

# iNTERFAITH iNSIDER

SAIT Interfaith Centre Monthly Newsletter.

## New Years Observances Throughout 2023

There are so many variations of New Years Celebrated around the world and not all fall on January First. If you didn't already know, here in Canada, we observe events that follow the tradition of the Gregorian Calendar. But that's not the only calendar in observance. Many Canadians also observe events that follow alternate Calendars. For example according to our Orthodox friends who observe the Julian Calendar, January 1st doesn't fall till January 14th on the Gregorian calendar.

For those who follow a Lunisolar Calendar, more commonly referred to simply as the "Lunar Calendar", New Years celebration's may differ widely. For observers from China, Vietnam, and South Korea, New Years falls on January 22, this year. While for others in Mongolia and Tibet, it will occur on February 21. Many others still have their own versions of Lunisolar Calendars and celebrate New Years according to their Faith Traditions in line with the new Lunar Months. Hindu's will have New Years on March 22, Islamic New Years will be on July 18 and our Jewish friends will celebrate Rosh Hashanah on September 15, 2023.

With so many variations from so many different cultures and religious views, many of whom are represented on our campus at SAIT, we may enjoy wishing one another a Happy New Year for quite some time.

This may be quite beneficial for those who've felt they were unable to keep New Year Resolutions after January 2... maybe we could do with a couple restarts along the way!

This year, according to the Chinese Zodiac, will be the year of the Rabbit, for those in Vietnam, it's the year of the Cat. Why there's a difference is uncertain, but both creatures are the fourth animal in the Zodiac and their Feng-Shui will be presented the same. If you were born in the year of the Rabbit/Cat, it may be interesting to see what both the Chinese and Vietnamese Zodiacs have to say about you.



## January Events

Interfaith Interface  
Topics:

Jan 13 - "What is  
Lunar New Year?"

Jan 20 - Lunar New  
Year Celebration &  
Lantern Craft

Jan 27 - "What is  
Mahayana New Year?"



Jan 20 - Lunar New  
Year Parade begins at  
11:30am in Stan Grad  
Atrium and will tour  
through campus till  
1pm ending in the  
Johnson-Cobb. Come  
join us for this  
celebratory parade  
and receive Red  
Envelopes of Lucky  
Money!

## Discover your Chinese Zodiac

Discovering your sign is both simple and yet complexed. The fact that the symbols revolve around the Lunar Calendar, and not the Solar based Gregorian Calendar we use in Canada, leaves some room for misunderstanding. In general, you can refer to the year of your birth and determine what Zodiac animal you are with a certain level of accuracy. If you were born in the months of January or February, you may need to dig a little further as those are the fluctuating months when Lunar New Year normally occurs.

Here's a link to an easy to use Chinese Zodiac Calculator. Enjoy discovering something about yourself. We cannot vouch for the horoscope's accuracies in determining what your personalities or potential fortunes are... but it might be good for a laugh anyway.

<https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/chinese-zodiac-calculator.htm>

## Chinese Zodiac by Birth Years and Personality Traits

Rat 鼠 shǔ (1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020): Alertness, smartness, and Resourceful.

Horse 马 mǎ (1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026): Optimistic, energetic, and cheerful.

Ox 牛 niú (1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021): Practical and well-grounded with a strong devotion to work.

Goat 羊 yáng (1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027): Tender, thoughtful, honest, and kind-hearted.

Tiger 虎 hǔ (1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022): Active and full of valor and vigor.

Monkey 猴 hóu (1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028): Ambitious, smart, and versatile.

Rabbit 兔 tù (1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023): Friendly, seldom offend others or argues with others.

Rooster 鸡 jī (1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029): Dedicated, gifted, bold, and ingenious.

Dragon 龙 lóng (1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024): Active, brave, aggressive, and domineering.

Dog 狗 gǒu (1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030): Loyal, courageous, and firm.

Snake 蛇 shé (1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025): Cold and mysterious outside; warm and kind inside.

Pig 猪 zhū (1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031): Generous and have a great sense of responsibility.

## Interfaith Interface

A safe, inclusive and  
inspiring activity  
where students come  
together to engage in  
thought-provoking  
dialogue.

Fridays 1:30pm in  
MB305, Stan Grad.