

Chinese New Year

Interview Script



- A: Welcome to Vancouver's Cultural News. Today we're about Chinese New Year's customs. How are you?
- B: I'm good thanks.
- A: There are many customs for the Chinese New Year.
- B: Yes, there are.
- A: Could you tell me what you do before the 1st day of New Year's?
- B: Before New Year's, we clean the house because this brings us a fresh New Year and we pay our debts because owing money in the New Year is a bad thing.
- A: What do you do at midnight?
- B: We open all the windows and doors to let the old year out. We also light firecrackers and turn the lights on to scare away bad spirits.
- A: What are some things you do during the New Year holiday?
- B: We wear red clothing because it's good luck. We also wear new clothing and especially new slippers in order to step on people who gossip about us. We give children money in little red envelopes because we believe it brings them good fortune.
- A: Wow, so many things to remember. What do you not do in the New Year?
- B: We try not to wear white clothes because it's only worn at funerals and black clothing is bad luck. We don't talk about death or use the number '4' because in Chinese, the word sounds like 'death'. We try not to cry because we believe you'll cry all year long if you do.
- A: I heard that you can't wash your hair or use scissors on New Year's day.
- B: That's true. We believe that if you wash your hair, you'll wash away good luck and if you use scissors, you'll cut off your good fortune.
- A: Thank you for sharing your customs with us. Have a wonderful New Year.
- B: Thank you. Gung Hay Fat Choy.