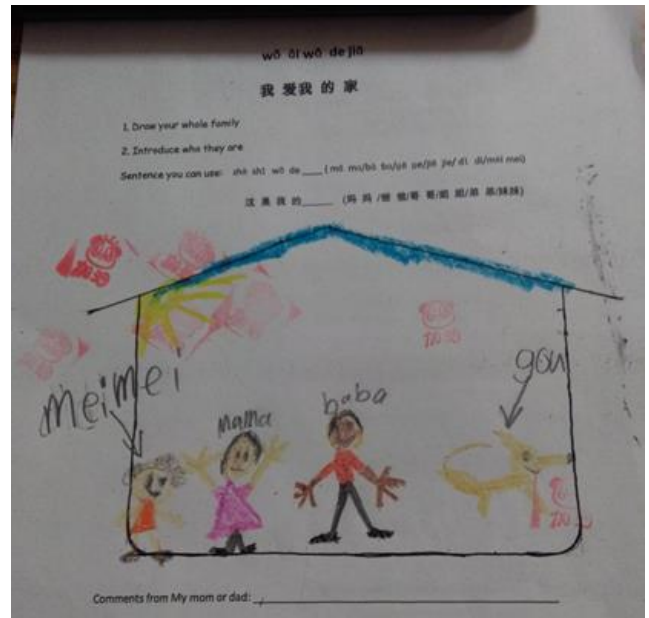


Students singing Chinese songs

Geneva North Street School District

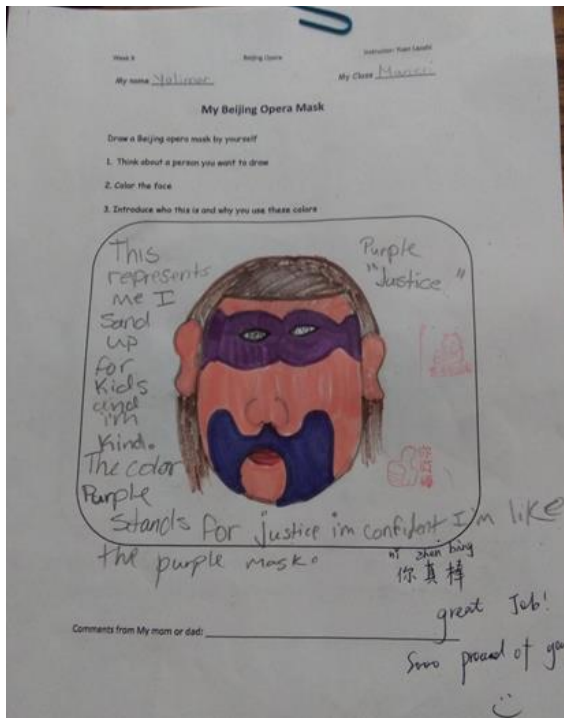
In the last five weeks, students in Geneva North Street School showed more passion for Mandarin Chinese learning, developing the good habit of taking notes in class. They learned how to express their love and thankfulness to their family members in Mandarin. Also, they were curious about the differences between the Chinese family system and the American family, which led them to reflect on the strengths and drawbacks of each family system. And they were surprised to find out that Chinese people don't celebrate

Thanksgiving, but they do celebrate Christmas.



