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Lunar New Year Message From Superintendent Rundle

1 message

Fred Rundle <communications@mercerislandschools.org>

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 4:02 PM

Reply-To: communications@mercerislandschools.org

To: Ian.Henry@mercerislandschools.org



Dear Mercer Island Community,

January 22 is Lunar New Year, a celebration and day observed by countries across east and southeast Asia. The date changes year to year based on the first new moon of the lunar calendar and extends 15 days. This year will be the year of the Rabbit in China and the year of the Cat in Vietnam. The festivities range from one night to several weeks depending on the cultural traditions of regions, countries, or communities. Regardless, this is a time of great togetherness.

Mercer Island School District committed to honoring and recognizing several significant holidays and dates to our students and community: Yom Kippur (Judaism), Rosh Hashanah (Judaism), Diwali (Hindu), Lunar New Year (East and Southeast Asia), and Eid al-Fitr (Islam). As such, we will make space for our students to celebrate these holidays and observances. This is a little tricky this year because Lunar New Year also coincides with the end of the first semester for our high school. This gives us pause and reminds us to consider this possible conflict when developing the school calendar in future years.

In addition to ensuring all students feel a sense of belonging in school by acknowledging holidays and traditions such as Lunar New Year, we are also committed to broadcasting student voices. I would like to call your attention to a group at Mercer Island High School and a project they are working on for February. The Education Coalition for Asian American Representation (ECAAR) is hosting a Taiwanese-inspired night market on Sunday, February 12, from 3-8pm in the MIHS Commons. ECAAR's goals are to promote Asian culture and local Asian businesses, bringing diversity into school events, and generally providing a whole new opportunity for the community.

At the Night Market, ECAAR has invited vendors to come and sell food while ECAAR sells their personal cookbooks and shares activities from different Asian countries.

ECAAR has a quick one question survey <https://forms.gle/nqfGMQWbnxiQ5sPRA> they hope you can fill out as they are trying to get a rough estimate of how many people are interested in attending the Night Market. They greatly appreciate your help.

Happy Lunar New Year,

Fred Rundle
Superintendent

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