Chinese New Year

At Highland Ranch Elementary School and Adobe Bluffs Elementary School
We started the celebration with our Highland Ranch Annual Chinese New Year Kindergarten Parade...
We were soon surprised by the arrival of two guests...
There were two lions! The lions were here and we knew we had to scare them away by wearing red and making loud noises!
We followed them out to the playground where they performed their traditional Lion Dance!
The dancers entertained all the Stallions.
The Lions finished their dance, we fed them some lettuce, and they wished us a Happy New Year! Gung Hay Fat Choy!
1. **Winter Vacation:** Many festivals come with national public holidays, and they are happy times for kids, as they get days off from school and a chance to have fun. Chinese New Year comes with the long winter vacation (about one month), bringing much happiness to kids. The celebrations of Chinese New Year make kids still more excited.

2. **Wearing New Clothes:** Chinese New Year is the time for ringing out the old year and ringing in the new year. Chinese tradition believes that having a bath on New Year’s Eve and wearing new clothes can bring fortune and health. Parents prepare new clothes for their kids.

3. **Spending Time with Parents:** There are lots of children in China who board at school or live with their grandparents or relatives. Their parents are mostly migrant workers, who only come back home during the Chinese New Year period. So Chinese New Year is a great time for kids to enjoy their parents’ long-missed warm hugs and company.

4. **Red Envelopes — Kids’ Lucky Money:** *Red envelopes* Every kid has a chance to “get rich” at Chinese New Year, receiving *red envelopes* (money gifts in “lucky red” envelopes). During the CNY period, children receive many red envelopes from parents, elder relatives, and visitors. Some kids receive over 10,000 yuan! Of course, most parents help their children to manage the money.

5. **Fun with New Year Preparations:** Every family in China does a lot of preparations for Chinese New Year, including shopping, house decoration, and New Year food preparation. When going *shopping for CNY*, new clothes, gifts, and snacks for kids are indispensable. Kids help to do some of the *house decoration*, including affixing door god images, putting up spring couplets, and putting up New Year paintings. Many families, especially those in rural areas, prepare *New Year food* themselves, including New Year cake, glutinous rice dumplings, biscuits, and desserts. Kids enjoy the DIY time with their families.

6. **More Fun with New Year Activities:** There are lots of *special activities* held in the Chinese New Year period, such as setting off firecrackers and fireworks, going to temple fairs, and watching lion and dragon dances. All of these are entertaining for kids.

7. **Yet More Fun with New Year Visits:** Most Chinese people are at leisure during the Chinese New Year period. During CNY, people either visit their relatives or friends, or wait for their relatives' or friends' visits. These visits bring kids many opportunities to enjoy trips with their parents and have fun with other kids.
At Adobe Bluffs, the New Year assembly started with the kids learning a Chinese greeting.
Principal Eddie Park received a gift scroll from the Confucius Society...
Then these performers did a kung fu demonstration!
Then for the grand finale, two dragons emerged and danced for the crowd!
Gung Hay Fat Choy! (Happy New Year!) 2016 is the Year of the Monkey.