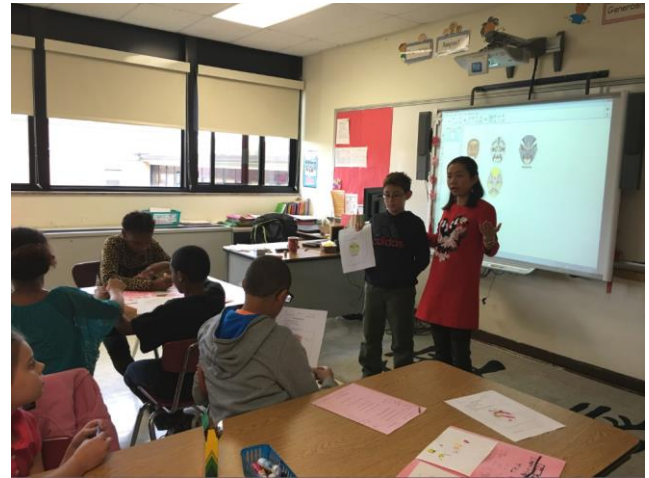
Family tree painted by students

In order to help students get a better understanding of Chinese culture, students in Yuan Yuan's Mandarin Chinese class were treated to a special culture lesson on the Peking Opera on Nov. 15th. Peking Opera, also known as Beijing Opera, is a classic form of performance art which combines the music of Chinese instruments, singing, miming, dancing, and history. It arose in the late 18th century and became popular around the country in the 19th century. It is now regarded as one of China's cultural treasures.



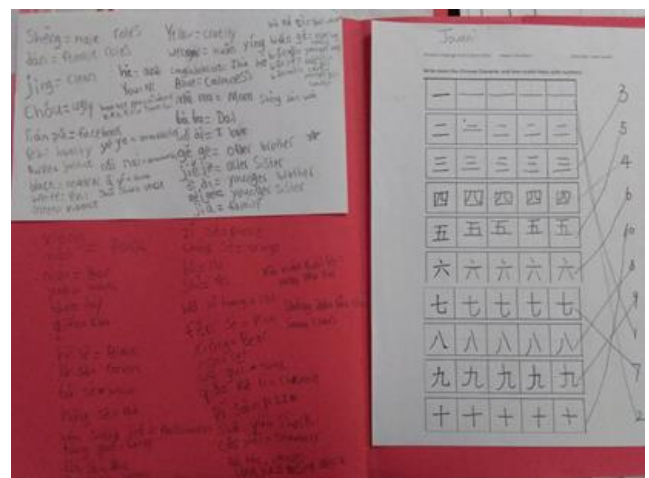
Peking (Beijing) Opera mask designed by a student

Ms. Yuan combined the lesson with a vocabulary unit on colors, explaining to the students the cultural meaning behind colors used in opera masks. The masks are typically red, purple, green, yellow, black or white. Some colors have meanings similar to Western perceptions, she told students: Purple, for example, means justice. Others, however, are quite different: White represents evil, while black is a positive color. Students showed great interest in Peking Opera, and they designed their own Peking Opera masks based on their understanding of the personalities which are represented by different colors.



Student showing his painting of a Beijing Opera mask

Ms. Yuan believes that students will become “global citizens” with great intercultural communicative competence if they can master more of a foreign language. With the inseparable economic relation with China, learning Mandarin Chinese will definitely help students in Geneva to become more competitive in the global village.



Notes taken by students in Mandarin Class

Northstar Christian Academy

On November 4th, Northstar Christian Academy in Rochester said farewell to the students from Chengdu, its sister school in China, with a program closing ceremony. This is the second exchange program our Chinese instructors have supported and participated in. Our Chinese instructors, Mrs. Wu and Mrs. Chen, taught their American students to sing Chinese songs and to greet their Chinese guests in their own language, as well as to present calligraphy art.



Window Program students from Chengdu say farewell to American students

Students from the two countries spent two happy weeks sharing the cultures and arts of the two countries. Mrs. Wu served as

coordinator and interpreter, and the whole exchange program was successfully accomplished.

