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Diamond's Hidden Gem - Lunar New Year

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DIAMOND'S HIDDEN GEMS



Lunar New Year

Whether you're visiting the John C. Hitt library or simply walking through, you've probably noticed the latest exhibit on the art wall, as well as several exhibit cases. This display depicts the Lunar New Year, also known as the Chinese New Year exhibit, and will be up until the end of January!

Below, I briefly describe the festival and how UCF Library intends to celebrate with students!



Chinese New Year marks the transition between zodiac signs: 2022 was the *Year of the Tiger*, and 2023 is the *Year of the Rabbit*.

The festival celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. The *Lunar New Year* is based on the lunar calendar, and the holiday begins with the second new moon. Because it is based on the moon's cycles, the dates vary annually.

The origins of the *Lunar New Year* festival are thousands of years old. The celebration centers on removing the bad and the old and welcoming the new and the good. It's a time to worship ancestors, exorcise evil spirits, and pray for a good harvest.

Chinese New Year 2023 falls on **Sunday, January 22nd, 2023**. Celebrations last up to 16 days, so festivities culminate with a *Lantern Festival* on **February 5th, 2023**.

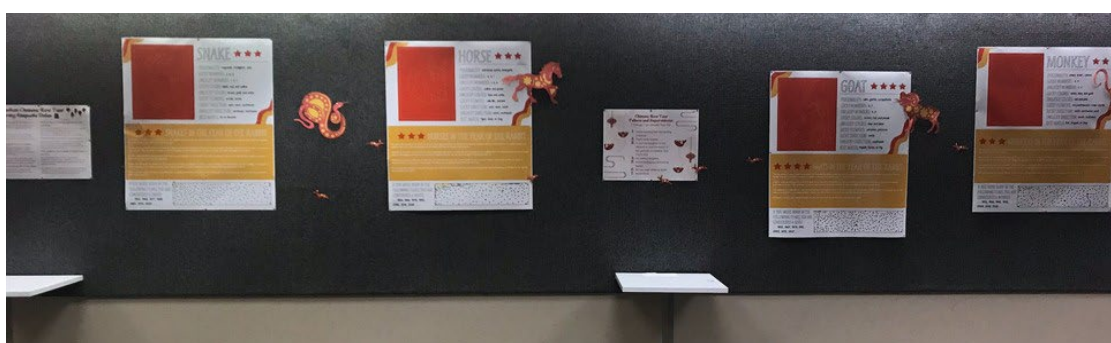
Each year features a zodiac animal, and this cycle repeats every 12 years: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig.

This year is all about the **rabbit**; in Chinese culture, the rabbit is the luckiest out of all 12 animals, symbolizing **responsibility, kindness, quiet, mercy, elegance, and beauty**.



The final day of celebration is the *Lantern Festival*, which falls on the first full moon of the lunar new year. It celebrates family reunions and society, features ancient spiritual traditions, and includes various activities like moon gazing, riddles, dragon dances, lion dances, and eating rice balls. One prominent activity is the lighting and release of lanterns! The lanterns symbolize the release of their owners' past selves and the manifestation of good luck.

To join the festivities, UCF Library has curated a Chinese New Year exhibit, displaying information about the celebration, customs and traditions, Chinese astrology, and art pieces! As you walk by the art wall, take a second to interact with the graphics! The posters ask you to stick a dot under your Chinese astrology sign, corresponding to the year you were born. The UCF Library also had a **"Make your own Chinese New Year lantern"** on Friday, January 20, 2023, from 10 a.m. to noon. During this event, we came together to ring in the Chinese New Year by making decorative paper lanterns!



Thank you for reading!

Lunar New Year is a celebration that is important to many Asian and Asian American students. It is a celebration of family, friends, and cultural heritage.

Make sure you learn more about why people celebrate Lunar New Year, the history and traditions behind the celebration, and ways you can participate in this holiday respectfully. Below are some great resources to help you learn more:

- History.com hosts a Lunar New Year 2023 resource page that provides the opportunity to learn more about the establishment of the lunar calendar and traditions.
- ChineseNewYear.net offers resources about the 12 different animals of the Chinese zodiac, the history of the Chinese zodiac, and the science behind Chinese astrology.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Thank you for reading this installment of **Diamond's Hidden Gems**. If you have concerns or would like to reach out regarding business inquiries, please email me here:

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