



# HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!

**Dumplings February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007  
Celebrating the Year of the Pig with Dumplings!**

## An Introduction to Chinese New Year

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007 marks the beginning of a fifteen day celebration of the 4704<sup>th</sup> Chinese New Year! The lunar calendar is used in determining the New Year. Great festivities are held nearly everyday to welcome in a fresh new year. The festivities are also a celebration of the coming spring and thus Chinese New Year is also called the Spring Festival.

Celebrating the New Year comes many days before the actual date as the whole family bustles around cooking, cleaning, and shopping to prepare for the festivities. This is a big part of the New Year atmosphere as it signifies cleaning the slate and welcoming in good luck and prosperity. The Chinese New Year is one of the biggest and most important holidays in China and many get around one or two weeks of vacation just for celebrating and relaxing.

Many traditions have been passed down through the years, such as lighting firecrackers to ward off evil spirits. For kids, the New Year means paying respects to their elders and receiving red envelopes with money inside as a sign of good fortune. In recent years, it has become tradition that the family will gather around the television to watch the special New Year's Eve program that includes the best of different tribal and lion/dragon dances, acrobats, comedic acts, foreign cultural performances (i.e. Irish dancing), and of course, singing!



## Schedule of Dumplings Festivities:

- 10:30-10:45: Welcome: Arrival, Name tags, Coloring
- 10:45-11:00: Catch the Dragontail Game
- 11:00-11:10: Video clips and slideshow
- 11:10-11:25: Storytelling Time
- 11:25-11:45: Arts and Crafts
- 11:45-12:00: Snacks and a special surprise ☺



## Learn to greet your family in Chinese!

恭喜发财	Gong xi fa cai	Wishing You Luck and Prosperity
猪年快乐	Zhu nian kuai le	Happy Year of the Pig!
新年快乐	Xin nian kuai le	Happy New Year!