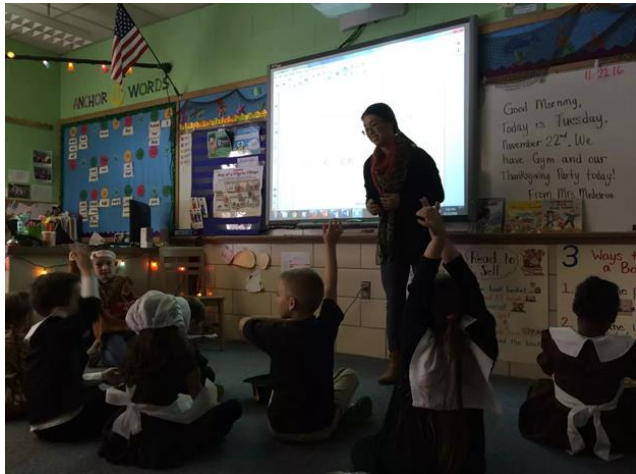
On November 15th, Northstar Christian Academy held the second open house of this semester. Mrs. Chen and Mrs. Wu presented a Chinese handcraft—Chinese knots. Students and parents gathered at the stand and waited in a long line to make a Chinese knot with their own hands.



Mrs. Chen and Mrs. Wu presenting a Chinese handcraft—Chinese knots

During these two months, elementary Chinese culture and language classes focused on daily expressions such as days of the week, dates, numbers, colors, and animals. In November, students made Thanksgiving cards with greetings in Chinese. Students also made paper lanterns and learned to

sing Christmas and New Year songs in Chinese for the holidays.



Mrs. Chen teaching First Grade



Holiday red lanterns - Mrs. Wu with Kindergarteners

Northstar Christian Academy High School's Chinese course is a credit-bearing course. This year Mrs. Wu started the Chinese program in seventh grade. Students have learned many communication topics, including family, food, school life, time, weather, and jobs. Along with the communication topics, students learned about Chinese culture and

arts, such as calligraphy, music, and Peking Opera.



Student doing calligraphy in Chinese class



Chinese bulletin board with holiday decorations

North Syracuse Central School District

Ms. Yao Zhang and Ms. Suping Wang continued their school year teaching about Chinese culture, particularly the Yellow River and early Chinese history, in social

studies classes in two middle schools in North Syracuse. The children were very interested in the reason why the Huanghe River is called the Yellow River, Mother River, and the Earth Suspended River. When they saw the bronze vessels and the first Chinese characters, inscriptions which were engraved on animal bones or tortoise shells of the Shang Dynasty, they were totally fascinated by the civilization of ancient China.



Learning Chinese tones with a McDonald's image

About 380 students in North Syracuse are learning Chinese language this school year. The children have learned how to pronounce the four tones of the language, the uses of personal pronouns, Chinese table manners, and how to use chopsticks. It was the first time for some students to use chopsticks! They opened their mouths in big surprise when they

picked up jelly beans. At the end of the lessons, every child got a piece of Chinese candy after they said, “Dà Bái Tù” or “Yēzi Táng” (the names of Chinese candy) with standard Mandarin.



Practicing chopsticks with jelly beans

Pine Plains Central School District

A variety of class activities and traditional Chinese games are a great method to encourage our students to learn Chinese and to understand China. Every Friday, after the routine quiz, students in Mandarin class have about ten minutes to play Chinese games. Jianzi (shuttlecock) is one of their favorite games. And with the holiday is coming, 8th grade students volunteered to decorate the door of the Chinese classroom. They drew a picture of China using their imagination,

combined with the knowledge of China they have gained.



Students kicking the shuttlecock



Students decorating the Mandarin classroom's door

In addition, for the credit-bearing class at Pine Plains High School, we also have been organizing a fieldtrip related to Chinese culture, and our students are really looking forward to it. Our students are now learning how to use chopsticks in preparation for the upcoming fieldtrip.



Students using chopsticks

The First International Conference on Cultural Exchange Between Chinese and American Art Institutions 2016

The "First International Conference on Cultural Exchange Between Chinese and American Art Institutions 2016" was held successfully at Alfred University on November 12th and 13th. The theme was entitled "Artistic Ecology."



Conference participants

The conference was organized cooperatively by the Arts Design

School of Wuhan University of Technology and the Confucius Institute at Alfred University (CIAU), hosted by Wuhan, China – U.S. Cultural and Art Institutions' Exchange Center (CUCA), and undertaken by CIAU. More than 30 representatives from art institutions in China were invited to attend.



