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SAN FRANCISCO—It's that time of year again. Dragons snake through the streets of our city. Lions dance. Children carry lanterns under a full moon. Thousands of people come to Chinatown. Everyone celebrates Chinese New Year!

You will hear “Gung hey fat choy!” This is a Chinese greeting that wishes you joy and good luck. You will see a lot of people wearing red. To the Chinese, red is a bright color that brings a happy new year.

The Chinese New Year lasts for fifteen days. You can imagine how much has to be done to get ready.

People clean their houses from top to bottom. They buy special foods and candy. They make sure to have flowers in their home.

For Chinese families, the New Year is a time to be together. It is a time when people honor their family members from long ago.

Each day of the celebration has a different meaning. A family must do certain things on each day. They don't want to bring bad luck on themselves.

There is always a full moon on the last night of Chinese New Year. People

hang lanterns in their homes. The lanterns mark the return of spring. Children carry lanterns in a big, noisy parade for the Lantern Festival. People eat round balls of sticky rice flour, called *Tang Yuan*. Eating this food is important on Chinese New Year.

Many Chinese people live in San Francisco. That means that San Francisco is a great place in the United States to be for Chinese New Year. Just watch out for the dragons, lions, and firecrackers!



DID YOU KNOW?

Chinese New Year is a very old celebration. Long ago, people believed that they could make their own luck. Even today, people hope for good luck in the new year.