

SEARCH

NIEXTER

19 January 2012 | last updated at 12:03AM

Email Print

Ushering In the dragon!

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR is just around the corner, and it is time to welcome the Year of the Dragon. As Malaysia is rich with different cultures and religions, we should practice the spirit of 1Malaysia, and make an effort to know and understand each other's beliefs and celebrations. So what is the significance of the different things we see and hear during this Chinese New Year period?

The cheongsam, a long dress, is traditional Chinese attire worn by the women. It is easy and comfortable to wear. Chinese women usually wear red cheongsams as the colour symbolises good fortune and joy. Men will normally wear samfoo – "sam" means blouse, usually with a mandarin collar, and "foo" are trousers.

Do you know why the color red can be seen everywhere during this season? According to legend, there was a village where a beast called Nian would come to eat crops, livestock, and even children, on the first day of the New Year. People would prepare food and leave it near their doorstep in order to safeguard themselves from the beast. One day, they saw that the beast was afraid of a little girl dressed in red, and since then, the color was used by them everywhere for their protection.

During the Chinese New Year period, you can see tangerines and oranges displayed in houses and shops. Tangerines represent 'good luck', while oranges symbolise 'wealth'.

Lanterns are also closely linked to the lives of the Chinese. They keep evil spirits away from the house, while brightening the mood with the red glow of good luck. The Lantern Festival, also known as Chap Goh Mei, is celebrated on the first full moon of the New Year and signals the end of festivities.

Meanwhile, the fireworks hold different meanings for people. The two main reasons for the use of fireworks are to welcome the New Year, and to ward off evil spirits and misfortune. Whatever the reason, brilliant fireworks displays are exciting to watch and enjoy with family and friends.

Last, but not least, we have the the Hong-bao, or as most of us call it, the ang paws. Hong-bao is basically a red envelope containing money, which is given to children during the 15-day Spring Festival. In China, the colour red is associated with 'good luck', so the red envelopes are supposed to protect children from evil spirits. But we all know that what really matters is the money inside!

Well, those were some of the meanings and significances of the traditions practiced during the Chinese New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Chinese friends a Happy New Year. May the New Year bring you lots of happiness and success!

Sources:

- www.en.wikipedia.org
- www.123chinesenewyear.com
- www.chinaodysseytours.com

CHANNELS

Gadget

Eats

Travelific

Harum

Learning Curve

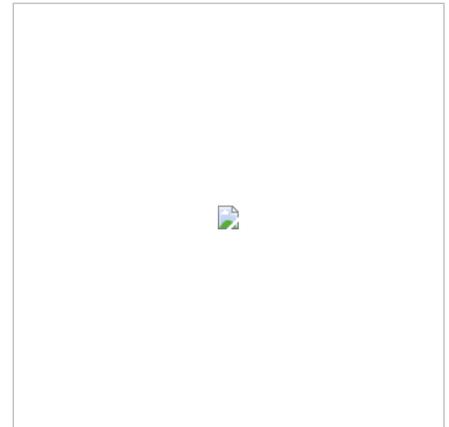
You

Niexter

EXTRAS

Educate yourself about scholarships

Green Technology: Setting the limit for rural sustainability



NSTP FAMILY SITES

- Harian Metro Berita Harian
- Business Times My Gadget Planet
- Travelific Harum
- Eats Properties
- News Image Bank (NIB)

HIGHLIGHTS

- New Economic Model NST Reviews
- NIEXUS Friends of Travel Times
- Property News NSTLIVE Archive
- Spell-It-Right

COFFEE BREAK

Sudoku

By Syaza Nazura, 17 and Angela Roselyn,
16, Negri Sembilan

FROM AROUND THE WEB

-
-
-

Recommended by 

RELATED ARTICLES



Love and hate on
Valentine's Day



GET A LIFE: New
moon rising



CONNECTIVITY:
Penang must rethink
undersea tunnel



PUNCTUALITY: Liu
should practise what
he preaches



Tossing oranges for
luck in love

Leave Your Comment

 Login With Facebook

HOME	NATION	STREETS	WORLD	BUSINESS TIMES	SPORTS	LIFE & TIMES	OPINION	GALLERIES	7 DAY NEWS	CHANNELS
Latest	General	Central			Soccer	Tech	Editorial	Image	Monday	Gadget
Top News	Politics	Northern			Badminton	Health	Columnist	Video	Tuesday	Eats
RSS Page	Extras	Johor			Cricket	Style	Letters To The Editor	Infographics	Wednesday	Travelific
Didik Malaysia					Racing	Travel	Comment		Thursday	Harum
					Other	Showbiz			Friday	Learning Curve
						Live			Saturday	You
						Sunday Life & Times			Sunday	Niexter