Dr. Huang delivers a speech

Shan Ding, CUCA Center Deputy Director, Gerar Edizal, Dean of AU School of Art and Design, and Wilfred Huang, CIAU Director, opened the meeting and welcomed the guests.



Gerar Edizal gave a speech

Representatives from China and the

United States introduced the current status of their cultural and artistic institutions and their vision for future cooperation and development through slides and explanations in both languages.



Wayne Higby, Curator of the AU Ceramic Art Museum, gave a speech

Many delegates gave speeches and participated in discussions, including Gerar Edizal, Joseph Scheer, Co-Director of the AU Digital Media School, Wayne Higby, Curator of the AU Ceramic Art Museum, and Xiaoxia Zhou, Director of China Institute. During the latter part of the conference, the two sides discussed matters of cooperation and exchange of resources, and worded a cooperation letter with the intent to build the Sino-U.S. Art Information Platform and other agreements, which, based on mutual trust and reciprocity, pledge to use artistic resources to increase friendly cooperation.



Xiaoxia Zhou, the China Institute director, gave a speech

In addition, Zhongbei Daisy Wu and Chenchen Lin played "Black Bamboo Melody" on the guzheng and "Horse Racing" on the erhu for the delegates, and invited Professor Luanne Crosby to sing a famous Chinese folk song, "Jasmine." These were met with bursts of applause.



Prof. Luanne Crosby singing "Jasmine"

The Confucius Institute at Alfred University has given full play to its role in the exchange of cultural and artistic ideas between China and the United States. The conference improved the understanding of

artistic institutions, expanded the forms of cooperation in cultural and artistic exchanges, and built a bridge for the sharing and exchange of artistic resources between the two nations.

Guzheng Performance at Houghton College

On November 18th, CIAU Associate Director Daisy Wu was invited to give a guzheng performance in the Ortlip Gallery, a multi-purpose exhibition space in the Houghton College Center for the Arts, during the Art Department's First Alumni Ceramic Works Exhibition. The beautiful melody of the guzheng attracted many visitors, and Gallery Curator Alicia Taylor expressed her thanks to Daisy Wu in her speech.



Daisy Wu playing guzheng



CIAU faculty with Houghton Professor Gary Baxter and Ortlip Gallery Curator Alicia Taylor

After the exhibition, Daisy Wu introduced CIAU to Houghton College Art Professor Gary Baxter and suggested a future cooperation on cultural exchange between the two parties. Gary Baxter said, “I am interested at Chinese ceramics. It would be meaningful if the Confucius Institute could offer an exchange platform for us.”

CIAU Faculty Visit the Confucius Institute at Binghamton University

On November 29th, CIAU Chinese Director Jijun Yu, Associate Director Daisy Wu, and other teachers were invited to visit the Confucius Institute at Binghamton University (CIBU).



CIAU teachers visited the Confucius Institute at Binghamton University

Prof. Zuyan Chen and Prof. Linghui Tu gave a warm welcome to the CIAU faculty and showed the teachers the Confucius Institute's office and related cultural exhibitions. Daisy Wu introduced Prof. Jijun Yu, new Chinese director of CIAU, to CIBU directors and presented a memorial gift to them.



CIAU faculty participates in the music lecture

Later the same day, CIBU hosted a lecture on the aesthetics of traditional Chinese music. Dr. Mei Han, director of the Center for

Chinese Music and Culture in Middle Tennessee State University, gave the lecture, and CIAU faculty members also participated. Daisy Wu introduced activities for the promotion of Chinese musical culture overseas to Dr. Mei Han and James Burns, the Director of the Music Department of Binghamton University. In addition, Professor Jijun Yu and Professor Zuyan Chen discussed teaching methods for the Chinese language.



