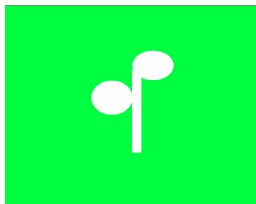


# RENREN CHINESE 人人中文



好好学习  
天天想上



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A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR CHINESE LEARNERS

## Celebrate Ray Chinese School 20th Anniversary (1992-2012)

### Words from Principle

In 1992, a dozen Chinese immigrant families around the Naperville/Lisle region and big Chicago area shared a common dream: making good lives in this land of opportunities, assimilating into this melting pot society, while maintaining their culture and heritage identity stamped with five thousand years of Chinese civilization. With their great efforts, Ray Chinese School was born with dozens of students and handful of parent volunteers as its first teachers. Since then, through the hard work of countless parents and students, teachers and administrators, and with the strong and continuous supports from our local government, school districts, and communities, Ray Chinese School has become the largest Chinese school in the Midwest region and one of the largest in the whole nation.

(to read the whole article, please go to the following web link:  
<http://www.raychineseschool.org/Registration/Account/Ruihua20.aspx>)



- Ray Chinese School 20th Anniversary Anthology has been published on Ray website: <http://www.raychineseschool.org/Registration/Account/Ruihua20.aspx>
- Documentary video "RCS—Towards the Future" has been published on Ray website: <http://www.raychineseschool.org/Registration/Account/Ruihua20.aspx>
- Last day of RCS' fall term is Dec 15 / Dec 16.
- First day of RCS' spring term is Jan 12 / Jan 13

# What's in a Chinese Character

## What's in a Chinese Character

每月一字

Word of the Month

xià

下

down

Written character: 3 strokes

下学: after school

The concept of down and below is clarified in relation to a horizontal line. The stroke below the fundamental line was originally a dot which was extended to a line for ease in writing. The modified forms eventually led to the final ideograph: 下.



Practice Chinese Characters here:

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### RCS Calendar and Holidays

#### December 2012

日	一	二	三	四	五	六
						1
2	3	4	5	9	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	12/15 & 12/16 - Last day 12/21 Winter Solstice 12/25 Christmas (Shèng Dàn Jié)				

#### January 2013

日	一	二	三	四	五	六
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1/1 New Year (Xīn Nián) 1/12 & 1/13 - First day	

# Happy Winter Solstice!

dōng zhì kuài lè  
冬至快乐!

## Culture Express



Winter solstice 2012 is on December 21. It is the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere and the longest day in the southern. In Chinese philosophy, Yin symbolizes the feminine and negative qualities of the universe while Yang the masculine and positive. It is dialectical and dynamic in a sense. When something has reached one extreme, it will turn to the opposite. On the day of the winter solstice, the Yin is at its peak with the longest night. From then on, it will give way to the light

and warmth of Yang. And the Chinese consider it a right time for optimism and joy. Winter solstice is the natural transition between Yin and Yang, so this day was considered as a blessing from 'above'. In China, winter solstice celebrations started 2000 years ago. It was a day to worship heaven and the ancestors. On that day, emperors held one of the most important ceremonies in Temple of Heaven during Ming and Qing dynasties. The ceremony had to be perfectly completed. A small mistake would constitute a bad omen for the whole nation in the coming year.

Like any other holiday celebrations, there must be delicious food to be prepared. On the day of winter solstice, people from northern China more commonly to have dumplings, 'wonton soup' and lamb, while people from southern China have 'tang-yuan' and 'hong dou nuo mi fan' (red bean and sticky rice). These foods are not only taste good, but also helping warming up the body, and building up enough energy for winter.



## Editor's Desk

You can listen to a winter solstice greeting song on-line:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sbgexnc8J7I>