Chinese New Year Celebration

Preschool–Kindergarten

Objectives
• Students will listen to an oral reading of a nonfiction story about Chinese New Year.
• Students will recall and identify customs and traditions associated with this holiday.
• Students will create and use a dragon puppet to celebrate Chinese New Year.

Materials Needed
• Dragon Dance: A Chinese New Year Lift-The-Flap Book by Joan Holub
• Dragon puppet template
• Chart paper
• Marker
• Red construction paper (cut into 12” x 2” strips)
• Glue
• Crayons
• Glitter (optional)
• Chopsticks (two per student)
• Curling ribbon
• Tape
• Scissors

Introduction
2. As you read, invite student volunteers to take turns lifting the flaps on each page. Discuss with students what is found beneath each flap.

Procedure
1. Ask students what they learned from the story about Chinese New Year.
2. Write dictated responses on chart paper, referring back to the book as needed.
3. Tell students the date for Chinese New Year this year. Explain to students that this date changes each year based on the Chinese calendar. Point out that each Chinese calendar year has an animal symbol assigned to it (ex: Year of the Dragon). Research which animal is assigned to the new year.

Independent Practice
1. Provide students with a dragon puppet template, one red construction paper strip and the other craft materials.
2. Show students how to fold the strip of paper like an accordion. Then help them wrap each end of the strip around a chopstick and secure with glue. The strip will be the body of the dragon puppet, and the chopsticks will be the handles.
3. Have students cut out the dragon’s head and tail. (You may want to precut the dragon for younger students.) Prompt them to fold each piece and glue one to each end of the red strip.

4. Encourage children to use the crayons and glitter (if desired) to decorate their dragons. Invite students to tape curling ribbon to the ends of the chopsticks.

5. Lead students, dragons in hand, in a parade to celebrate Chinese New Year!