



# Hunan Foster Care Program

## Families Thru International Adoption

*Winter 2011*

### *Tomb Sweeping Day*

Also known as ***Qingming Festival, Pure Brightness Festival, or Ancestors Day***, this year's ***Tomb Sweeping Festival*** falls on April 5th. As the name suggests, this festival denotes a time to go outside and enjoy the coming of spring. It is also suggested that time be spent visiting and tending to the graves of loved ones. Tombs are swept and offerings are made to the departed ancestors.

Along with remembering the dead, Tomb Sweeping Day is also a time for families to enjoy themselves. This is the time of year for families to go out and enjoy nature as winter turns to spring. Some families spend the days and evenings flying kites. At night, small lanterns are sometimes tied to the kite. Once aloft, it resembles stars twinkling in the sky. The kite string is then cut, allowing the kite to fly free. Doing so is said to bring good luck and eliminate disease.





## *From Hunan*

### **Cao Wei**

Cao Wei is a four-year old girl. Recently she is very interested in role play game. Her little doll is not her friend any more. It is her “daughter” right now. She is a very good “mother” who takes very good care of her daughter. When she feels that her daughter is upset, she will hold the doll in her arms and whisper softly to the baby, “it is all right, mommy is here.” She also wants a “father” for her “daughter.” She asked a three-and-half-year old boy to be the father. The boy refused to do that. It made her upset.





## *From Hunan Continued*

### *Li Chun Xiang*

Li Chun Xiang's favorite activity is playing in water. Every time he takes bath, he splashes the water all over. It is very hard to pull him out of the tub. His foster mother is afraid that he will get cold if he stays in the tub too long time. He said to his mother, "Mom, I am a fish. I live in the water. I won't get cold."





## *The Year of the Rabbit*

Early February ushered in Chinese year 4709, the Year of the Rabbit. In the Chinese zodiac, each year is represented by one of twelve animals. One's personality and character are said to be influenced by the animal that rules your year of birth, and the years that correspond to one's birth year are said to be particularly lucky.

People born in the Year of the Rabbit are said to have excellent taste and are financially lucky. Because they often make the correct choices when it comes to numbers, it is thought that people born in the Year of the Rabbit make good gamblers; however, they seldom gamble, because they tend to be conservative and don't want to waste their money.

While the Year of the Rabbit offers a period of good taste and refinement, it does not do to become too indulgent. While life becomes easy in the Year of the Rabbit, it is said that the influence of the Rabbit has a tendency to spoil those who take it too easy or over-indulge.

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The Year of the Rabbit is usually associated with home, family, diplomacy, and keeping the peace. Because of this, some schools of thought feel that 2011 will be calmer than the preceding Year of the Tiger, with all of its upheavals due to the Tiger’s competitiveness and unpredictability.

Those born in the years of the Sheep, Dog, and Pig – said to get along best with the Rabbit – will also thrive during a Rabbit year. Whatever your Chinese zodiac sign, we wish you a safe, happy, healthy year!



*Information courtesy of c-c-c.org, theholidayspot.com, chiff.com, holidayinsights.com, and chinesezodiac.com.*

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