This year, Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, begins on February 14th. While this date marks the official beginning of a fifteen-day celebration, a typical household is already bustling with activity many days before. Families are busy cleaning, cooking, and shopping - activities that will clean the slate and welcome the good luck and prosperity the new year will bring.

One popular New Year story is that of the monster, Nian, which is also the Chinese character for the word, “year.” Legend has it that the monster comes down to the villages on the first and fifteenth of every new lunar year to hunt people. The villagers were so scared that they would shut their doors and go into hiding every year. One wise man found that Nian does not like the color red nor the sounds of the firecrackers. Hence, it has now become traditional for people to set off firecrackers and wear the color red on Chinese New Year.

Schedule

10:30 to 10:45 AM  Opening Activity
10:45 to 11:15 AM  Sing Children’s Songs
11:15 to 11:20 AM  Chinese New Year Skit
11:20 to 11:45 AM  Make firecrackers and dragons
11:45 to 12:00 PM  Eat!