

Since I was young, celebrating Chinese New Year has been an important family tradition. It's a time for us to get together and share a festive New Year's feast. We also honor our ancestors by taking a moment to say a little prayer, followed by an offering in the form of fruits and other treats for them to bless us with happiness, health, and prosperity in the upcoming year. The New Year also starts with a bit of lucky money, little shiny red envelopes filled with cash are given to kids for good fortune. Although most of my family is back in Calgary and it's harder to celebrate from a distance, to this day my parents still give me that little red envelope! Cha-ching!

Fun fact, in North America it's commonly referred to as Chinese New Year. However, it is also called Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival because it's celebrated in most Asian countries, not only China. It's also the year of the ox... did you know he was supposed to be the first in the zodiac - legend has it that the jade emperor had invited the 12 animals to his palace but then the rat outsmarted him by hitching a ride and jumping into the palace first!

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