

# HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR!

*2024 is Year of the Dragon*



*Wishing you a happy, healthy, and prosperous  
2024!*

*Celebrations brought to you by the Wallace Student Society DEI Committee*

*02.10.2024*

## WHY IS LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATED?

*The Lunar New Year is one of the most important celebrations of the year among East and Southeast Asian cultures, including Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean communities, among others.*

*The Lunar New Year is a time for togetherness with family and honoring your ancestors. Most importantly, it is a time to ring in a new year that is full of good luck, prosperity, and abundance.*

## HOW IS LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATED?

*Celebrations begin with the first new moon of the lunar calendar.*

*Every culture has their own unique way of celebrating the Lunar New Year, but there are some overarching traditions they all share (for example: eating specific dishes, money-giving, playing games, donning traditional clothing, watching traditional dances and performances, honoring ancestors, and spending time with family).*

*It is one of the busiest times of the year in regard to travel and shopping. For perspective, it's like American Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years combined!*

## WHO CELEBRATES THE LUNAR NEW YEAR?

*The Lunar New Year is most commonly known as the “Chinese” Lunar New Year due to the use of Chinese zodiac animals, but many other countries celebrate the holiday as well.*

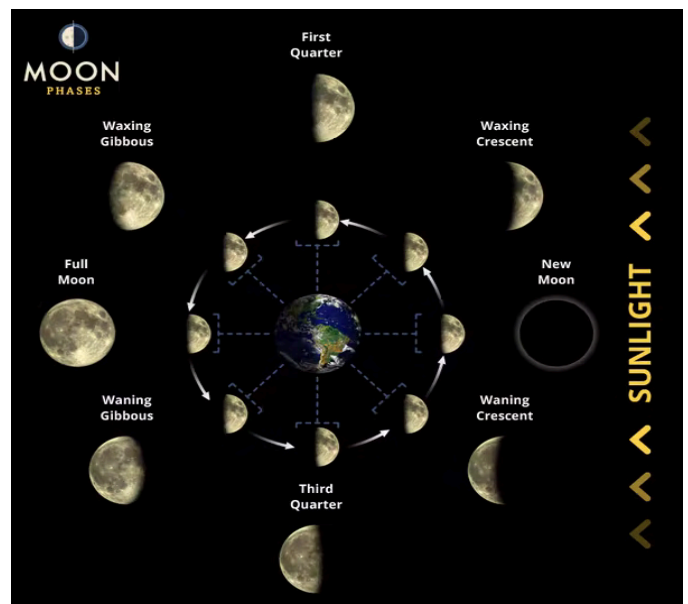
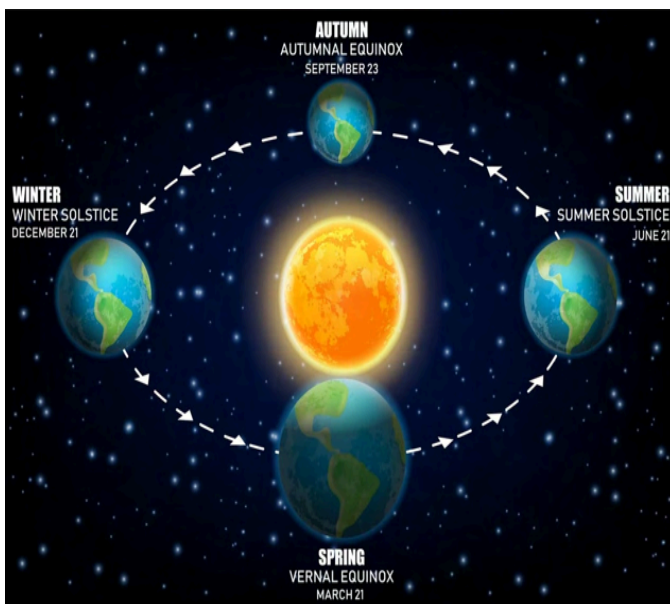


## LUNAR CALENDAR VS GREGORIAN CALENDAR

*Today, the Gregorian Calendar is accepted as the international standard (this is what we use in the United States). Despite adopting the Gregorian Calendar, many cultures use the Lunar calendar to celebrate traditional holidays.*

*The lunar calendar follows the monthly cycles of the phases of the **moon**. The Gregorian calendar is a **solar** calendar that gives a date based on the position of the sun in relation to the stars behind it.*

*The lunar month has 29 or 30 days for a month. The Gregorian calendar has 30 or 31 days for a month. For 12 lunar months, there will be 354 or 355 days in a year. To compensate for the other 10 days with the Gregorian calendar, there is a leap month for about 2 or 3 lunar years.*





