

**Etonhouse
Suzhou**

Year 5 Dolphins

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Festivals, Dances and Celebrations!

As we are at the beginning of Spring Festival here in China, we have been focusing on the various festivals in other countries. We will have first hand experiences of Chinese traditional crafts and dances during Deco Day activities. We learned that some festivals are the shared throughout many parts of the world such as marriages, Valentine's Day, funerals, Christmas and Easter. We also learned that each country celebrate a special day in honour of their country. We learnt about Australia Day, which was on the 26th of January. We also joined with Nursery Pandas to bake a special Australian cookie called ANZAC biscuits. We had fun being in charge and helping the younger students understand the procedure of the recipe.

During last week, Seong Min's mom came and showed us the Korean New Year ritual. She gave us some

very great details about this important ritual and we had fun doing it with her. We also researched other rituals in Asian countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, Korea and India. We learned many interesting things from our research. We used the information we collected to decorate our display board outside the class room. We were also visited by Natsuka's mom who performed the Japanese tea ceremony for us. We learned that everything she used was chosen to create harmony, purity, respect and tranquility for the host, the guests and the environment. We felt very special because everything was chosen with us in mind.

We are also studying about the different traditional costumes from different countries and we are in the process of creating paper dolls for each costume.

In mathematics, we began learning how to solve algebraic equations. This was fun as we realized that if we did the opposite of the operation, we would be able to solve the equation easily. We also looked at elapsed time using train schedules. We are continuing our revision of fractions, division, two digit multiplication and percentage.

In Literacy we have been looking at traditional stories from around the world. We looked at the story of Chusok, which is the Harvest Festival of Korea and at Anansi stories, which is from Africa but is a part of the Caribbean culture also.



Highlights

- ◆ **Open Day—
February 3,
2010**
- ◆ **Movie Day—
February 10,
2010**

In Mathematics we will continue to focus on elapse time and algebraic equations while reviewing percentages, two digit multiplication and division. We will begin to look at train schedules to assist us with calculating time over distances. In Literacy, we will focus on types of adverbs and prepositional

phrases while reviewing the procedures we use in creating recipes in our cultures . .

In Unit of Inquiry we will continue to focus on our cultures and their symbols. We will also explore the Aborigines culture of Australia and the Maori culture of New Zealand.

Students need to take money to purchase snack items for the movies on the 10th of February. It will also be a casual dress day and a contribution of 5 Yuan towards a charitable organization will be collected.