

## Chinese New Year has a flashback!

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Yesterday was the start of one of the most cherished holidays in China, The Chinese New Year. It was a bash, the music, the parade, and even the colors were fantastic! The festival ends in 14 days; today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Chinese New Year. Till the end of the festival it's time to PARTY!

The Chinese New is a celebration that started as a day that the farmers would give thanks for their good crops and pray for fertile soil. Now it is time to stop fights and pay old debts, or as the Chinese say “ start fresh”.

The Chinese celebrate the New year by using old and new traditions, for example, people exchange gifts wrapped in red paper and the grandparents give their grandchildren money in red envelopes. The red stands for luck, so if you get something wrapped in red it means good luck. Also, all of the businesses and factories are shut down for the first three days of the New Year. The best way to celebrate the Chinese New Year is the parade and the food, especially when a family gets together. When a family gets together and eats special food it's considered good luck.



This is a picture from the Chinese New Year parade. A man in a Dragon suite

Zodiac signs are very important in the Chinese culture and the Chinese New Year. Each year has an animal named after it. For example, this year is the year of the pig. Each animal has a certain personality that resembles the animal in some way. If you were born in the year of the pig you would be honest, sincere and genuine.

Another way the Chinese celebrate the Chinese New Year is that they tell stories about legendary monsters, like the Nian, a monster that would come down from the mountain and eat people until the Chinese found a way to scare it off. They would set off firecrackers and the light and noise would scare it so much that it would run back to the mountains, today they use the firecrackers for the parade and the festivals. All in all, the Chinese New Year is a celebration to get together with your family, give thanks and have a little fun.



This is a picture of the legendary Nian, the monster that the Chinese would scare off with firecrackers during the Chinese New Year