

# San Bernardino charter school celebrates Chinese New Year

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Xiaoyu Cao, a teacher from China teach students about the Chinese New Year Monday January 23,2012 at Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy at 503 East Central Avenue in San Bernardino. (LaFonzo Carter, Staff Photographer)

[Gallery: Chinese New Year](#)

**SAN BERNARDINO** - Celebrations of the beginning of the Year of the Dragon took place Monday throughout China - and at Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy.

"Spring festival - Chinese New Year - is huge in China," said Xiaoyu Cao, one of two teachers who came from China in November to begin teaching the school about Chinese culture and language. "It's like Christmas. If you're on the other side of the country, you go home to celebrate."

Xiaoyu and co-teacher Yanni Fan gave 15-minute explanations of the celebration to each class at the charter school, which teaches kindergarten through fifth grade.

Students smiled and listened intently, and said afterward they were learning a lot.

"It was interesting," said Linda Watson, a third- grader. "I learned the word for `dragon' in Chinese, which is good, because the more Chinese I learn, the better it will be when I grow up and get into college."

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