

Chinese New Year Returns to Covington Middle School

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[Register Here for Celebration & Dinner](#)

Date and Time: Mark Saturday, January 22, 2011, from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on your calendar, as our community will celebrate the Year of the Rabbit at Covington Middle School in south Austin. Please then join us afterwards for dinner at the Buffet Palace (Westgate location).

Online Tickets: Online registration begins on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. You may click on the appropriate registration link above to preregister and pay for your tickets. This is also an excellent time to renew your membership and get a price break to this, and all of our 2011 events. **Please Note:** Anyone opting to pay at the door on the day of the event will be charged non-member prices. **Only checks or cash will be accepted at the door.**

Silent Auction Contributions: For those wishing to contribute materials to the Silent Auction, please contact [Dianne Harwood](#). She will be accepting items until Saturday, January 15, 2011. **Only checks or cash will be accepted for auction purchases.**

Slideshow: Stacey Cone will once again create a nifty slideshow that runs before the entertainment portion of the celebration. If you would like to contribute some photographs to this slide show, email those images to her at: FCC.CNY@gmail.com. These are for this specific slideshow and will not appear on the internet or anywhere else.

Crafts: We have returned the free children's crafting to this event. Volunteers from the University of Texas' China Care organization, lead by playgroup president Lucy Liu, will be in the cafeteria hosting four crafting stations. Coordinated by Cheryl Dragel and Robin Davis, they will have: rabbit face painting, chopstick character frames to build, cardstock with your name in Mandarin available, and another chance to create a prayer flag wish. In addition, [77 Mandarin Preschool](#) teacher Terri Xiang will provide a Chinese passport craft, complete with appropriate Chinese rubber stamps as well as your child's name in Chinese. There will also be free snacks available in the cafeteria.

When you arrive at Covington Middle School, you will see strings of prayer flags decorating the inside and outside of the building inscribed with symbols, prayers, good wishes, uplifting thoughts, and drawings created by adults and children from

our community. Based on the Tibetan monk tradition, these decorated fabrics offer a wish for harmony in the universe. We have had children and adults from the UT China Care playgroups contribute to these strings of flags, as well as students from Ms. Robyn Stringfellow's Mandarin classes at Murchison Middle School. The opportunity is still available to anyone, as we will have a space in the cafeteria with materials for those who wish to draw or write their wish and help us send positive energy to the winds, benefiting all beings.

Family Portrait Opportunity: Austin photographer Jim Garrison will be on hand from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for those wishing to have their family's portrait taken. These images will then be available for purchase at a later date on his website at: <http://www.jhmg.net>.

Entertainment: We have confirmed performances by Austin Taiko Drum, For the Love of China Dance School, April Rain Chinese Dance School, Austin Kung Fu Academy, 77 Mandarin Preschool students, Murchison Middle School students, and a finale performance by the Texas Dragon Dance/Lion Dance Team.

Time Schedule

2 p.m.-3 p.m.: Registration, Silent Auction, Barefoot Books for sale, the FCC Loaner Library, Family Portrait opportunity, Taiko drumming in the courtyard (outside, weather permitting), Year of the Rabbit t-shirts for sale in the main building's lobby, children's crafts & free snacks in the cafeteria

3 p.m.-4 p.m.: Slideshow and Entertainment in the auditorium of the Fine Arts building

4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.: April Rain School of Chinese Dance leads us in a community dance in the courtyard followed by the Texas Dragon Dance/Lion Dance Team in the courtyard (outside, weather permitting)

5:30 p.m.: Please join us afterwards for dinner a short distance away at The Buffet Palace (Westgate location)

