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Chinese New Year Celebration to be held February 25, 2012
at the Children's Museum of Virginia

Portsmouth, VA- The Children's Museum of Virginia presents the annual celebration of the Chinese New Year on Saturday, February 25, 2012. The museum is located at 221 High Street, in downtown Portsmouth.

Imagine a New Year's Eve celebration that lasts for 15 days! Chinese New Year is China's biggest holiday and is a festival to top all festivals. It includes feasts, parties, and traditions that have lasted for many centuries. Time is spent feasting with your family and showering everything in red, which is believed to drive away the bad luck. People wear red, write poems on red paper, and give red good luck envelopes filled with coins. Even the fireworks are red! Be sure to catch this year's event with all of the New Year traditions!

The event will commemorate the Year of the Dragon, which begins in January on the night of the new moon. The Tidewater Chinese School returns for their dance and musical performance with traditional Chinese instruments. Mrs. Shaw-mei Shen will demonstrate traditional brush painting, while the Organization of Chinese Americans translates names into Chinese. Mr. Rich Gray will be on hand to lead dragon origami workshops. Once again the Lion Dances will be performed by the Chinese Community Association of Hampton Roads. Visitors will have an opportunity to try brush painting, writing their own names, fold origami ornaments, and create traditional New Year decorations to take home.

Admission to the Children's Museum of Virginia is \$11 for adults, \$10 for ages 2-17, and free for those under 2 years of age. There are discounts for seniors, military, and AAA members. The museum is open 9 am- 5 pm on Tuesday through Saturday and 11 am- 5 pm on Sundays.

Registration is not required. Call 757-393-5258 for more information.

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