Music and culture in Binghamton

CIAU Faculty Attend the First Annual Multilingual Learners Literacy Conference

On Nov. 30, the First Annual Multilingual Learners Literacy Conference was held in Albany, capital of New York. CIAU faculty Yuan Yuan, a Chinese teacher in the Geneva School District, attended this meeting.



The First Annual Multilingual Learners Literacy Conference in Albany

This conference, hosted by the New York State Department of Education, explored how to develop true "world citizens" by improving students' ability to learn a foreign language in the context of globalization. Dr. Betty Rosa, Director of the New York State Department of Education, gave the opening remarks. She pointed out that, in the context of globalization, educators should think about how to make students true citizens of the world in order to better meet new challenges and to bear the corresponding social responsibilities. In addition, the participants also attended two seminars, according to their own interests, including analysis of the problems of language teaching under the macro background and the introduction of the micro-teaching methods in the day-to-day classroom.



Yuan Yuan and Karen Fahy, head of the Humanities Department of the Geneva School District

The meeting was highly regarded by the Geneva School District, and was attended by Karen Fahy, head of Humanities at the Geneva School District, Tricia Budgar, Principal of West Street School, and Tracy Marchionda, Principal of North Street School.

Guzheng Performance at AU Student Recital

A student recital was held by the AU Performing Arts Department at the end of the fall semester at Miller Theater. This recital featured guzheng, woodwinds, brass, piano, and percussion. Over thirty students from AU Performing Arts classes performed at this event.



Guzheng ensemble playing *Under the Silver Moonlight*

The recital started with the guzheng ensemble playing “Under the Silver Moonlight” and “The Swordsman.” Then Brandon Miller played a guzheng solo, “New Song of the Dongting Lake.” The beautiful melody won warm applause from the audience.



Guzheng solo *New Song of the Dongting Lake*

As a credit-bearing course of AU’s Division of Performing Arts, guzheng class has been taken by over one hundred students.

Chinese Music the Theme of Cultural Lecture at AU

On December 7th, CIAU Associate

Director Daisy Wu was invited by AU Division of Performing Arts Professor Luanne Crosby to give a lecture on Chinese music.



Daisy Wu introduces guzheng, or “Chinese zither”



Chenchen Lin plays erhu, or “two-stringed bowed instrument”

This lecture was given for the class on World Music. Daisy Wu discussed the features of Chinese music and compared it to Western music. She introduced traditional and modern guzheng music through playing the instrument. Then Chenchen Lin played her erhu to introduce another Chinese instrument to the students.

The Eleventh Annual Confucius Institute Conference

On December 11th and 12th, the 11th Annual Confucius Institute Conference was successfully held in Kunming, China. The two days of lively discussions helped the delegates reach broad consensus on objectives for development of the world-wide Confucius Institute in the coming decade and built confidence for the future. More than 2,000 people attended this year’s conference, including Alfred University Provost Rick Stephens, CIAU Director Wilfred Huang, and Chinese Director Jijun Yu.

Tai Chi Class Christmas Party

The Alfred Tai Chi class this semester featured Tai Yi Swimming Dragon Sword and Mawangdui Dao Yin exercises, which received a warm welcome from the Tai Chi class members.



Friends of the Tai Chi group

At the end of each semester, all members of the Tai Chi group get together to hold a great party. The Christmas party was held December 17th at the Terra Cotta Coffee House on Main Street. Old friends and newcomers got together and enjoyed the delicious cuisine. Then the group exchanged Christmas gifts. These special gifts not only represent every friend's love, but also contain warm memories of the Tai Chi group. At the end of the party, the Tai Chi group members all expressed their best wishes to Master Fang and their hope of meeting again.

Upcoming Events

January 17th through the Spring Semester: **Alfred Tai Chi Class** meets Monday through Friday at 9 a.m. at the Joyce and Walton Family Center for Health and Wellness



February 2nd through the Spring Semester: **Chinese Corner** at Alfred University meets every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the Confucius House (10 Park Street) and welcomes students in Chinese classes and anyone else who is interested in learning the language and culture of China. The informal session includes language practice, cultural discussions, a video show,

and games.