## Chinese New Year Celebrations

Preceding Days  
(23rd – 29th  
of the 12th  
lunar month)



Cleaning  
the house



New Year  
shopping

New Year's Eve  
(30th of the 12th  
lunar month)



Putting up  
spring  
couplets



Enjoying a  
reunion dinner

Chinese  
New Year's  
Day



Giving red envelopes  
(lucky money) to kids



Staying up late



Setting off  
firecrackers and  
fireworks



Offering  
sacrifices

Day 2  
– Day 7



Visiting relatives  
and friends

Day 8



Most people  
go back to work

Day 15  
(Lantern Festival  
- CNY period  
ends)



Lighting and  
watching lanterns



Eating sweet  
dumplings



More fireworks

*Here are some superstitions of things you should NOT do on lunar new year for good luck and a prosperous year:*



## Chinese New Year Taboos



### On New Year's Day



No porridge:  
it brings poverty



No hair washing:  
it washes away  
good luck



No needle work:  
it depletes wealth



No unlucky words:  
e.g. "death" brings death.



No clothes washing:  
it washes away good luck



No sweeping:  
it sweeps away wealth

### Spring Festival Season Taboos



No crying:  
it brings bad luck



No breaking dishes:  
it brings bad luck



No scissors or knives:  
they cut wealth.



No lending or  
borrowing money:  
it leads to debt



No killing  
(including animals):  
it causes misfortune



No black or  
white clothes:  
they are unlucky colors



No odd amounts of  
lucky money:  
it's unlucky



No hospital visits:  
it brings illness



[www.chinahighlights.com](http://www.chinahighlights.com)

## 6 things you should know about 설날

(Lunar New Year's Day in Korea)



### 설날 (seollal)

the first day of lunar calendar



### 차례 (charye)

the ancestor-memorial ceremony



### 세배 (sebae)

the new year's bow

새해 복 많이 받으세요



“새해 복 많이 받으세요”

(sahae bok mani badeuseyo)

I wish you many blessings this year



### 세뱃돈 (sebaetdon)

the new year's gift of money



### 떡국 (tteok-guk)

the rice cake soup



Eggbun  
EDUCATION



# Traditional Tet customs of Vietnam

Tet, the traditional New Year of Vietnam, is the biggest festival of the year, featuring a variety of cultural customs.



## Decorating home with flowers

(from the 15th of the Lunar December)

Every house is decorated by apricot blossoms (*hoa mai*) in central and southern Vietnam or peach blossoms (*hoa dao*) in the north.



## Praying to "Ong Cong – Ong Tao"

(on 23rd of Lunar December)

A farewell ritual for the Land Genie and Kitchen God who will return to heaven on a Carp fish to report to the Jade Emperor on all of the goings on in the house.



## Hanging nice words in calligraphy

To wish for longevity, luckiness, success and prosperity.



## Making "Banh Chung" and "Banh Tet"

Traditional cakes made from sticky rice, mung bean, stewed pork and wrapped in dong leaves.



## Cleaning up the house

In the hope of getting rid of bad luck from the old year and bringing good luck in the new year.



## Celebrating New Year's Eve

Families bring offerings, like fruits and chickens, outside to pay tribute to old gods of the old year and welcome in the new god.



Relatives, neighbours and friends visit each other's house and send greetings on the first day of Lunar January.



## Giving lucky money

New banknotes are put into little red envelopes and hand them out to the elderly and children.



Source: VNA

<http://infoaraphics.vn>



# LUCKY MONEY!

**CHINESE:** Cantonese “利是” (lai see), Mandarin: “紅包” (hongbao)

**VIETNAMESE:** “lì xì” (lì shì)

*In Chinese and Vietnamese cultures, “lucky money” is given in a red envelope from older generations to the younger generations to symbolize receiving good luck and wishes for the new year. The value is not in the money itself but in the ornate red and gold envelopes that are given. Red and gold represents good luck and prosperity.*

**KOREAN:** “세뱃돈” (sebaedon)

*Koreans do not use a red envelope but traditionally use a silk or cotton embroidered pouch to give “new years money”. Children must perform a traditional bowing ceremony and wish blessings onto their elders before they receive money and words of wisdom.*





Tourists view dragon-shaped lanterns during a lantern show ahead of Lunar New Year, in Jinan, Shandong Province of China, on Jan. 7, 2024. Lv Yan—China News Service/VCG/Getty Images