



St. Louis Chinese Academy is a Chinese language school which offers classes for adults and children ages 3 and up. Students learn to understand, speak, read and write in Chinese and communicate with each other in Mandarin Chinese



Our programs are practical and with small class sizes, all in a friendly environment of interactive teaching, using multimedia resources, games, and hands-on activities to encourage participation from students.



The school also provides great opportunities for cultural learning; this year we've had Chinese New Year celebration, Chinese Valentine's Day shadow play, Dragon Boat Festival celebrations and more fun activities offered for children to experience the Chinese traditions.

Please visit our website at www.stlchineseacademy.com to find out more!! With the growth of globalized economy, if you or your children, friends are interested in learning Chinese as a second or third language, please feel free to contact us. We will love to have you joining us on Sundays at the St. Louis Community College Meremac campus.

School Semesters:
Spring: January through May
Fall: August through December
Class Hours: 1:30 – 4:30 PM on Sundays

Class Activities:
1st - 2nd Hours: Language Classes
3rd Hour: Extra-Curricular Classes
Extra-Curricular Classes: Arts & Crafts, Kung-Fu, Chinese Calligraphy, Computer, Ping Pong and more

For more information:
www.stlchineseacademy.com

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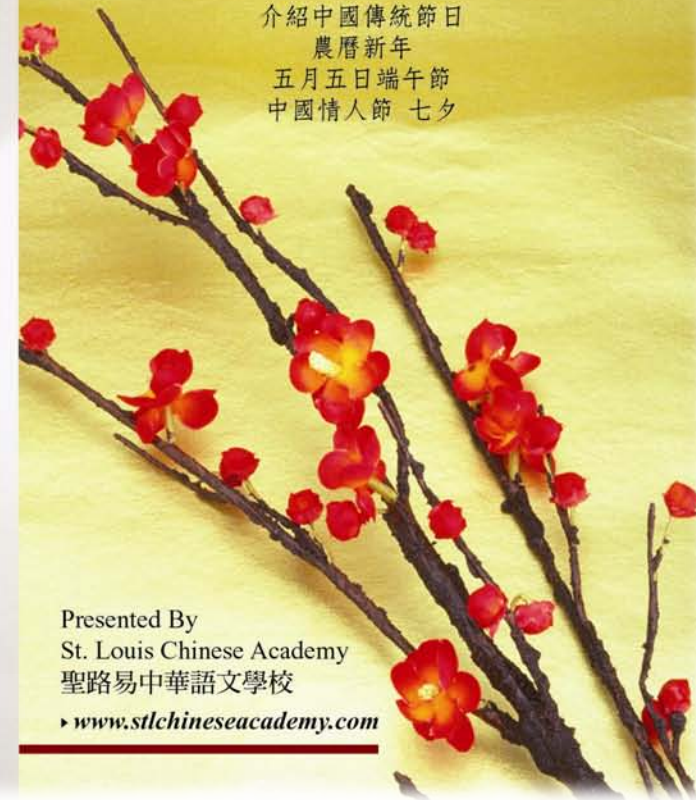
CCD Student Painting winners from the St. Louis Chinese Academy

中華日

Chinese Cultural Day 2009

Introduction of Traditional Chinese Holidays
Chinese New Year
Dragon Boat Festival
Chinese Valentine's Day

介紹中國傳統節日
 農曆新年
 五月五日端午節
 中國情人節 七夕



Presented By
 St. Louis Chinese Academy
 聖路易中華語文學校
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Chinese New Year

When: 1st day of 1st lunar month

This year: January 26, 2009 (Year of Ox)

Activities: Fire crackers, red envelopes, red banners at doors and windows, red clothing, dragon/ lion dance and family gathering

Traditional food: Dumplings, steam bowl, feast

Story:

Each Chinese New Year is linked to one of the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac. Below is a popular telling of tale explaining how the order of the animals of the zodiac was chosen:

When it came time for the Jade Emperor in heaven to decide the order of the zodiac, he invited all the animals to participate in a race. The order of the zodiac would be decided by the order in which animals finished the race. When the competition started, the ox was leading the pack, but the rat jumped on his back. Since the rat was so light and small, the ox did not realize that the rat was hitching a ride. As the ox approached the finish line, the rat leap off his back and was crowned as the first animal to complete the race. After all the creatures finished the race, the order was finalized: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. According to legend, those born in a particular year of an animal are said to possess particular character traits associated with that animal.



Dragon Boat Festival or Duan Wu Festival

When: 5th day of 5th lunar month

This year: May 28, 2009 (Year of Ox)

Activities: Dragon boat race, rice dumpling wrapping, and egg stand

Traditional food: Rice dumplings

Story:

The best-known traditional story holds that the festival commemorates the death of poet Qu Yuan (c. 340 BC - 278 BC) of the ancient state of Chu, in the Warring States Period of the Zhou Dynasty. A descendant of the Chu royal house, Qu served in high offices. However, when the king decided to ally with the increasingly powerful state of Qin, Qu was banished for opposing the alliance. Qu Yuan was accused of treason. During his exile, Qu Yuan wrote a great deal of poetry, for which he is now remembered. Twenty-eight years later, Qin conquered the Chu capital. In despair, Qu Yuan committed suicide by drowning himself in the Miluo River on the fifth day of the fifth month. It is said that the local people, who admired him, threw food into the river to feed the fish so that they would not eat Qu Yuan's body. This is said to be the origin of zongzi. The local people were also said to have paddled out on boats, either to scare the fish away or to retrieve his body. This is said to be the origin of dragon boat racing.



Chinese Valentine's Day (Qi-Xi)

When: 7th day of 7th lunar month

This year: August 26, 2009

Activities: Stars observation

Story:

According to legend, the goddess "Zhi Nü" (the star Vega) fell in love with the farmer boy "Niu Lang" (the star Altair), but was disapproved by her mother goddess. As punishment, they were separated by the Milky Way and could only meet once a year on this night.

For more detailed story and a shadow play please visit: www.stlchineseacademy.com

