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start
can make
a world of
difference.

January 2014

Happy Chinese New Year!



Gong Xi Fa Cai! The Chinese New Year begins this year on January 31st and last for 15 days, ending on February 14th! In China, families gather for an annual reunion to commemorate this special time in their calendar. Each day several different activities and practices are followed all with a central theme – honoring deities/ancestors and welcoming the New Year. It is also very common for families to thoroughly cleanse their house to get rid of any bad luck or misfortune and make room for any good luck that will be coming their way in the upcoming year.

This year is the year of the Horse! In the Kindergarten classroom we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year in many different ways, but you can also celebrate it at home with these fun and easy activities!

Chinese Moon Cake

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 1/2 cup salted butter
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup strawberry (or your favorite) jam
(traditionally red bean paste is used so if you want a more authentic version, you can use a can of red bean paste instead of the jam).



Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

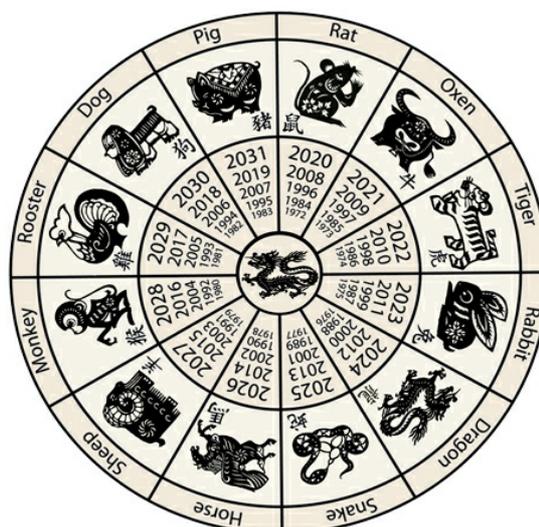
2. Combine the butter, sugar and 1 egg yolk and stir.
3. Mix in the flour.
4. Form the dough into one large ball and wrap it in plastic wrap.
5. Refrigerate dough for half an hour.
6. Unwrap the chilled dough and form small balls in the palms of your hand.
7. Make a hole with your thumb in the center of each mooncake and fill with about half a teaspoon of jam.
8. Brush each cake with the other beaten egg yolk and place on a cookie sheet. (We didn't have a brush to do this, so skipped the brushing step)
9. Bake for about 20 minutes or just until the outside edges are slightly brown
10. Makes 24

1. Read Bringing in the New Year by Grace Lin. This is a great book that I use in my classroom to teach the children about how people celebrate the Chinese New Year. I use a diagram to compare and contrast our American traditions to the Chinese traditions.



2.

Learn about you Chinese Zodiac year! As previously stated, 2014 is the year of the horse. The last time it was the year of the horse was 2002. Go over your child's birthdate, including the year and then help your child look up what animal year your child was born in. This is a perfect way to start to introducing research skills to you little learner. There are many kid-friendly research engines available!



Important Notes



Registration for September 2014 Kindergarten has begun. To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before October 1. There are a limited number of spaces in our Kindergarten program. Please see Sheryl for further details or to pick up an application.

Reminder: The Center will be CLOSED on Monday, February 17th in observance of President's Day.



Holiday and School Breaks...We've Got You Covered! We are available year-round during school breaks and holidays to help with your childcare needs! See Sheryl for registration materials.



Our Box Tops Contest was a huge success! Congratulations to the PreK A classroom! They collected 1,446 Box Tops and won a classroom party! Great Job!

Parents, take a moment to visit our Toy Lending Library. Browse through our selection of toys your child could borrow for a week and enjoy at home. A variety of fun and education toys are available from which to choose! The Toy Lending Library is open



to children ages 2 ½ and up on Tuesday's
and Thursday's from 3:30 to 6:00 pm.



Be sure to tell your friends about the Turrell Center! If you refer a family to us, you'll receive one weeks' free tuition after they're enrolled for three months!

Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center is affiliated with Children's Aid and Family Services. Children's Aid and Family Services has a 110-year history of helping vulnerable children and families. Our services include adoption, foster care, child care and early education, alcohol and drug abuse education and prevention, eldercare and community educational programs and workshops. There are so many ways for you to get involved and make a difference. Adopt. Foster. Donate. Volunteer. For more information, call 201.261.2800 or visit www.cafsnj.org.

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