



Hunan Foster Care Program

Families Thru International Adoption

Winter 2010

February 14th - Chinese New Year

In 2010, the Chinese New Year falls on February 14th. Also known as the “Spring Festival” or the “Lunar New Year,” it is considered by many to be the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays.

The origin of Chinese New Year is centuries old, and as with most major holidays, is associated with several myths and traditions. As with many Western holidays, the days before the New Year are spent giving the home a thorough cleaning, purchasing new clothes, and planning for the festivities.

The fun kicks off the evening before the holiday with a huge family dinner, which normally includes dumplings and seafood. Prawns represent liveliness and happiness, oysters are for all things good, and a raw fish salad known as yu sheng is said to bring good luck and prosperity. The dumplings stand for good wishes, and are sometimes accompanied by Fai-hai, an edible angel hair seaweed, which is said to bring prosperity.

The entire New Year festival lasts fifteen days. The first day is usually spent visiting family members, especially the elder or senior members. Subsequent days include more visits to family and friends, more meals, and prayers. Other activities include gift giving, often in the form of red packets containing money, lion dances, and setting off firecrackers. The final day is known as the “Lantern Festival,” and is the official end of the Chinese New Year.



From Hunan

Fan Lei - The Little Vehicle Fan

Fan Lei is a little vehicle fan. Every time he goes outside, he watches the vehicles on the road. He can tell all kinds of vehicles - cars, trucks, jeeps, buses, taxis, and so on. He remembers a lot of car logos. He can even tell some brands by the shape of the car without actually seeing the logo on the car.

Among all kinds of vehicles, he likes trucks best. He always imagines that he is a truck driver and drives the truck around. One of his favorite toys is a toy truck. He lets his toy truck run on all kinds of road conditions - floor, bed, sofa, table, rock, and even on his cookie! Every time he is asked what he wants to be in the future, he will say, "I want to be a truck driver!"





From Hunan Continued

Princess Cao Wei

Cao Wei is a very pretty girl. She got a very beautiful shining crown as a New Year gift. She likes it so much that she wears it all the time. Her foster mother can take it away from her head only after she is fast asleep.

Looking in the mirror with the crown on her head, she will ask her foster mother, “Mommy, do I look like a princess?” Her foster mother says, “Yes, you do.” One day, the crown was broken by accident. She was so sad. “I can’t be a princess any more,” she cried. Her foster mother held her in her arms and said, “You are always a little princess no matter if you have a crown or not.” Although Cao Wei still grieved for her broken crown, she felt better.





The Year of the Tiger

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The Chinese calendar is different than the Western calendar. Based upon the various cycles of the moon, the Chinese or Lunar calendar starts on a different date each year, usually falling between January 21st and February 19th each year. The calendar repeats every twelve years, and much like the Western signs of the Zodiac, has a different animal to represent each annual cycle.

The Tiger is the third sign in the Chinese Zodiac, and stands for bravery. Anyone that is born in the Year of the Tiger is usually straightforward and outgoing by nature. They will never give up no matter how aggravated they may become. But, they are also full of suspicion and at times will take hasty action. Never lose sight of the fact that Tigers are smart and instinctive.

People born in the Year of the Tiger always take pride in being different from others, and normally demonstrate their originality best in their homes. Their homes are typically filled with exotic possessions.



It is no surprise that one of the Tiger's favorite gemstones is the cat's eye, but tigers also love the sparkle of rubies and diamonds. They like to spend money, and also to share it. They can be very impulsive spenders because they know they can at all times make more.

Tigers are said to be most compatible with those born in the years of the Horse, Dragon, and Dog, and should avoid those born in the years of the Rabbit, Monkey, Snake, and Ox.

The Year of the Tiger is the third year in the cycle of "Heavenly Branches". Customarily, it is called "Yin". Those born in the Year of the Tiger are compatible with the horse, dog, and dragons. The year 2010 is another Year of the Tiger. It is the ji-chou year. Jji is the sixth of the Ten Celestial Stems and yin is the third of the Twelve Terrestrial Branches and marks the Year of the Tiger.





Continuing Needs

Changsha Foster Care Program

In 2009, we received over \$9,000 in donations for our Hunan Foster Care Program. We want to remind you that 100% of these monies will go to China to provide direct aid to children in our China Foster Care Programs. Every donation helps to make a difference for these children! We work hard to ensure the children receive the benefit of your kindness. Every dollar of a contribution will be used to pay for foster care and nutritious formula for the children. FTIA continues to pay all administrative expenses associated with the maintenance of our Foster Care Programs.

FTIA can now accept online donations thru PayPal for our China Foster Care Programs! You do not need a PayPal account to use this option. Please go to <http://www.ftia.org/FosterCareDonationButton.asp> and click on the PayPal button. Complete the requested information on your name and credit card, enter the amount of your donation, and click the “Submit” button to complete your payment. This is a secure online site and your information will not be shared with anyone outside FTIA.

