

## Superintendent's Highlight February 1, 2019



The Plainview community rang in *The Year of the Pig* at the Lunar New Year celebration presented by the Chinese American Association of Plainview in the newly-refurbished Stratford Road auditorium. Our hosts Tina Zhang, Kangxi Li, (both at POBMS), Jia Yi Huang (MMS) and Daniel Zheng introduced the more than 21 acts performed, setting a festive mood to welcome the new year. The ceremony began with Mrs. Ginger Lieberman, Board of Education President, and myself being tasked to awaken the dragon by painting the area of the senses. Once awakened, the lion jumped up and began to dance to loud drum beats, to the delight of the audience. The lion dance was done by Mr. Mascarelli and his daughter Ariana Mascarelli (MMS student). In traditional Chinese culture, the lion's presence scares away evil and misfortune, clearing the way for prosperity and happiness for the coming new year.



Our second grade students had the opportunity to perform a song about the pig. Since 2019 is *The Year of the Pig*, students learned a song about this animal in their Chinese language classes.

The students not only sang the song, but also acted it out with great enthusiasm for all to see. Many thanks to Mrs. Firestein and Mrs. Jung for getting the students ready for their wonderful performance.

Each act was more impressive than the other as the audience shared their glee and cultural delight. There were exciting performances with Korean drums, traditional Chinese dances, Shanghai opera, dragon dancing, musical solos with accompaniment using Chinese instruments and live hand painting on dresses. We left having learned a great deal about this special time of year for members of our community. You may view the event from the link below.



<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=P4y18l4ELtA&feature=youtu.be>

We wish everyone a happy *Year of the Pig*. POB Schools will be closed on February 5, 2019, for the Lunar New Year!

