

# RENREN CHINESE 人人中文



好好学习  
天天想上



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## A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR CHINESE LEARNERS

### New Year's Greetings from the Principal

Dear Ray Chinese School students, parents, faculty and staff:

Happy New Year! Welcome back to a new year of Chinese School in 2013.

In the past year, Ray Chinese School has grown steadily under the dedication and hard work of the parents, faculty and staff, volunteers and our school board members. Thank you all for your continuing support.

The enrollment at Ray Chinese School has reached a steady level of 1,300 students for each semester. Our school has offered an increasing variety of courses to our students. We are now operating as a more structured organization. At the same time, we have maintained a healthy financial balance.

In the New Year, we expect to pursue the Chinese Language Teaching accreditation from the State Board of Education. We are also planning to build a database for the Chinese teaching materials, as well as to develop a unified syllabus for each class.

Last year was Ray Chinese School's 20th anniversary. Through a great deal of hard work by the Ray Anniversary Celebration Committee, we held various festivities with great success. We also published a very meaningful 20th Anniversary Anthology. We have grown into a more cohesive community that proudly promotes our language and culture.

We owe the success of the past two decades of Ray Chinese School to the support and efforts of every family in our community. In this New Year of 2013, we confidently look forward to another promising year.

As the current principal, I plan to host a meeting with Chinese School parents in Kennedy Room 146 on January 19<sup>th</sup>. I will report the school operations for the past year and listen to parents' feedback and suggestions, as well as answer any questions they might have. All parents are welcome to attend.

Principal: Zhongmin Jin

### Editor's Desk

You can listen to a Chinese Happy New Year song on-line:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCN-gKjNnDQ>

Happy New Year      新年好呀

Happy New Year      新年好呀

Happy New Year to you all      祝福大家新年好

We are singing      我们唱歌

We are dancing      我们跳舞

Happy New Year to you all.      恭祝大家新年好。

# 每月一字

Word of  
the  
Month



## What's in a Chinese Character

### What's in a Chinese Character

zhōng

中 middle; center

Written character: 4  
strokes

中学: middle school

中心: center

By shooting an arrow: | right into the center of a square target: □ man scored a bull's eye and secured a mark for "center". He added a decoration of four stripes, rearranged them, stripped them off and finally hit this mark for simplicity: 中. The symbol also means standing in the middle or neutrality. Unfortunately, in the application of neutrality, man has completely missed his mark.

.Practice Chinese Characters here:

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### RCS Calendar and Holidays

#### 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		
		1/12 & 1/13 - First day				

#### February 2013

日	一	二	三	四	五	六
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Spring festival	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	



## Culture Express

Chinese New Year

According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year of 2013 is the Year of the Snake (蛇 shé), which begins on February 10, 2013 and ends on January 30, 2014. Many people in countries such as the United States celebrate Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival (春节 chūn jié) or the Lunar New Year.

### What do people do?

Many individuals and communities, particularly Chinese communities, in the United States take part in the Chinese New Year celebrations, which can last for days. Chinese New Year celebrations in the United States have included activities and events such as Chinese New Year parades featuring colorful costumes, lion and dragon dances, Chinatown Street fairs and Firework displays.

### Symbols

Chinese New Year has various symbols and traditions. For example, flowers are an important part of New Year decorations. Writings that refer to good luck are often seen in homes and business environments. They are usually written by brush on a diamond-shaped piece of red paper. Tangerines and oranges are also displayed in many homes and stores as a sign of luck and wealth.

Envelopes with money (红包 hóng bāo) often come in the color red, which symbolizes happiness, good luck, success and good fortune. These envelopes are mainly given as presents to children.



Calligraphy lovers write the Chinese character for chrysanthemum, 菊 (jú), in various styles of calligraphy during the 30th Kaifeng chrysanthemum cultural festival in Henan Province, Oct. 18, 2012.