February 12th: **Chinese New Year Festival Gala**, Knight Club, Powell Campus Center, Alfred University, 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Free admission, but tickets are required.



Learn Chinese Word and Know Its Culture:

According to Chinese zodiac (shēng xiào 生肖), 2017 is **the year of Rooster** (Fire Rooster) starting from January 28, 2017 (the Lunar Chinese New Year or Chinese Spring Festival) and lasting to February 15, 2018.

	1924		1925
	1936		1937
	1948		1949
	1960		1961
	1972		1973
	1984		1985
	1996		1997
	2008		2009
	2020		2021
	2032		2033

Chinese zodiac (shēng xiào 生肖) is based on a twelve year cycle, each year in the cycle related to an animal sign. Each one has his own animal sign according to his year of the birth (calculated according to the Chinese lunar calendar). The Chinese Zodiac consists of twelve animal signs. People under different signs have unique characters and

fortune.



	1926		1927
	1938		1939
	1950		1951
	1962		1963
	1974		1975
	1986		1987
	1998		1999
	2010		2011
	2022		2023
	2034		2035
	<u>Tiger</u>		<u>Rabbit</u>

The chosen of 12 animals are greatly related to Chinese people's daily and social life. If you analyze these animals carefully, you can find that they can be divided into three categories:



	1928		1929
	1940		1941
	1952		1953
	1964		1965
	1976		1977
	1988		1989
	2000		2001
	2012		2013
	2024		2025
	2036		2037
	<u>Dragon</u>		<u>Snake</u>

The first group is Chinese six domestic animals: horse (马 mǎ), ox (牛 niú), goat (羊 yáng), pig (猪 zhū), dog (狗 gǒu) and chicken (鸡 jī). They are raised and trained for economic and other purposes playing important roles in Chinese agriculture. In people's traditional view, a family will have a flourishing population and live happily if their domestic animals are

all thriving. When the Chinese spring festival comes, people always wish their domestic animals thrive in the coming year. So, due to their importance, these six animals must be chosen in the 12 animals.



	1930		1931
	1942		1943
	1954		1955
	1966		1967
	1978		1979
	1990		1991
	2002		2003
	2014		2015
	2026		2027
	2038		2039
	<u>Horse</u>		<u>Sheep</u>

The second group is wild animals that are well known by the people and closely related to people's life. They are tiger (虎 hǔ), rabbit (兔 tù), monkey (猴 hóu), rat (鼠 shǔ) and snake (蛇 shé). Among them, tiger and snake are feared, rat is detested, and rabbit and monkey are loved by the people. These animals are commonly seen in people's life and easily remembered and chosen into the 12 animals.

	1920		1921
	1932		1933
	1944		1945
	1956		1957
	1968		1969
	1980		1981
	1992		1993
	2004		2005
	2016		2017
	2028		2029
	<u>Monkey</u>		<u>Rooster</u>

The last group includes one animal

– dragon (龙 lóng), the traditional mascot of Chinese people. It is the only fictitious animal in 12 ones. Chinese people think they are descendents of the dragon and have a special emotion with it. It is a deified animal symbolizing auspicious, omnipotent ability and the loftiest power. So, dragon is indispensable.[1]

	1922		1923
	1934		1935
	1946		1947
	1958		1959
	1970		1971
	1982		1983
	1994		1995
	2006		2007
	2018		2019
	2030		2031
<u>Dog</u>		<u>Pig</u>	

The animal year when a person was born is called his / her Zodiac Year of Birth (本命年 Běn Mìng Nián). The distinctive zodiacal way of calculating years based on the lunar calendar decides that every once in every twelve-year cycle people will meet their birth signs. [2]

Reference:

[1]<http://www.yourchineseastrology.com/zodiac/>

[2]https://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/social_customs/zodiac/

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