ABSTRACT

This is one of a series of elementary readers written in Cantonese and English, designed to familiarize children with the traditional major Chinese festivals celebrated by the Chinese in America. The booklet follows the activities of a Chinese-American family in its preparations for the Chinese New Year. (CLK)
Preparing for Chinese New Year

Gordon Lew

新 年 到
Children living in a cosmopolitan, multi-racial city have unique educational opportunities to gain a thorough understanding and appreciation of the richness of life in America. Certainly Chinese New Year plays an important part in our total American heritage.

RAY DEL PORTILLO
Director of Bilingual Education

WELLINGTON CHEW
Chinese Bilingual Supervisor

VICTOR LOW
Project Manager, ESEA Title VII
Excitement is in the air

Chinese New Year is here!
"What would you like to do?" asks Mother.
"Whatever you do, I'll do it too.
I'd love to follow you."

"Mother," say I.
"Chinese New Year is here.
I'd love to help you prepare."
Mother is mopping.
I am sweeping.
Start the New Year right.
Get the dirt out of sight.

把家裏打掃清潔，
來迎接新的一年。
Knives and scissors are put away.
No one should get hurt on a holiday.
Mother makes pastries and cakes. I wash dishes while she bakes.

媽媽做糕餅，
我來洗碗碟。
Shopping for New Year is fun.
New shoes and clothes for everyone!

我們同外出
買新衣新鞋
So many things Mother is buying.
It's so heavy ....... I'm not lying!
The market is full of goodies . . . . . . . . .
Fruits, flowers and candies.
Pieces of red papers we put on the wall. Words of luck are written on them all.
Some say, "peace"; some say, "health".
Some say, "May the New Year bring you wealth."
Mother closes the bedroom door.

To prepare red envelopes for us all.

"I want to help you, Mother dear."

"Not this time... do you hear?"

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Eric
This is a busy time.
This is a happy time.
Time for games. Time for toys.
Time to be extra good boys.