



Fyling Hall Matters



Monday 8th February (Issue 15)

Chinese New Year? No, Asian New Year!

The first day of the Chinese lunisolar calendar, the Chinese New Year, is now upon us : this year, the Chinese New Year is today, February the 8th. Most Chinese people will be off work for seven days, from the New Year's Eve to the Chinese New Year "Day 6", and many will be travelling back to their home town, where their parents live. Chinese New Year is considered the biggest holiday in China as the main traditional celebration is about family reunion. Families have a big meal called "the reunion dinner" on Chinese New Year's Eve with all the family members participating: often large families of several generations sit around circular tables and enjoy the food and time together. This is believed to be the most important meal of the year.

But in fact, China is not the only country which considers the Chinese New Year as a big holiday. It is also a public holiday in countries such as Indonesia, Korea, Singapore, and Vietnam. These countries don't necessarily celebrate for the whole week like China, but since their culture is also based on the lunisolar calendar, they do celebrate this special occasion as well.

As I have witnessed for many years, my country, South Korea also celebrates the Chinese New Year altogether, as a family. We celebrate for three days: from the Eve to the day after. On the Eve, we prepare foods for ancestral rites with a variety of fresh herbs, meats, fruits and vegetables. We take a special care of their shapes, colour and freshness as they are going to be the food for the ancestors' spirits. On the day, we begin the ceremony with a deep bow and greetings to our ancestors, and we pray for the family's well-being throughout the New Year. We also have the family dinner, eating this special dish *tteok-guk* (a soup with rice cakes), which is believed to add a year to one's age. After the meal, younger members of the family take a deep bow to older members; and often the older members offer blessings and give money.

It seems strange to be away from home for the New Year, but I hope that the Asian community at Fyling Hall can give you all a taste of our celebration today.

(Sueyan Kim)

Our Celebrations

Today, the week started with an assembly where our international Chinese students shared their culture with the rest of the school. This year, according to the Chinese Zodiac, is the year of the monkey and the students told the story of how the Chinese Zodiac calendar was first created, using masks and (ahem!) their fabulous drama skills. On Friday night pupils enjoyed Chinese food whilst making red envelopes filled with sweets to give out during assembly and creating lanterns to create the right kind of ambiance. It has been a great chance to learn about Chinese culture for the whole school.

Chinese New Year History

According to the ancient Chinese myths, the Chinese New Year began with a beast called the Nian. The Nian would eat the Chinese villagers: they liked children the best! The villagers would try to protect themselves by putting food in their doorway as a sacrifice.

Later, revenge was sought by a villager. A god consulted him and told him that putting red paper and firecrackers on his house would scare the Nian off. Every New Year, villagers would wear red, hang red lanterns and red scrolls from doors and windows. The firecrackers were meant to scare the Nian.

From then on the Nian never came back, but these traditions have never stopped. The Nian was eventually captured by Hongjun Laozu, an ancient Taoist monk.

(Annabel M^cMahon)

Words of the Week

	This week	Next week
Tricky:	precise	ordinary
Trickier:	pedantic	humdrum
Trickiest:	punctilious	mundane



Ingredients for Being a Successful Student

Everyone knows that the three main features of a successful human are: drive, will power and passion. Jacob Lee in Year 5 certainly has all three of these wonderful attributes and more. He is only 9 years old and he has qualified in the County Swimming Championships in 7 events. Jake certainly has passion for his sport, and the drive and will power to be the best.

Olivia Coates, Year 7, has her heart set on being a Marine Biologist. Ewan Wormald, Year 4 wants to be an astronaut and go to the moon and Arthur Green, Year 13, wants to be a primary school teacher. If you want to be a baker then you need a dollop of determination, a portion of passion, and a healthy dose of drive.

Over the past couple of weeks, our headmaster, Mr Allen, has given some interactive and motivational assemblies, in which he talks about how, combining these three traits and others, you can eventually achieve the goals that you have set. Certainly, after the last assembly Mr Allen gave, you should have at least one! A selection of students have told us their dream jobs and their ambition will get them there.

Take Jake Lee, for example. He set himself goals to achieve in something that he is passionate about doing and, with his parents' help, all of his hard work and effort in training have paid off and he has achieved his ambitions. So take a leaf from Jake's book, set goals for yourself in something you are passionate about, and if you put in the hard work and determination, you will achieve these goals and more. (Connor Asprey)

Friends in Unlikely Places

Ever wanted a kitten? Maybe you just want something to look after? Well, at Myrtle Beach Safari, South Carolina, the orang-utans look after the tiger kittens. But this is not a forced relationship, watched under strict circumstances.

The orang-utans started to show genuine interest in the tiger cubs; they would watch as the zoo keepers reared and looked after them. Then, giving into the larger ape, the keepers allowed the orange man to look after the cubs. The apes would play with the cubs, cuddle them and even bottle-feed them when they were hungry. The tiger cubs were not bothered by this at all! They loved the company and attention.

In 2007, a zoo in Indonesia kept two young orang-utans in the same enclosure as a set of tiger cubs. Keeping to the same theme, they got along like a house on fire. I guess that the moral of all this, is that no-matter who (or what) you are, you'll always find a friend...in the unlikeliest of places. (Corbin Shearing)

The World According to Tom...



Inspirational Quote:

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." **John Dewey**

The Week Ahead

Wed	10th	12:00pm	District sports meeting @ Lady Lumley's
		4:00pm	U15 Football round robin @ CCW (Astro)
Thur	11th	2:30pm	U15 Netball v Red House (Away)
Fri	12th	1:00pm	Half term begins
		1:30pm	Parent's meetings
Sat	13th	1:00am	Ski trip departs
Sat	20th	5:00pm	Ski trip returns
Sun	21st	2:00pm	Boarders return

News Team

Editors	Bel McMahon
Reporters	Sueyan Kim Corbin Shearing Connor Asprey Sharron Normanton
History	Bel McMahon
Cartoons	Tom Clarke