



The Japan Club of LaGuardia Community College presents
New Year Celebrations in Asia 2024

- Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024
- Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm
- Place: Poolside Cafe, LaGuardia Community College

China



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The New Year's Day in China, also known as the Spring Festival or Lunar New Year (Saturday, February 10 in 2024), is an immensely significant and cherished holiday. It marks the beginning of the traditional Chinese calendar and is celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy by people across the nation. Families reunite to enjoy elaborate feasts together, exchange gifts, and engage in various customs and traditions. Streets are adorned with vibrant red decorations, symbolizing good fortune and happiness. Fireworks and lion dances are performed, spreading the festive spirit throughout the country. The New Year's Day in China is a time for reflection, gratitude, and eagerly embracing the opportunities and challenges that the coming year may bring.

舞龙舞狮 (wǔ lóng wǔ shī) 舞龙舞狮 (wǔ lóng wǔ shī) is a traditional Chinese performance art that involves the dancing of dragon and lion figures. It is commonly seen during festive occasions such as the Chinese New Year and other cultural celebrations. The dragon, typically made of a long colorful cloth, is maneuvered by a team of performers who mimic its movements, while the lion, often portrayed by two or more dancers in a lion costume, imitates the animal's behavior. The performance is accompanied by rhythmic drumming and cymbal clashing, believed to drive away evil spirits and bring good luck and prosperity.



包饺子 (bāo jiǎo zi) 包饺子 (bāo jiǎo zi) is a traditional Chinese cooking method where dumplings, known as "jiaozi," are made by wrapping a filling inside a thin dough wrapper. The filling can vary and may include minced meat, vegetables, or a combination of both. The process involves rolling out the dough, placing a spoonful of filling in the center, and then pleating the edges to seal it. The wrapped dumplings can be boiled, steamed, or pan-fried until cooked. Popular during festivals and special occasions, 包饺子 is not only a delicious dish but also a social activity where friends and family come together to make and enjoy these tasty treats.



放鞭炮 (fàng biān pào) 放鞭炮 (fàng biān pào) is a traditional Chinese practice of setting off firecrackers. This practice is commonly observed during festive occasions such as Chinese New Year, weddings, and other celebrations. The act of setting off firecrackers is believed to scare away evil spirits and bring good luck and prosperity for the upcoming year. It is a way to usher in positive energy and create a joyful atmosphere. However, due to safety concerns and environmental factors, there are now restrictions on the usage of firecrackers in many cities, leading to a decline in this age-old tradition.



发红包 (fā hóng bāo) 发红包 (fā hóng bāo) is a popular Chinese tradition of gifting money in a red envelope during festive occasions, such as the Lunar New Year or weddings. It is considered a gesture of goodwill, luck, and blessings. Typically, married couples or elderly family members give red envelopes containing money to unmarried or younger relatives. The amount of money enclosed can vary, but it is usually an even number, as odd numbers are associated with bad luck. The act of giving red envelopes symbolizes sharing good fortune and wishing prosperity and happiness to the recipients.



年夜饭 (nián yè fàn) 年夜饭 (nián yè fàn) is a traditional Chinese dinner served on Chinese New Year's Eve. It holds great cultural significance as it symbolizes family unity and auspiciousness. The meal typically consists of various dishes, each with their own symbolic meanings, such as fish symbolizing abundance and prosperity or dumplings signifying wealth and good luck. Families come together to celebrate and enjoy this elaborate feast, believing it will bring good fortune for the upcoming year. The reunion dinner not only highlights the importance of family ties, but also showcases the rich culinary traditions and customs associated with Chinese New Year.



贴春联 (tiē chūnlián) 贴春联 (tiē chūnlián), also known as "Spring Festival couplets," is a Chinese tradition during the celebration of Chinese New Year. These couplets are a pair of poetic verses, written onto red paper strips and then pasted on both sides of the main entrance to a home or business. Each line of the couplet typically consists of four characters written in calligraphy. The couplets convey auspicious messages, blessings and good wishes for the coming year. This tradition is believed to bring good luck and fortune while warding off evil spirits. It serves as a decorative element, symbolizing the anticipation and celebration of a new beginning during the Spring Festival.



New Year Expressions in China

- 新年快乐 (Xīnnián kuàilè): Happy New Year
- 恭喜发财 (Gōngxǐ fācái): Wishing you prosperity
- 万事如意 (Wànshì rúyì): May all your wishes come true
- 吉祥如意 (Jíxiáng rúyì): Good luck and prosperity
- 心想事成 (Xīnxiǎng shì chéng): May all your wishes come true
- 事业发达 (Shìyè fādá): May your career prosper
- 健康长寿 (Jiànkāng chángshòu): May you have good health and longevity
- 幸福安康 (Xìngfú ānkāng): Wish you happiness and good health
- 金鼠贺岁 (Jīnshǔ hèsuì): Celebrating the year of the Rat
- 红包拿来 (Hóngbāo ná lái): Give me red envelopes (traditionally given by elders to children)