



Lion dancers perform during the firecracker ceremony.



Clifford represents the "Year of the Dog."



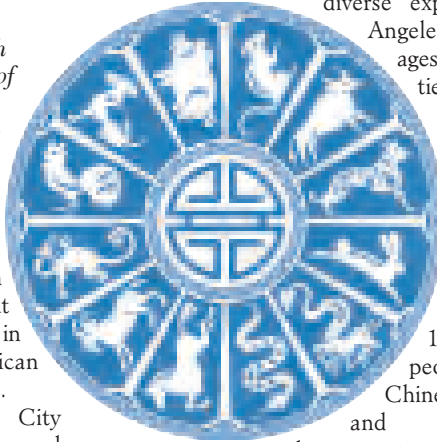
Cheuk Choi, Principal of Castelar School.

Chinese New Year

■ Chinatown celebrates with a grand parade.

Story by Bev Haro, Club Counselor, with information from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce
Photos by Summy Lam, Club Tech Guru

Culture and exposure to Chinese-American businesses. The parade continues to be a rich and diverse experience for Angelenos of all ages and ethnicities.



The day of the Lunar New Year is the most celebrated holiday of the year for the nearly 1.5 million people of Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese descent in Southern California.

CHINATOWN — In celebrating more than 100 years of tradition, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles presented the 107th Golden Dragon Parade Feb. 4, continuing a tradition that has become the premiere cultural event in the Southern California Asian-American Community, according to event organizers.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, City Councilmembers, the Police Dept. and Transportation were on hand.

Since the mid-1980s, the Golden Dragon Parade has expanded to include more than 100 floats, marching bands, cars, government officials, various dignitaries, entertainers, local business leaders and cultural groups. The parade's theme emphasizes ethnic diversity, Chinese

It is celebrated with colorful festivals, parades, and most importantly, large family gatherings. It is also a time when ancestors are fondly remembered and families give thanks for their blessings. Red pockets of money ("Lai See" or "Hung Bao") and firecrackers add fun and excitement to the Chinese New Year celebration.



Miss LA Chinatown Contestants.



Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa greets the crowd.



Chinatown Branch Library Youth Council.



LAPD Commander Terry Hara and Sgt. Jennifer Thomas.



A child performing martial art moves.



Councilman Gary Yamauchi, City of Alhambra.



Mayor Mike Gin, City of Redondo Beach.



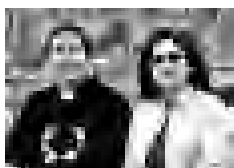
Mayor Peter Yao, City of Claremont.



First Church of God Christian School.



Councilmember José Huizar.



Councilmember Mike Ten, City of South Pasadena.



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard.



Rick Auerbach, Office of the Assessor.



42nd Highlander Regimental Pipes and Drums.



Visiting Queens.



Cathay Bank represents the "Year of the Dog."



The Lion dancing team.